

STANISLAUS COUNTY HEALTH 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

- FoPH funding directly supported 15 positions that have allowed Stanislaus County to greatly expand its capacity to respond with flexibility and creativity to the changing needs of public health. These positions cover a breadth of areas including public health information, health equity, communicable disease, training and operations, and leadership.
- The funding has increased capacity to provide infectious disease guidance with timely and comprehensive outbreak investigation efforts with an infection preventionist and medical investigators. This team has put systems in place at schools and long-term care facilities to collaborate and quickly respond to disease reports. Partnerships have improved and are thriving with infection preventionists at long-term acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and acute care hospitals throughout the county. The staff are hosting training to improve capacity in the medical community for disease reporting and mitigation. Because of these efforts, a recent measles outbreak in the county was fully contained in seven days. Additionally, building the capacity of the communicable disease prevention section allowed the county to quickly launch a team to respond to H5N1 impacting more than 60 percent of the dairies in the county.



FoPH has supported increased epidemiological capacities, including increased staff to assist in data analysis, outbreak dashboard development, and emergency preparedness efforts.



Funding has supported the first-ever full-time communications team, inclusive of a public information officer and social media staff, to improve messaging and engagement with county residents. This has resulted in increased and consistent public-facing messaging, and the team has worked to build back trust in public health messaging by providing professional, quality, factual messaging and information needed to promote and protect health among the community.



FoPH partnered with Stanislaus County to complete the 2025 Community Health Assessment and 2025–2028 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), both of which are now published and accessible to the public. This process involved robust community and partner engagement, comprehensive data analysis, and the identification of key priority areas—Access to Care, Behavioral Health, and Chronic Disease.

To advance the CHIP, three Action Work Groups met monthly to guide strategy implementation, track progress, and report outcomes. The County also led a cross-sector community health coalition that fosters collaboration among partners, strengthens health communications, and supports coordinated action on emerging health issues.

In addition, the County is developing community-facing scorecards and a public website to increase transparency and engagement. These tools will allow residents to monitor progress and stay informed about ongoing efforts to improve health and well-being across Stanislaus County.



FoPH also supported the implementation of the agency's performance management and quality improvement efforts, as well as workforce development efforts, to recruit and retain a diverse, inclusive, and skilled workforce.



FoPH has supported close collaboration with the jurisdiction's two mosquito abatement districts during recent cases of West Nile Virus. With FoPH funding, the agency has been able to increase educational efforts related to West Nile Virus prevention by issuing press releases and social media communications.