

SAN DIEGO 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

- Supported 99 positions (approximately 10% of the San Diego County Public Health Department staff).
- Supported disaster and emergency preparedness and response activities for over 300 San Diego Health Care Disaster Coalition members and other health care entities which include the county's 23 hospitals, over 200 clinics, 83 skilled nursing facilities, 1,200 long-term care facilities, and other health care facilities.
- Funded staff involved with warehouse operations that facilitate various public health response activities, such as naloxone distribution for harm reduction efforts, air purifier distribution, boil water alert program, and other key initiatives.
- Funded bus driver staff for the new Live Well on Wheels mobile vehicles, one of which is outfitted as a mobile clinic. The vehicles provide person-centered services in the community, including rural areas.
- Supported the public health laboratory veterinarian which plays a key role in responding to bioterrorism threats, such as anthrax and preventing zoonotic diseases including rabies and H5N1 avian influenza. The veterinarian serves as the laboratory's veterinary medical authority and serves as the liaison to local and state officials on matters related to rabies.
- Supported Genomic Epidemiology Team, including wastewater surveillance (an early warning system for emerging infectious diseases), and an increased ability to conduct genomic surveillance (to track the spread of a virus, how it is changing, and how those changes may affect public health).
- Supported the laboratory water team to perform beach and bay testing seven days a week to ensure the safety and protection of beach visitors throughout the county.
- Funded staff to support communicable disease response and operations. Supported capacity to respond to school-related communicable disease events, outbreaks, and vaccination points of dispensing on school campuses. Additionally, FoPH supported staffing vaccine-related responses including measles, mumps, and other vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g., respiratory syncytial virus, hepatitis A).

- ▶▶▶ Supported intake and processing of state-mandated legally reportable communicable disease reports and laboratory results.
- ▶▶▶ Supported medical record collection to support investigations of communicable diseases in the county.
- ▶▶▶ Supported infectious disease prevention, education, and awareness, including through published materials and social media, community events, and partnership opportunities.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff to advance health equity and identify and eliminate health disparities associated with climate change.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff to enhance local capacity for tuberculosis surveillance and conduct case investigations.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff who continue to work to locally implement a multistate disease surveillance system to provide timely chronic disease data at a neighborhood level for public health program planning and evaluation.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff that work to improve access to healthy foods through the growing, purchasing, and distribution of healthier foods, especially among populations that do not have easy access to healthy foods.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff that collaborate with clinical teams to ensure all clinical policies and procedures are current. Staff oversee the collection and analysis of incident reports to identify patterns and trends in clinical events that could indicate areas for improvement in patient safety or care quality.
- ▶▶▶ FoPH funding provided crucial support for laboratory operations by enabling enhanced surveillance and testing capacities. This funding prioritizes key staff roles, essential equipment and supplies, and infrastructure needed to support a robust public health system for local residents.
- ▶▶▶ Supported the Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch to provide timely response efforts to emerging public health threats in the county. This branch provided key support in response efforts to recent flooding and weather-related disasters, as well as to federal partners during the recent response to the Tijuana River Valley environmental health crisis.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff to provide real time GIS mapping for rapidly developing wildfires within the county to allow it to communicate to healthcare facilities that may be in the impacted area to provide assistance if necessary. In addition, this funding provided the county with epidemiological data that enables it to provide vaccination events in areas that have the greatest need.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff to support families by helping businesses/worksites implement employee wellness and family-friendly workplace programs that create policies, systems, and environmental changes that address physical activity, nutrition, lactation support, childcare, flexible work schedules, sick leave, and other employee supports.
- ▶▶▶ Funded staff who support multiple high-level binational initiatives through consistent logistical, administrative, and technical support. Efforts included enhanced operational efficiency for cross-border meetings, symposia, task forces, emergency communications, and drills to improve communication, collaboration, and coordination among cross-sector partners (at the local, state, federal, and binational levels) to advance health in the California-Baja California border region.