

# NEVADA COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN 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

- Converted one limited term Infection Control Specialist (Clinic Practitioner), who was hired during the pandemic, to permanent status. This position provided critical support to hospitals, schools, day care centers, community partners, congregate care settings, and health care providers in communicable disease outbreak mitigation and control, infection prevention strategies, and emergency response to keep the county's most vulnerable residents healthy.
- With FoPH funds, the Emergency Preparedness Team added a full-time, permanent Administrative Analyst which has doubled the size of the LHD's emergency response team, creating cross-training opportunities and coverage during staff absences. Adding this position allowed the PHEP Team to achieve projects that were only dreams due to limited staffing and time. These include radio upgrades across the county to close communication gaps and improve response during emergencies and organizing a functional exercise testing nerve agent response involving California and Nevada state agencies to achieve a collaborative cross-state emergency response.
- FoPH funding provided staff support for the Health Access Vending Machine Program which offered free and confidential health products to residents in rural areas with limited access to health care products and services (e.g., oral health, first aid, personal hygiene products, naloxone, and overdose prevention supplies). Staff now maintain five vending machines throughout the county, providing more than 125 health supplies weekly to community members.
- FoPH funding has supported the LHD's Local Oral Health Program (LOHP) with purchasing equipment and supplies to expand dental service, including cleanings and fluoride varnish, provision in school and community-based clinics. This funding has also allowed the LHD to purchase and deliver Brush in a Box oral health kits to school children, ensuring healthy early childhood oral health habits.