

# OC HEALTH CARE 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

- ▶▶▶ Funds essential public health positions to strengthen services to help protect and promote health with an emphasis on equity.
- ▶▶▶ Supports Surveillance and Epidemiology unit, which conducts communicable disease surveillance across the entire county.
  - The Surveillance and Epidemiology team plays a crucial role in disease surveillance and outbreak investigations by analyzing trends in data. Funds supported new positions on the team to focus on four main disease surveillance branches: Vaccine-preventable & Vector-borne, Enterics, Health Care Associated Infection, Informatics & Syndromic.
  - Funds also allowed for the team to provide clinical and epidemiological guidance to healthcare providers and assist with diagnosis, treatment, and preventative services such as vaccination and prophylactic treatment as needed to control disease transmission.
- ▶▶▶ Funds supported Orange County Public Health Lab, which is certified by CLIA and approved by the State to perform high complexity testing in the areas of bacteriology, mycobacteriology, mycology, parasitology, virology, immunology, and molecular biology. Additionally, the lab has a Water Quality laboratory that is certified by the CA Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) that primarily monitors the ocean and bay recreational waters. Funds allowed to strengthen and advance public health lab capacity by:
  - Establishing a sustainable and modernized laboratory
  - Providing for future expansion capability and adjacent development to enable new assays, future research needs and advancements
  - Creating workspaces that support and encourage both structured and spontaneous opportunities for innovation and development within OCPHL and across Public Health Services and with its community/commercial partners

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## **FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTMENTS REBUILD OUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- ▶▶▶▶ Funded the creation of a Public Health Messaging Team that has been instrumental in post pandemic response.
- ▶▶▶▶ Created positions that were dedicated to Public Health Accreditation, Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan
- ▶▶▶▶ Supported development of partnerships with local Community Based Organizations to help with outreach efforts and dissemination of public health messages related to chronic diseases and health promotion activities.
- ▶▶▶▶ Funded new Public Health Nurse positions to focus on nurse education and to help increase capacity of Public Health Nursing staff for preparedness efforts.
- ▶▶▶▶ Funded new positions to provide services to vulnerable and marginalized populations such as seniors and unhoused individuals with unmet health needs.
- ▶▶▶▶ Funded new positions for Research Analysts, Microbiologists, Environmental Health specialists, Public Health Nurses, and Nurse Practitioner positions to support Immunization Clinic, STD/HIV clinic services, Pulmonary Disease Services and focus on Environmental Health Needs.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports childhood injury prevention and Maternal Child and Family Health.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports efforts to recruit, retain and train a diverse workforce.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports providing language translation in key languages.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports IT optimization projects.
- ▶▶▶▶ Funds Data informatics, Dashboard and data visualization tools.