For Immediate Release
May 14, 2025

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Public Health Leaders Say Governor's Budget Investments in Public Health Will Save Lives

SACRAMENTO, CA — Public health leaders thanked Governor Newsom for protecting vital local and state public health investments amid the challenging budget climate. The proposed budget funds 100% of Future of Public Health investments in local workforce and infrastructure and maintains funding for public health information technology systems, including $31.45 million for myCAvax. Advocates say these investments learn from the mistakes of our past: investment in public health saves lives.

"On the heels of President Trump proposing to eliminate CDC funding and more than $800 million in federal funding cuts to California's core public health infrastructure, the Governor's budget wisely proposes to protect the progress we've made strengthening our preparedness for the next public health emergency," said **Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director of the County Health Executives Association of California**. "We thank the Governor and state lawmakers for their commitment to protecting public health because it protects all of us. These investments support our contact tracing, disease investigation, and vaccine administration infrastructure and ensure that local health departments can maintain vital local programs and services.

"As California prepares to address potential federal budget cuts, we look forward to working with the Governor's administration and state lawmakers to uphold investments that state and local health departments rely on to protect the health and well being of all Californians," added Gibbons.

“The Future of Public Health fund is an investment into basic public health protections for all Californians,” said **Kat DeBurgh, executive director of the Health Officers Association of California**. “In these tough budget times, this investment is more important than ever. These funds protect every county in the state, and we thank the governor for his ongoing commitment to public health.”

“We appreciate the Governor’s commitment to public health and urge our lawmakers to continue to stand by the public health workforce that makes prevention and response possible in every community, ” said **Harold Goldstein, Executive Director of Public Health Advocates**.

“Our county public health departments are the backbone of California’s public health system. We appreciate the continued investment in local public health infrastructure and workforce, which is essential to protecting the health and well-being of all Californians,” said **Graham Knaus, Chief Executive Officer of the California State Association of Counties**.

BACKGROUND:
In 2021, public health champions successfully advocated for $300 million in ongoing state funding to rebuild California’s decimated public health workforce and infrastructure after a decade of disinvestment led to a devastating loss of lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, FoPH provides roughly $276 million annually to state and local health departments, including roughly $188 million for local workforce and infrastructure. Over the past three years, state and local health departments have deployed FoPH funding to ready our state for the next threat:

- Hiring and and training more than 1,100 public health professionals, including public health lab directors, epidemiologists, microbiologists, public health nurses, health equity coordinators, maternal health specialists, data experts and other crucial public health professionals
- Strengthening disease surveillance, public health lab services, outbreak investigations, outreach to diverse communities, and infection control in targeted healthcare facilities.

Earlier this month, President Trump released his budget blueprint proposing to gut the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention after the federal administration slashed more than $800 million in federal funding for California’s core public health infrastructure. Public health leaders have warned that sustained investment is necessary to prevent the next pandemic.