



# SAN MATEO COUNTY 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**

- Created 19 new positions directly responsible for bolstering core public health functions, including infectious disease control, epidemiology and surveillance, and public health laboratory services.
- Expanded communicable disease surveillance such as wastewater testing and whole genome sequencing to identify potential pathogens present in the community.
- Supported infection prevention support in high-risk settings, such as skilled nursing facilities, to prevent and respond to outbreaks.
- Improved capacity to monitor, interpret, and act upon surveillance data to inform quick actions when public health threats emerge.
- Bolstered disease investigation capacity for case investigations and contact tracing of communicable disease in the community permitting better control of additional infections.

- FoPH funding was an important resource in supporting a recent response to a Clade I mpox case, the first known in the U.S. The funding supported key staff, including a program services manager and community program supervisor, that added capacity to the local health department to enable normal operations to continue while key managerial support was used to respond to this emerging issue. These positions were important in emergency operations activities and coordination of case response activities across multiple divisions and programs.
- FoPH was used to hire a position to support the work of the Medical Health Operational Area Coordination (MHOAC) program. MHOAC programs are critical for medical and health disaster coordination.
- FoPH funding supported a staff position, under the supervision of the local health officer, who works across programs, divisions, and departments to identify emerging public health issues and concerns, such as infectious disease activity.
- Hired a dedicated position to improve community health education and awareness. Activities implemented include a development and dissemination of a monthly health education newsletter, presentations to health care providers and health care facilities, and community meetings and events related to a wide range of public health issues.