

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH 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

- FoPH funded 8 FTE positions focused on strengthening public health functions, epidemiology, community health improvement, health equity, community engagement, communications, support to vulnerable and marginalized populations, and expanded administrative capacity.
- FoPH-funded staff developed and published SLOHealthCounts.org and distributed countywide fact sheets on deaths by suicide and drug-related deaths. The goal is to educate the community and provide data summaries for partner organizations on two causes of death that disproportionately impact the county.
- Created public-facing dashboards that highlight health disparities across sub-county geographies. These dashboards serve as critical tools to identify health inequities, empower the health department and partners and to allocate resources to support vulnerable populations.
- Enabled the coordination of the SLO Health Counts Collaborative, including community residents, nonprofits, government agencies, cities, schools, and local leaders. Efforts include the county's community health assessment (CHA) issued in August 2023, and the 2025-29 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) issued in April 2024.

- ▶▶▶▶ FoPH supported the partnership of CHIP action teams that organize around priority health issues identified by residents related to healthy neighborhoods, access to care, and behavioral health.
- ▶▶▶▶ FoPH supported the coordination with the county's local Medi-Cal managed care plan in support of DHCS Population Health Management (PHM) goals and led to the development of a first-ever shared MCP-LHD community health goal.
- ▶▶▶▶ FoPH funded staff to facilitate the countywide Farm Worker Outreach Task Force (FWOTF), a collaborative of nearly 200 people representing more than 60 organizations.
- ▶▶▶▶ Funded staff to advance health equity, eliminate health disparities, and facilitate community discussions on relevant health topics such as health impacts of climate change.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supported workforce development and training opportunities on topics including language access resources, Mixtec cultural awareness, health equity, social determinants of health and psychological safety.
- ▶▶▶▶ Supported biannual all-staff training course for all local health department staff, featuring presentations from leadership, program highlights, and guest presenters on topics of special interest.
- ▶▶▶▶ Funded Trilingual outreach worker (English, Spanish, Mixteco) to assist low-income, underserved populations with getting public health and human service needs met.
- ▶▶▶▶ Expanded capacity of the FoPH-funded communications staff to ensure populations receive multi-lingual messages about public health services, resources, and general health messages related to a wide array of topics such as health equity and disparities, tuberculosis, and women's health.