

CALAVERAS HEALTH & HUMAN 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 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

- Developed communication and media capabilities to assist in providing timely, accurate, and actionable information related to communicable disease prevention, community safety, and other mass communication needs.
- Established a new disease surveillance method for a small, rural jurisdiction.
- Enhanced public health mobile programs and services unit to bring public health services to community members where they live; this has been especially important among lower-income residents who experience a greater burden having to travel longer distances within the county.
- FoPH funded the county's first-ever Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, enhancing the capacity to identify, organize, and respond to emerging health issues while fostering collaboration and buy-in from local organizations and partners.
- FoPH funding was used to hire three new positions, including staff tasked with implementing and overseeing the department's new electronic health record and health information exchange systems, development of policies and procedures, and data analytics and informatics. These advancements better position the county to align with state priorities, enhance clinical efficiencies, and improve health care access and health outcomes for the county's rural population.
- Established Calaveras County's first-ever interactive mortality dashboard and health indicator dashboard, enhancing the department's ability to visualize and analyze mortality and equity trends. These tools also empower community members with critical health information to make timely and informed decisions.
- Improved the development of public-facing materials by instituting new processes grounded in the principles of health literacy. This initiative has elevated the quality of educational materials, ensuring they are accessible and designed through a health equity lens.