

SANTA CLARA 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

- »»» Hired 31 FTEs across a broad range of positions. Used funds to support their Wastewater-Based Epidemiology Program and enhanced the website and data portal to simplify the website access and use. This valuable information became one of the best tools for their communities to be able to determine their risk of COVID-19 exposure. Wastewater was expanded to include flu, mpox and other infectious diseases.
- »»» They also created a new Science, Epidemiology, Informatics, and Improvement Branch with their inaugural Chief Science Officer (paid for by FoPH) to lead all elements of our data and science work.
- »»» Supported infrastructure updates in their public health laboratory.
- »»» They supported Community Health Workers with incentives to attend Lactation Support trainings and printed educational materials on lactation accommodation laws and resources.
- »»» They provided educational materials for our Alzheimer's Education Program and purchased media buys to promote family friendly worksite accommodation for employers. They translated outreach materials in three languages to promote lactation support services and enhanced access to our materials more broadly by translating our websites into multiple languages.
- »»» They created a dedicated Racial Health Equity team with five FTEs. This team supports all branches of the Department to facilitate an equity-focused approach to the work of each branch. The Department's enhanced data and technology infrastructure will provide the much-needed information and knowledge to assess gaps and community needs, identify areas of focus, and evaluate the impact of the Department's work.
- »»» The Department has worked closely with Human Resources to perform specialized recruitments to hire individuals with relevant lived experience. Equity and inclusion considerations have also been incorporated, and training has been provided to managers for all stages of recruitment, hiring, professional development, and promotional decisions.