

SAN BERNARDINO 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

- Added 54 positions including communicable disease investigators, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, community health workers, and microbiologists, and others.
- Supported the surveillance and epidemiology team that have a critical role in disease surveillance and outbreak investigations, including focusing on health care associated infection and sexually transmitted infections.
- Expanded the data team to better collect, analyze, share, and use data to ensure accurate and efficient response.
- Allowed for the expansion of the GIS mapping team to make data easier to understand.
- Expanded public health laboratory services to increase nucleic acid amplification testing, whole genome sequencing testing and analysis for pathogenic agents of local public health concern, such as tuberculosis antimicrobial resistance genes, HIV antimicrobial resistance genes, hospital-acquired antimicrobial resistant pathogens, and genetic variants of emerging pathogens in the community from clinical and environmental samples.

- Additional staffing resources to the Communicable Disease Investigation Team led to a significant reduction in congenital syphilis cases and number of pregnant women with syphilis. FoPH funding enabled dedicated case management services for congenital syphilis cases in the county. FoPH funded-personnel provided direct coordination of care for at-risk mothers and infants, ensuring timely testing, treatment, and follow-up to prevent further health complications.
- FoPH has been critical to improving overall departmental operations, including in areas related to community health workers and health equity.
- FoPH funding used to support health promotion and education services have greatly expanded and continue to focus on key health areas, such as fentanyl awareness and naloxone distribution, chronic disease prevention, sexually transmitted infections, youth mental health, homelessness, and violence and injury prevention. This team partners with other county departments, community-based organizations, local residents, and faith-based partners to provide the community with timely, accurate health information.
- FoPH funding has allowed the department's community-focused programs, including maternal, child, and adolescent health (MCAH), to assess the health needs of the community by adding community health workers (CHWs) to the staff. This position conducts social risk factor screening, referrals to other resources, and case management services to promote positive birthing outcomes among local residents.
- Funding supported the development of a health care associated infections (HAI) and infection prevention program to address rising multi-drug-resistant organisms in health care and long-term care facilities in the county. This team has conducted significant testing and disease investigation activities to identify outbreaks early, reduce the risks of further transmission, and protect patient safety.
- Funding has supported a deputy health officer to strengthen partnerships with regional health care providers and community-based organizations on a variety of priority public health topics, such as infectious diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccination services, and tuberculosis care.
- FoPH has supported the completion and continuous implementation of the county's community health assessment (CHA) and community health improvement plan (CHIP).
- FoPH funding supported the hiring of a program coordination for the immunizations program, significantly enhancing the reach of mobile vaccination units in the county. This position supported vaccination units to administer nearly 8,000 vaccinations to nearly 4,000 residents.
- Expanded overdose prevention education and increased access to naloxone in the community and recovery treatment services. Conducted dozens of opioid training activities and distributed several hundred naloxone kits.