

# #CACantWait

## UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

August 9, 2022

The Honorable Governor Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President pro Tempore, California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker, California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Monkeypox Budget Request – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, respectfully urge your support of \$38.5 million one-time General Fund in FY 2022-23 to support the initial state and local public health response to monkeypox.

Our local health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, including emerging diseases such as monkeypox. As of August 4, over 1,300 California residents have been infected with monkeypox.

To ensure a robust and adequately resourced public health response to monkeypox in California, additional funding to state and local health departments is necessary. Of the \$38.5 million requested, 10 percent of funds would be retained by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to support statewide response activities, including a statewide communications campaign. Remaining funds would be allocated to local health departments in consultation with CHEAC and the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO).

Local health departments have identified significant and ongoing needs associated with the monkeypox outbreak, including but not limited to:

- Local health department vaccination clinics
- Coordination of vaccine supply with local health care providers
- Access to treatment, including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis
- Staffing resources, such as vaccinators, contact tracers, disease investigators, and community engagement personnel
- Laboratory testing and processing
- Communications and outreach to at-risk populations
- Prevention and harm reduction strategies

This budget request is anticipated to cover the first 90 days of response to this emerging threat. As rates continue to rise and vaccine supply remains scarce, it is becoming clear our response will exceed this initial timeframe, at which another budget request may become necessary.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter, and we respectfully request your support of additional funding to support expanded monkeypox testing, vaccination, treatment, and outreach efforts among our local health departments.

Respectfully,

*As signed by*

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director  
County Health Executives Association of  
California

*As signed by*

Kat DeBurgh  
Executive Director  
Health Officers Association of California

*As signed by*

Beth Malinowski  
Government Relations Advocate  
SEIU California

*As signed by*

Jolie Onodera  
Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties

*As signed by*

Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California

*As signed by*

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey  
Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California

*As signed by*

Harold Goldstein, DrPH  
Executive Director  
Public Health Advocates

cc: Honorable Members, California State Senate  
Honorable Members, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Member, California State Senate  
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Atkins  
Christopher Woods, Consultant, Office of Sen. President pro Tempore Atkins  
Mary Ader, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Rendon  
Jason Sisney, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Rendon  
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Tomás Aragón, Director and State Health Officer, California Department of  
Public Health  
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance