

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH?

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, 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.

WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

Since enactment in 2022, local health departments have made tremendous progress in implementing Future of Public Health investments. According to CDPH reports, over 1,200 positions have been created in California’s 61 local health departments and more than 1,100 positions have already been filled. CDPH's report in March provides a breakdown of 924 of the positions by region:

REGION	POSITIONS CREATED	POSITIONS FILLED
Central California	210	147
Bay Area	212	138
Greater Sacramento-Sierra	137	115
Los Angeles	215	131
Rural North	67	48
Southern California	411	345
STATEWIDE	1,252	924

Staff positions most commonly supported with Future of Public Health include but are not limited to communicable disease prevention and control, chronic disease and community health, public health laboratories, communications, and emergency preparedness and response.

WHAT HAPPENS IF FUNDING IS ELIMINATED?

Simply put, California cannot afford to return to pre-pandemic public health staffing and infrastructure. Future of Public Health represents a flexible, ongoing funding stream to strengthen state and local public health capabilities to protect and promote our residents’ health and wellbeing. Should this proposed elimination go into effect, the 1,200 positions established with this funding, including the over 1,100 positions already filled, are likely to be eliminated, leaving our communities and vulnerable populations at significant risk.

