

PASADENA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

- FoPH funding supported a communicable disease investigative and response team, including a supervising public health nurse and two public health nurses who conducted enhanced case investigation to surrounding neighborhoods including over 100 households and enhanced surveillance activities in response to California's first known case of locally acquired dengue in October 2023.
- Shortly after, this same team also detected a second locally acquired dengue case through their continued neighborhood surveillance project and requested voluntary blood draws from households with elevated risks (e.g., symptomatic, travel history, etc.). The second case identified in the jurisdiction was asymptomatic and had no travel history. The response team sent a sample for genomic sequencing, received results, and shared timely and actionable information with the community. They also provided actions residents should take to protect themselves from mosquitos.
- FoPH has supported the local health department to conduct comprehensive public health investigations of infectious disease outbreaks, including a multijurisdiction shellfish-related norovirus outbreak, elevated hepatitis A among people experiencing homelessness, and gastrointestinal illnesses in long-term care facilities.

- FoPH funding supported staff in conducting door-to-door outreach to mitigate typhus, conducting measles contact tracing for over 500 close contacts, and completing advanced food safety and epidemiology training.
- FoPH funding supported a team of promotores, reaching an average of 400 residents per month, with timely and accurate information related to public health and health services.
- FoPH-funded staff directly supported Eaton Fire emergency response and recovery. At the evacuation shelter, infection prevention and control nurses quickly responded to a norovirus outbreak, creating an isolation room to prevent the spread of illness and working with the Health Officer to issue a Health Officer Order for mandatory masking of shelter personnel. Communications staff issued over 40 public health messages, including press releases, social media messages, flyers, health education materials, and posters. Communications materials were issued in languages other than English.
- FoPH funding supported a Communications Coordinator, who works across the department to design and deliver public education and communications to promote the importance of public health programming to community members, media, and elected officials. These communications share accurate and timely public health messages, promote public health services and events, improve accessibility, and are designed in different languages and various formats, including print, digital and video.