

# MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF 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 additional staffing in the HIV Care Program, Health Equity, Infectious Diseases, Epidemiologist and Public Health Reaccreditation efforts.
- Funding led to increased disease investigation and timely case management, provision of culturally appropriate and community focused health education messaging and strengthened disease surveillance systems.
- Funding has been instrumental in Merced's public health accreditation efforts by providing resources for extra help personnel to host community engagement sessions and external stakeholder meetings with key leaders to support the community health assessment and community health improvement plan. Funding has also supported the onboarding of accreditation consultants that have been invaluable to the department's reaccreditation documentation review and submission process.
- Funded a full-time communications team that includes equity in all health messaging and communication provided to the public to rebuild trust with residents.