

FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH



WHAT IS FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH?

California's state and local health departments are our frontline of defense, protecting communities from disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and existing and emerging public health threats. Following the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic and years of underfunding, Governor Newsom and state policymakers took a bold step in 2022 to rebuild our state and local public health workforce and infrastructure, committing \$300 million annually. Referred to as the Future of Public Health, this investment now directs approximately \$276 million annually with roughly \$188 million dedicated to local public health.

IMPACT OF FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Since the funding was enacted, California's 61 local health departments have filled over 1,100 new staff positions, supporting critical areas such as communicable disease prevention and control, chronic disease prevention, community health, public health laboratories, emergency preparedness and response, and public health communications.

REGION	POSITIONS CREATED	POSITIONS FILLED
Central California	214	204
Bay Area	224	213
Greater Sacramento-Sierra	133	128
Los Angeles	201	186
Rural North	77	70
Southern California	390	362
STATEWIDE	1,239	1,163

Note: Includes total number of proposed and/or hired individual public health positions stratified by region, regardless of full-time employment (FTE) status, as reported by LHJs as of October 2025.

WHY FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH?

The FoPH framework offers a stable and sustainable approach to resourcing state and local health departments in California.

- **Flexibility:** Unlike traditional public health funding that is categorical and disease-specific, FoPH is flexible, enabling health departments to allocate resources based on local needs and leverage staff expertise across multiple programs.
- **Maximum Reach:** FoPH funding is received by all 61 California local health departments, allowing investment in public health to reach all communities and corners of the state.
- **Future Uncertainties:** Local health departments are likely to face workforce reductions as federal funding streams — such as those provided during the COVID-19 — come to an end. This loss of resources underscores the critical importance of FoPH as it provides an ongoing funding source to support public health workforce and infrastructure and allows local health departments to shift resources based on real-time public health needs of California communities.