

## AUGUST BUDGET BILL JR. SUMMARY – AB 179

*Please note, the below summary only highlights items anticipated to be of interest to local health departments.*

### **MPX Response**

- Appropriates \$41.5 million (\$25,679,000 for state operations and \$15,750,000 for local assistance) to support the response to the MPX state of emergency, as proclaimed on August 1, 2022.
- Authorizes the Department of Finance, upon request of the CDPH Director, to transfer between state and local governments all or part of the \$25,679,000 state operations allocation to local assistance and up to \$14,250,000 of the local assistance allocation to state operations.
  - Specifies legislative intent that the CDPH Director consult with interested leaders of LHDs prior to requesting transfers of funds between local and state allocations.
  - Requires written notification of any transfers to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee within 10 working business days of Department of Finance approval.
- Requires \$1.5 million of the \$15.75 million local assistance allocation to be used for grants to community-based organizations to support clinics for MPX vaccinations, including but not limited to, those undertaken prior to the effective date of the act adding this provision.
- Specifies legislative intent that the CDPH Director consult with LHDs on how to most effectively distribute MPX vaccines, tests, outreach and education, and treatments, as applicable, to communities most at risk, including marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

### **Public HERO Initiative Modifications – Modifications to the package are highlighted below.**

*Please note, CHEAC as part of the California Can't Wait Coalition advocated for these funds as part of the Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity (HERO) Initiative.*

### **Public Health Worker Upskill Training Program**

- Amends prior language in AB 178 (Chapter 45, Statutes of 2022) to authorize CDPH to retain up to \$160,000 to administer the program.

*Prior requirements continue to be applicable:*

- Provides \$3.2 million General Fund, available until June 30, 2025 to support a Public Health Workforce Development and Engagement Program to improve retention of the public health workforce and help incumbent workers develop skills to meet future public health demands.
- Requires CDPH to use funds to support employees at CDPH and award grants to LHDs for education and training opportunities for incumbent employees within the governmental public health workforce; eligible uses of funding include:
  - Providing stipends to eligible employees to offset the loss of compensation for up to 12 hours per workweek for eligible educational pursuits; stipends shall be up to \$600 per week per eligible employee for up to 12 weeks per year
  - Hiring additional employees to support the goals of the program, such as covering employees while they participate in educational pursuits
  - Reimbursement for educational costs for eligible employees, such as tuition, registration fees, or other educational expenses when participating in eligible educational pursuits
- Requires CDPH to solicit applications internally and from LHDs to participate in the program; requires applications to specify the proposed use of funds, total amount requested, and any other information required by CDPH.

- Specifies eligible employees as full- or part-time employee within an LHD or CDPH who has been employed by that entity for a minimum of one year.
- Specifies eligible educational pursuits as:
  - Educational programs at regionally accredited institutions in the public health field, such as nursing, microbiology, public health, public administration, epidemiology, lab science, and community health
  - Industry-recognized training programs related to the public health field
  - Continuing education units required to maintain an individual's license or certification
  - Earn-and-learn programs in the public health field (e.g., apprenticeships, preapprenticeships, incumbent worker training, transitional jobs, paid internships/externships, project-based compensated learning)
- No later than July 1, 2026, requires CDPH to submit to the Legislature a report of the uses and outcomes of the program, including the total number of individuals participating in eligible educational pursuits, a summary of the types and credentials and skills attained through the program, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.
- The final budget agreement provides \$3.2 million per year for four years.

### **Public Health Pathways Training Corps**

- Amends prior language in AB 178 (Chapter 45, Statutes of 2022) to authorize CDPH to retain up to \$400,000 to administer the program.

#### *Prior requirements continue to be applicable:*

- Provides \$8 million General Fund, available until June 30, 2025, to provide fellowships for early-career public health professionals and internships for students from diverse backgrounds and disproportionately affected communities to conduct communicable disease prevention and control, community engagement, emergency response, and other public health activities at local health department host sites.
- Requires CDPH to annually accept applications for the programs and strive to maximize participation.
- Requires CDPH to place programs in diverse local health departments throughout the state, including rural and Central Valley jurisdictions.
- Requires CDPH to provide a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2026, that includes the following:
  - The number of applicants.
  - The number of individuals accepted into the program each year.
  - Job attainment results following participation in the program, including, but not limited to the percentage of individuals employed in governmental public health, the percentage employed in the private sector, the percentage employed by hospitals, and the percentage employed in other fields.
  - Demographics of applicants and program participants.
- The final budget agreement provides \$8 million per year for three years.

### **Public Health Microbiologist Training**

- Modifies allocation split between state and local assistance for Public Health Microbiologist Training (\$2,794,000 for state and \$406,000 for local).
- Upon approval from the Department of Finance, authorizes CDPH to transfer any amount of state operations funding to local assistance.

- Authorizes CDPH to retain up to \$160,000 to administer the program.

*Prior requirements continue to be applicable:*

- Provides \$3.2 million (as split above) General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to increase the number of public health microbiologist trainees in California.
- The budget agreement still provides \$3.2 million per year for three years.

**Lab Aspire**

- Modifies allocation split between state and local assistance for Lab Aspire (\$2,678,000 for state and \$522,000 for local). Upon approval from the Department of Finance, authorizes CDPH to transfer any state amount to local assistance.
- Authorizes CDPH to retain up to \$160,000 to administer the program.

*Prior requirements continue to be applicable:*

- Provides \$3.2 million (as split above) General Fund available until June 30, 2025, increase funding to the Lab Aspire Program, which trains and prepares qualified professionals to direct California Public Health Laboratories.
- The budget agreement still provides \$3.2 million per year for three years.

**California Epidemiologic Investigation Service Training Program**

- Authorizes CDPH to retain up to \$160,000 to administer the program.

*Prior requirements continue to be applicable:*

- Provides \$3.2 million General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to increase the number of fellows in the California Epidemiologic Investigation Service Training Program, which prepares epidemiologists for public health leadership positions in California.
- The budget agreement still provides \$3.2 million per year for three years.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program**

- Reduces allocated amount from \$50 million to \$25 million to CDPH to support the Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program.
- Funds are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025.

**Clinic Workforce Stabilization Retention Payment Program (See also August Health Omnibus Trailer Bill Summary)**

- Appropriates \$70 million General Fund for expenditure or encumbrance until June 30, 2024, to DHCS to implement a clinic workforce stabilization retention payment program.

**Hearing Aid Coverage for Children**

- Authorizes up to \$10 million for the DHCS Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Program (HACCP).

- Specifies eligibility criteria for the HACCP, including if person is under 21 years of age, household income does not exceed 600 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), not eligible for Medi-Cal or the California Children’s Services Program, and does not have health insurance coverage for hearing aids.
- Authorizes DHCS to contract with public and private entities to implement the HACCP.

**Community Resilience Center Program (See also August Resources Trailer Bills Summary)**

- Increases the appropriation from \$25 million to \$110 million General Fund to the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for state or local assistance for Community Resilience Centers.

**Extreme Heat & Climate Change**

- Appropriates \$3 million to CDPH, \$2.75 million to California Department of Social Services, and \$8 million to the Department of Industrial Relations until June 30, 2025, to implement the state’s Extreme Heat Action Plan.
- Appropriates \$25 million to the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for the Community Resilience and Heat Program.
- Appropriates \$6 million to OPR for a community-based public awareness campaign related to extreme heat.

**Drinking Water**

- Appropriates \$5 million to the State Water Resources Control Board to support water refilling stations at schools.