

# KERN 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

- Supported the integration of the Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention (HAIP) Program into our communicable disease surveillance programs and maintained relationships established by the liaison. In addition to HAIP, surveillance efforts were expanded to include West Nile Virus and Wastewater Surveillance.
- Supported the Unpermitted Food Vendor Taskforce, established through this funding, that is deployed to respond to food vendor complaints submitted by the community. This team provided education on the importance of following Cal Code and process to obtain appropriate permits.
- Supported outreach and community engagement efforts. The Events Coordination Team assisted programs conducting outreach by identifying opportunities, responding to requests for outreach, and preparing teams with supplies needed to be engaged with the community. Such efforts supported symposium planning and launch, preparing outreach staff for health fairs, community events, and developing outreach creative content.
- Supported access to care services and initiatives through the clinical workforce that maintained the medical therapy units, health officer clinic, flu vaccination pop-up clinics, and community health screening events to ensure the communities of Kern can access health services.

- Strengthened workforce capacity to support retention of health service programs. Funded mid-management positions that provided support to supervisors with administrative tasks like grant writing, scope of work development, metric oversight, fiscal reports, evaluation planning, audits, team building, and cross training for program coverage.
- Supported accreditation efforts to include CME accreditation and PHAB accreditation.
- Supported emergency response training, preparedness, and workforce capacity.
- Established the Valley Fever Program aimed to educate and train educators in the community. The program model enhanced prevention education, increased partnerships for countywide ambassadors, and strengthened outreach to high-risk vulnerable communities.