

FRESNO COUNTY PUBLIC 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

- FoPH has allowed the local health department to maintain an expanded workforce and infrastructure established during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding has supported recruitment and retention of key positions in communicable disease control, disease surveillance, data analysis, and workforce training and development. The funding has enabled the department to establish new positions and enhance staff capacity.
- FoPH supported a rural mobile health unit to better reach residents in rural and isolated areas of the county. The unit, through contracts with Saint Agnes Medical Center, UCSF-Fresno, Tzu Chi Mobile Clinic, California Farmworker Foundation, and Bionational of Central California, has supported over 560 community events that saw over 14,000 patients for urgent care services, community health worker navigation, vision services, and immunization services.
- Rabies control efforts and H5N1 response were improved in the jurisdiction by strengthening data tracking and standardization of data collection in partnership with local animal control agencies and local dairy owners. This work has reduced the threat of these communicable diseases among residents and animals in the county.
- Launched an EMT training program in rural areas of the county. The first class was held in January 2025 with 24 students enrolled. A second class started in August 2025 and more classes are planned every six months.
- Fresno County Information Exchange (FCIE) developed for Youth Suicide Prevention (YSP) to streamline care coordination with healthcare stakeholders, social services, public health, behavioral health and local school districts. YSP is in the first phase of implementation and the goal is to launch in Fall 2026 with nearly 70% of school age children in Fresno County (200,000) supported if they present with suicidal ideations at a local hospital emergency room.