

LASSEN COUNTY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

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

- ▶▶▶ Providing enhanced access to Public Health Services. As a geographically large county, Lassen is constrained by the time and staffing resources needed to serve their outlying areas. It takes between 30 minutes to 2 hours to travel from Susanville to their populated rural communities (Bieber, Westwood, Herlong/Doyle). With FoPH funds, Lassen is able to travel to these areas monthly and participate whenever the communities are having a special event. The county provides oral health screenings, blood pressure checks, parenting information and resources, and other Public Health services.
- ▶▶▶ FoPH is supporting the Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan (CHA/CHIP).
- ▶▶▶ Funds a staff person that provides community health and wellness education, collaborates with community health and education partners, and manages an interactive community resource and referral program.
- ▶▶▶ Funding also supports new staff in the Emergency Preparedness program, resulting in a highly trained, response-ready EP Team.
- ▶▶▶ In addition to these examples, it is also important to note that staff burnout was at a maximum following the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Health staff worked around the clock, on weekends, and late into the night. With the FoPH funds, Lassen has been able to relieve some of the stress associated with staffing shortages and increase public services.