

LASSEN COUNTY HEALTH & SOCIAL 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

- ▶▶▶ Provided enhanced access to Public Health Services. As a geographically large county, Lassen is constrained by the time and staffing resources needed to serve their outlying areas. It takes between 30 minutes to 2 hours to travel from Susanville to populated rural communities (Bieber, Westwood, Herlong/Doyle). With FoPH funds, Lassen County Employees traveled to these areas monthly or as needed to participate in special community events. The county provides oral health screenings, blood pressure checks, parenting information and resources, and other Public Health services.
- ▶▶▶ FoPH funding supported Lassen County in completing its Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHA served as a vital tool for identifying the health challenges and opportunities for improvement within the community. It enabled health organizations, local governments, and community leaders to make data-driven decisions that can lead to lasting improvements in public health. In Lassen County, the CHA is leveraged to ensure that resources are allocated effectively and the health needs of residents are addressed in a sustainable manner.
- ▶▶▶ Supported a staff member to provide community health and wellness education, collaborate with community health and education partners, and manage an interactive community resource and referral program.



FoPH funding supported staff training opportunities with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This targeted training empowered staff to engage with a diverse range of community members in a more thoughtful, respectful, and inclusive way. By enhancing cultural competency, the training directly improved the experience of individuals accessing public health services, ensuring equitable outcomes.



The long-term objective of FoPH funding is to cultivate a public health workforce that is resilient, adaptable, and fully equipped to meet the diverse needs of Lassen County. By investing in our staff, the county enhanced service delivery and fostered a workplace culture that reflects core values of equity and respect. The FoPH investment made the local health department's workplace more attractive, which supported workforce retention.