

SAN FRANCISCO 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

- ▶▶▶ Funded 17 new Permanent Civil Service (PCS) positions that strengthened data analytics, clinical programs, disease investigation, operations, and administrative support.
- ▶▶▶ FoPH funding continued to support the improvements to community engagement, workforce capacity and training, and infrastructure and staffing.
- ▶▶▶ Health Equity - FoPH funding supported outreach and training programs targeted at underserved populations, including partnerships with community organizations to improve vaccination rates and access to health care services. The Equity and Community Engagement Branch issues timely communications on public health issues, including fentanyl and substance use, through established and trusted connections with residents and local organizations. This team also supported the department's first Promotora Conference to mobilize community strengths and build capacity of partners to address public health matters.
- ▶▶▶ Emergency Readiness - FoPH supported the sustained capacity of the department to rapidly deploy resources and personnel during public health emergencies, including natural disasters and bioterrorism threats. Funding was used to launch a new Health Care Coalition Outreach Program, reach full staffing for the Community Resiliency Team, and strengthen community partnerships to ensure readiness during disaster and emergency events.

- Communicable Disease - FoPH funding supported the recent rapid investigation and mitigation of tuberculosis exposures at schools and community settings. The Disease Prevention and Control Branch continues to support and train staff on case investigation and contact tracing, supporting key responses to COVID-19, sexually transmitted diseases, mpox, and tuberculosis. Additionally, funding supported HIV surveillance, prevention, and treatment.
- Environmental Health - FoPH funding supported the response to various environmental health crises, leveraging epidemiologists and emergency planners funded by FoPH, to mitigate risks to local residents.
- Vaccinations - Clinical teams supported by FoPH organized vaccination clinics for underserved populations during influenza and COVID-19 seasons. The Equity and Community Engagement Branch continues to support underserved communities' access to accurate information and vaccine supplies.
- Public Health Laboratory Capacity - Testing enhancements for emerging diseases were driven by FoPH-supported staff positions.
- Innovative Disease Surveillance - FoPH additionally supported the use of wastewater surveillance to track outbreaks of communicable diseases and was made possible with data analyst and epidemiologist positions.