

CITY OF BERKELEY HEALTH, HOUSING, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW

Through the 2022 Budget Act, California took a transformational step toward rebuilding our state and local public health workforce and infrastructure that was devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and years of disinvestment. The \$300 million ongoing General Fund investment (\$200 million for local health departments, \$100 million for CDPH), referred to as the Future of Public Health, is a critical investment in our state's public health readiness and response to existing and emerging public health threats.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTMENTS REBUILD OUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- FoPH has enabled the city to grow and strengthen its public health workforce and infrastructure in numerous ways, especially in areas related to communicable disease prevention and control.
- FoPH supports an expanded epidemiology team that is able to better serve and respond to communicable disease needs in the jurisdiction.
- The city has added staff who are focused on communication efforts within health divisions to strengthen collaboration within the community and deliver innovative and effective public health campaigns and messaging, enabling residents to stay informed of local public health threats and actionable steps to protect their health.
- The city conducted its first fully comprehensive community health assessment (CHA) with a focus on engaging the city's underrepresented and difficult to reach populations. FoPH also supports a community steering committee to direct and oversee the city's CHA and community health improvement plan (CHIP). As part of this work, the city is developing public-facing dashboards with updated statistics and results from the CHA and CHIP.
- The city hired a workforce developer to revitalize the department's internship program, improve staff wellness and retention, and assisted in recruiting new full-time positions.