

WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH

BY CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

PROTECTING FUTURE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently reported that California could be hit with a **\$25B budget deficit** arising from lower-than-projected revenues and rising inflation. While the state has built up significant reserves to avoid the kind of drastic budget cuts made to public services during the Great Recession, CHEAC and public health advocates stand ready to defend crucial funding, particularly the ongoing \$200M the #CACantWait Coalition secured for local public health infrastructure.

The California State Assembly Democrats released their budget blueprint earlier this month, which, in part, calls for **maintaining \$200M in new investments** for local public health departments. Governor Newsom is required to release his initial budget proposal for FY 2023-24 by January 10. We will be closely watching to see whether the Governor will maintain the commitment to public health - and the state's ability to defend against future pandemics - and make progress toward health equity.

Stay tuned for actions you can take to ensure California stays on track with rebuilding our public health workforce and infrastructure.

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CHEAC'S 2023 LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES TAKE SHAPE

In January, CHEAC is introducing two legislative proposals as part of our efforts to improve the health of all Californians and strengthen health equity. More details on these proposals and how to support our advocacy efforts will be unveiled prior to our annual [Legislative Education Day](#) scheduled on February 1st.

Violence Prevention Pilot Program

Proposal: Establish a 3-year pilot program to fund public health strategies to prevent violence in jurisdictions most impacted by violence. The pilot program will support a broad array of local violence prevention planning activities, as well as the development and implementation of violence prevention interventions to build safer and healthier communities. The proposed pilot is modeled after successful programs led by several local public health departments:

Alameda County Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Prevention Institute and other county stakeholders, drafted a [Violence Prevention Blueprint](#) with recommendations to address community violence that was adopted by the board of supervisors in 2005. The blueprint is a comprehensive violence prevention plan designed to reduce all forms of violence affecting local communities and families that was developed in conjunction with a broad range of community partners.

The City of Long Beach prepared a violence prevention plan and launched a [Violence Prevention Initiative](#), with the Health and Human Services Department as the backbone organization, that uses a racial equity lens and a public health approach to prevent and reduce violence and human trafficking, empower youth and strong families, and cultivate trauma- and resiliency-informed systems change to improve safety, health, and well-being in local communities.

Maternal Mental Health

Proposal: Codify the [California Home Visiting Program](#) and enhance the program to provide additional mental health training for public health staff to address the mental health needs of new moms and pregnant mothers. The mental health enhancement to the California Home Visiting Program aims to build on the success of several local maternal mental health initiatives:

Nevada County Public Health partnered with First 5 of Nevada County and Foothills/Truckee Healthy Babies to implement [California Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health \(LAUNCH\)](#), a community-coordinated public health approach that promotes the wellness of young children from birth to age eight by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of development.

Fresno County Department of Public Health's division of Maternal Child and Adolescent Health provides oversight for local implementation of California Project LAUNCH. The department focuses their efforts on providing mental health consultation to several home-based and group intervention programs in collaboration with their local behavioral health care system.

CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HEALTH LABS FACE POTENTIAL FISCAL CLIFF

While the COVID-19 pandemic directed significant new federal resources to expand and enhance the capacity of our existing public health labs, including laboratory equipment, personnel, services, and supplies, reports of a potential fiscal cliff in 2024 are beginning to mount. Without a continued funding source to maintain our first line of disease defense and detection, this vital infrastructure could be at risk upon expiration of the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement (ELC) funding in 2024.

Tulare County Public Health Laboratory recently announced an expansion of its lab capacity by an additional 2,500 square feet to grow testing capacity to meet increasing regional demands. The lab is a crucial component of the Central Valley region's public health infrastructure, serving six public health jurisdictions. Expansion of the public health lab will provide more biosafety lab space for additional professional training, emergency response testing, automation, and innovation. However, continued funding must be identified to maintain these enhanced regional lab services, including lab personnel, supplies, and maintenance of physical lab infrastructure.

California's public health leaders say updating and sustainably funding public health infrastructure like Tulare County's Public Health Laboratory are crucial to fight against disease outbreaks through testing and surveillance and to respond to emerging public health threats. CHEAC, California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors, and other state partners will continue to closely monitor the situation and advocating, as necessary, for ongoing revenue streams to maintain this expanded lab capacity established during the pandemic.

CHEAC AWARDED EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE GRANT TO IMPLEMENT DATA EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK

On December 20th, the California Health and Human Services Agency announced that CHEAC, along with 13 leading health and human service associations and partners, has been awarded an [Educational Initiative Grant](#) to help implement the state's [Data Exchange Framework \(DxF\)](#).

CHEAC will share additional information on DxF education and training for local public health departments in the new year.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES END OF MPX OUTBREAK

The Sacramento County Public Health Department announced the [end of the local mpox outbreak](#) earlier this month. The announcement comes after the county [declared mpox a public health emergency](#) in August, which followed similar announcements made across the state. California's local public health departments have been front and center in leading the local emergency response to mpox, working with community-based and non-profit organizations to launch public health campaigns, conduct education and outreach events, and coordinate vaccine clinics to at-risk communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONTINUES LOCAL RESPONSE TO TRIPLE RESPIRATORY THREAT

California's local public health departments continue to respond to the growing threat of three potentially fatal respiratory viruses - COVID-19, RSV, and Flu. To ensure the public's awareness of these threats, public health departments across the state are running social media campaigns, issuing timely press statements, and encouraging Californians to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses by staying up to date on their vaccines and boosters.

Monterey County Department of Public Health kicked off December announcing [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#) and urging Californians to get their annual flu shot during one of their vaccine clinics. The Santa Cruz County Department of Public Health also announced a series of [vaccine clinics](#) while the Solano County Department of Public Health announced offering [Tdap vaccines](#) to protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) at a vaccine clinic alongside COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

CHEAC launched a robust social media campaign throughout November and December encouraging Californians to stay up to date on their vaccines and boosters as we head into the winter months and spend more time indoors.



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