

# **KINGS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

## **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 funds have added positions across a variety of core public health service areas, including but not limited to microbiologist, business application specialists, program managers, and fiscal staff.
- ▶▶▶▶ The FoPH-funded microbiologist has allowed the county to increase capacity to conduct laboratory tests and improve the timeliness of results. This additional staff capacity has also improved staff coverage to maintain day-to-day public health program and service operations.
- ▶▶▶▶ Business application specialists have improved the county's ability to present COVID-19 online dashboards, as well as expand the county's use of electronic medical record software. These staff positions have enhanced data collection capabilities that inform timely public health actions and interventions in the county.
- ▶▶▶▶ Program managers supported by the funding have established additional capacities related to public health emergency preparedness, data collection and analysis, and disease investigation. One program manager oversees the county's epidemiologist and conducts quarterly epidemiological reports regarding communicable diseases, respiratory viruses, COVID-19, and wastewater surveillance efforts throughout the county. The position has also enabled the county to bring infectious disease prevention training to frontline health care workers at skilled nursing facilities in the county.

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- ▶▶▶ Another program manager supported by FoPH has focused the department's efforts related to health equity, performance improvement, and public health accreditation. A local health equity advisory panel comprised of community-based organizations, government partners, health care providers, and others has been assembled to support the department's health equity efforts. This includes advising on the development of the county's community health improvement plan, as well as supporting efforts for the department to become accredited.
- ▶▶▶ FoPH additionally supports a fiscal specialist that supports the department's environmental health services division. This position has strengthened department billing and administrative functions, as well as supported the transition to a new software platform to track licenses, fees penalties, and fines associated with environmental health matters.
- ▶▶▶ FoPH funds supported a department training on diversity, equity, and inclusion, including an equity assessment of the department and tailored supports to meet unique needs of staff.