

# DEL NORTE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## 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

- FoPH supported staff capacity at all levels, including equity and outreach, quality and accreditation, and leadership. FoPH added leadership capacity to the local health department, catalyzing improvement of organizational competencies, foundational capabilities, and ability to access other funding opportunities to support critical public health programs and services.
- FoPH supported hiring local public health staff who lived in the area, understood the challenges residents face, and were known and trusted by the community. These staff lead Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) development and implementation with a community-centered and equity-oriented approach.
- FoPH-supported analyst was instrumental in supporting health equity efforts by driving community engagement and direct resident participation from vulnerable and marginalized populations in the community in the Community Health Assessment (CHA) via surveys and focus groups.
- FoPH-funded client services specialist (community health worker (CHW) role) enhanced health equity by providing navigation to underserved populations. This approach strengthened the impact of the local health department and extended the reach of services available to residents.
- FoPH funds also provided career advancement opportunities and more flexible health education and program staffing which in turn allowed greater ability to support the goals and objectives of the CHIP and fostered sustainability in our provision of essential services.