

SANTA BARBARA 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 has supported the development and implementation of a comprehensive training curriculum for cross training disease control program staff. This training builds competencies in investigating STDs, HIV, COVID-19, tuberculosis, vaccine-preventable diseases, and other infectious diseases.
- ▶▶▶▶ The funding expanded the county's epidemiology team to enhance the department's capacity to effectively address communicable disease needs of the community.
- ▶▶▶▶ FoPH has enabled the county to create and fill full-time positions including but not limited to a health educator to improve access to health services, a manager focused on equity, wellness, promotion, and prevention, a deputy director of administration to centralize grants, contracts, and project management, and a systems data analyst to support public health accreditation and strategic planning efforts. These positions have strengthened the department's operations to enable greater readiness and capacity to protect the community from public health threats.
- ▶▶▶▶ FoPH supported the county's community health assessment, including the Santa Maria Rapid Needs Assessment. This effort involved 10 staff members conducting in-person surveys to understand the health needs in Santa Maria, the county's largest city.
- ▶▶▶▶ The funding has established expanded internal capacities for analyzing, synthesizing, and communicating key health metrics and data to support public health efforts.