

# **SAN BENITO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN 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**

- FoPH has supported a program manager to oversee health education programs, including related to tobacco control and healthy eating/nutrition. The funding has enabled an expansion of health education programs to better reach residents with timely and actionable public health information.
- FoPH enabled the creation of a community health team, tasked with completing community health assessments and improvement plans to identify proper resource needs and to support implementation of efforts to address long-standing health disparities in the community.
- An epidemiologist has been supported with the funding, allowing the department to retain critical surveillance and data analysis skills as the county emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. This position has provided the entire department with expertise in interpreting and analyzing data, including wastewater surveillance data, and to plan for activities and interventions to improve health outcomes among residents.
- FoPH has supported a conversion of physical space dedicated to community outreach and engagement programs, such as educational presentations, cooking presentations for low-income families, car seat education, and community forums.