

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

- Supports additional staffing in the HIV Care Program, Health Equity, Infectious Diseases, and Public Health Reaccreditation efforts.
- Funding led to increased disease investigation and timely case management, provision of culturally appropriate and community focused health education messaging and strengthened disease surveillance systems.
- Merced hosted community engagement sessions and hosted external stakeholder meetings with key leaders to support the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan efforts to identify priorities according to Merced County residents, as part of Public Health Accreditation efforts.
- Funds a full-time communications team that includes equity in all health messaging and communication provided to the public to rebuild trust with residents.