

ALAMEDA COUNTY 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 decades of disinvestment. The \$276 million ongoing General Fund investment (roughly \$188 million for local health departments, \$98 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 protect local communities from existing and emerging public health threats.

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTMENTS REBUILD OUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Hired 22 new positions in the following departments: Administrative Services, Community Assessment Planning & Evaluation (CAPE), Community Health Services (CHS), Communicable Disease Control & Prevention (DCDCP), Health Promotion and Community Partnership (HPCP) and Information Systems (IS). Positions support an array of work across Public Health and Alameda County Health, including the department's newly developed health promotion, infection prevention, workforce development, administrative, and finance teams. These new staff positions allowed the department to expand its capacities in public health areas that have previously not received the support they require, in turn optimizing the department's engagement with the community. In addition, new administrative staff enabled the department to contribute to state priorities, including CalAIM and to best advance population health and health equity.
- FoPH staff participated in and created hundreds of community-led events and fairs and administered hundreds of wellness surveys across several community-led events in the HPCP department. FoPH has additionally supported development of educational, health promotion, health communications and health literacy materials in multiple languages and review of community partner materials on health topics including but not limited to: mpox; shigella; measles; COVID-19; influenza; RSV; tobacco control; nursing education; retailer education; violence prevention; and vaccinations. HPCP also organized community advisory groups to identify community strengths and needs, and collaborated with community partners to disseminate information in a format and a platform that's population-specific to serve the most under-resourced residents.

- FoPH funding supported the local health department's Acute Communicable Disease Unit, which responds to individual cases and outbreaks of acute communicable diseases. Locally reportable conditions include enteric diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, and vector-borne diseases and conditions. The program supported infectious disease surveillance and response activities in coordination with other programs and local agencies. FoPH has supported responses to cases of dengue, malaria, West Nile Virus, zika, typhoid fever, salmonellosis, shigellosis, pertussis, mumps, measles, viral hepatitis, rabies, H5N1 avian flu, and others.
- FoPH has supported comprehensive and in-depth analyses of leading causes of death in the county, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease, that are critical to setting priorities and addressing health inequities.
- Our QIA department designed and facilitated new comprehensive training modules tailored to enhance staff competencies, promote consistent service delivery, and support departmental objectives in the county's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- Launched the pilot phase of its Signature Programs tied to the County's CHIP. Signature Programs included, WIC, Immunization, Sexual and Reproductive Health, EmbraceHer (perinatal health initiative); Violence Prevention, and the Front Door (assessment, service linkage and referral unit) demonstrated capacity to collect and analyze data for program design and improvement; actively engage community; implement population-level planning approaches; and center equity in its work. This approach helped ACPHD build its learning culture, establish internal communities of practice, and further institutionalize/strengthen its foundational capabilities.