



February 19, 2026

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: 4265 – California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Request for Funding for Public Health Information Technology Systems
Set for Hearing on February 26, 2026 – Sen. Budget Sub. No. 3 on HHS**

Dear Senator Menjivar,

The undersigned organizations, representing local health department executives, physician health officers, and frontline workers in California's local health jurisdictions, respectfully request funding for key public health information technology (IT) systems within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

While the Governor's January budget proposal seeks to fund one public health IT system, the Administration neglects to fund four other critical systems that are necessary to report and track diseases, follow up with patients and contacts, distribute immunizations to health care providers and clinics, and support a public health response to communicable disease cases and outbreaks throughout our state.

Recent federal rollbacks in public health funding and global partnerships underscore the urgency for California to maintain its leadership and build on its recent public health commitments. As national infrastructure is weakened, it is more critical than ever for California to strengthen its public health IT systems and continue setting the standard for communicable disease preparedness and innovation.

These key public health IT systems include:

- **Surveillance and Public Health Information Reporting and Exchange (SaPHIRE)** – SaPHIRE supports timely and accurate case and laboratory reporting for over 80 infectious disease conditions in the state, providing state and local health departments with comprehensive disease surveillance capabilities and insights into infectious disease outbreaks and emergencies. **CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California support the Governor's proposed investment of \$24.5 million General Fund in 2026-27 for the CDPH SaPHIRE system.**
- **California Confidential Network for Contact Tracing (CalCONNECT)** – The Governor's January budget proposal does not include funding for the CalCONNECT system. Established during the COVID-19 pandemic, CalCONNECT provides state and local disease investigators with modern capabilities to conduct timely and efficient disease investigation, contact tracing, outbreak investigation, symptom monitoring, and public health outreach. CalCONNECT has been especially important in the response to recent

measles cases in the state. **CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California respectfully request \$26 million in 2026-27 for the CalCONNECT system.**

- **California Immunization Registry (CAIR)** – The Governor’s January budget does not include funding for the CAIR system. CAIR is the statewide immunization system used for capturing and storing vaccination data for California’s residents. This information not only protects our local communities but will be key to honoring our state’s vision for the West Coast Health Alliance. **CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California respectfully request \$22 million in 2026-27 for the CAIR system.**
- **Future Disease Surveillance System (FDSS)** – FDSS is the planned cloud-based replacement of the state’s current disease reporting system, the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE). This system is how local health departments and the state find out about cases of disease in California, a critical first step in the public health response. CalREDIE is decades old and needs to be replaced to maintain state and local capabilities to respond to infectious diseases. The Governor’s January budget does not propose funding for the development of this system. **CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California respectfully request \$10.6 million in 2026-27 for FDSS.**
- **California Vaccine Management System (myCAvax)** – The Governor’s budget does not include funding to sustain California’s vaccine management system, known as myCAvax, beyond June 30, 2026. This is the state’s direct access software platform for vaccine ordering, distribution, and management of all CDPH’s vaccine programs, including but not limited to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program, State Influenza Program, and the LHD 317 program for underinsured and uninsured individuals. Using myCAvax saves CDPH, local health departments, and providers hundreds of hours of staff time each year, allowing providers to order flu vaccine and other immunizations directly. If myCAvax is not funded, CDPH, local health departments and health care providers will return to inefficient methods (i.e., paper, fax, email, and spreadsheets) to manage these logistics. **CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California respectfully request \$39 million in 2026-27 for the myCAvax system.**

CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California urge the Legislature to allocate \$24.5 million for the SaPHIRE system as proposed by the Governor, as well as \$97.6 million for the remaining critical public health infrastructure supporting communicable disease prevention and control efforts throughout our state. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California (CHEAC)

As signed by

Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California
(HOAC)

As signed by

Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Erica Pan, Director & State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
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