

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HEALTH 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

- ▶▶▶▶ Funding stabilized their public health department in times when rapid responses to emerging disease outbreaks and climate change related emergencies overwhelm day-to-day operations to improve the wellbeing of the entire county's population.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports 24/7 local health officer coverage, supports clinical oversight, and leadership across emerging diseases and emergencies present throughout the county
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports the epidemiological and disease control support and activation of our Departmental Operations Center (DOC) for the Shigella outbreak this spring among persons experiencing homelessness.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports our public health accreditation efforts, including updating their community health assessment (CHA), using collective action through community engagement and will support the community health improvement plan (CHIP) update next year.
- ▶▶▶▶ Expanded health informatics and epidemiology activities, as the county works to keep an equity view of health disparities to better tell the story of the community and groups that have been underserved.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports workforce development and training, particularly around trauma informed systems, diversity, equity and inclusion, and resiliency among staff who have are still recovering from the burnout from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supports core infrastructure to be more efficient, nimble, and responsive during emerging crises, such as with contracting, grants management, and supporting the workforce.