

# **HUMBOLDT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN 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**

- Funds 8 positions, including communicable disease investigator, epidemiologist, supervising microbiologist, and health education positions.
- Allowed Humboldt to respond rapidly to a local measles exposure with over 100 contacts to community members.
- Staff hired to support various core public health services, including but not limited to communicable disease control, emergency preparedness and response, health equity, and data analysis.
- Health education specialists are carrying out health equity activities, including supporting branch-wide initiatives, community health assessment (CHA), and community health improvement plan (CHIP) efforts.
- Public health nurses funded by FoPH support public health clinical operations, including providing post-exposure prophylaxis for measles, vaccinations, and sexual and reproductive health services. Nurses are additionally cross trained to support communicable disease prevention and control work.
- A health education specialist funded by FoPH leads the county's harm reduction and overdose prevention efforts.