

KERN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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

- Established a Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Program to work with healthcare facilities to investigate and reduce transmission high risk infections like *C. auris* and drug-resistant organisms, in our high-risk, most vulnerable populations.
- Funded an Outreach Team to conduct door-to-door canvassing to educate residents on a variety of health topics and resources and outreach and education at community events and collaboratives.
- Established Mobile HIV/STD Testing and Education providing HIV/STD testing and education throughout all 8,000 sq miles of Kern County, providing an opportunity for early detection and treatment of these diseases, as well as an opportunity for education about risk reduction for those who test negative.
- Supported Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Workforce through hiring a dedicated Talent Recruiter to familiarize themselves with the operations of Public Health and help recruit viable candidates for job openings. Vacancy rates dropped by 10% within the first year.
- Established an Unpermitted Food Vendor Education Team that is deployed to respond to complaints regarding unpermitted food vendors. This team provides education on the importance of following Cal Code and assists vendors with obtaining the appropriate permits.
- Supports the Chronic Disease Case Management Team providing health screenings within the community to assist with early detection of chronic disease and refers back to a healthcare provider. They provide fitness and nutrition classes to the community to equip them with the skills necessary to live a healthier lifestyle and prevent obesity and chronic disease.
- Added a mental health component to their high-risk clients enrolled in home visiting programs.
- Funds Social Services Workers to be regularly available to consult with staff about patient/client needs and provide referrals and resources directly to patients.