

CITY OF LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF 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

- Supported 20 staff members that all have little to no other funding sources available to support them.
- Funded three Environmental Health staff to support food safety and enforcement mandates to protect the broader community from foodborne illnesses and impacts while fee revenue increases were being implemented.
- Funded a PrEP Navigator, HIV/STI Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Epidemiologist, and a Communicable Disease Specialist - all of which are critical to addressing equity and disease surveillance and control measures in the Long Beach community and could not be sustained without FoPH Funding.
- The importance of FoPH funding was demonstrated in the city's 2024 response to a tuberculosis outbreak in a single room occupancy setting. FoPH funding supported a senior epidemiologist who played a critical leadership role in the investigation and response to the outbreak. The epidemiologist established procedures and coordinated closely with county and state partners to notify residents and ensure infection control at the residential settings and health facilities.



Has supported a critical data system upgrade within Environmental Health that allowed for faster data processing, larger storage capacity, and improved accessibility across multiple programs. The new cloud-based system replaced the legacy platform, enabling the bureau to more effectively manage, analyze, and report inspection and regulatory data from nearly 10,000 facilities citywide. This upgrade enhanced accuracy, timeliness, and efficiency in reporting, ultimately strengthening the bureau's capacity to protect public health through more streamlined and data-driven operations.



Supported its communications team, funded development and finance/administration staff which are all essential roles for being able to bring in dollars, communicated our work and ensured we are effectively managing our grants.



Supported training, staff development and retention efforts across the Department to sustain a skilled and resilient workforce. It is essential that staff maintain a strong understanding of public health in Long Beach and also access to the best practices in the field.



FoPH funding supported a healthcare associated infection epidemiologist who played a key role in the city's recent response to Legionella at a local skilled nursing facility. The epidemiologist worked to identify potential sources of exposure to residents and facilitated prompt testing to detect any additional residents or staff who may have been infected. The position collaborated with environmental health officials to sample water sources and mitigate risks, as well as with the skilled nursing facility to improve overall safety for residents.



FoPH-funded staff from the department's public affairs team were recently deployed for a local water main break emergency. These staff played important roles in issuing timely and actionable information to residents related to water safety and potential health impacts.



FoPH provided critical support in funding wellness-focused activities and staff events that promote a culture of care and equity across the department. Each year, two or more initiatives are implemented to strengthen connection, well-being, and engagement among employees. These efforts have shown measurable success, as reflected in the Annual All Staff Survey, which reported a 2% overall increase in employee satisfaction. Improvements were also observed in the key domains of the U.S. Surgeon General's Framework, in which the work is grounded, particularly Protection from Harm and Mattering at Work. Together, these outcomes demonstrated the department's ongoing progress toward cultivating a safe, inclusive, and supportive workplace where all employees can thrive.