



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson, M.D.
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 7310
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Item 4265 – California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Budget Items: Future of Public Health & CDPH IT Systems

Dear Senator Weber Pierson and Assembly Member Addis,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to provide input on key budget items under the purview of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). These critical programs ensure the City's Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) is adequately prepared to respond to existing and emerging public health threats.

Future of Public Health

The City respectfully requests the Legislature sustain the critical Future of Public Health (FoPH) investment for local health department workforce and infrastructure. The importance of FoPH funding was demonstrated in the City's recent response to a tuberculosis outbreak in a single room occupancy setting. FoPH funding supports a senior epidemiologist who played a critical leadership role in the investigation and response to the outbreak. The epidemiologist established procedures and coordinated closely with county and state partners to notify residents and ensure infection control at the residential settings and health facilities.

CDPH Information Technology Systems

The City also respectfully requests support for investments for the following CDPH public health information technology systems.

- **myCAvax** – We request that the Legislature provide \$44 million ongoing General Fund dollars for the California Vaccine Management System, also known as myCAvax. The Governor's January Budget does not include funding beyond June 30, 2025 for this system. The City's Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) team uses myCAvax regularly to order vaccines from the California Department of Public Health. They often order vaccines for local providers as well. If myCAvax is not sustained, the PHEM team may likely revert back to using Excel spreadsheets to make orders and directly calling providers, which increases administrative burden. The myCAvax system also reduces barriers to accessing vaccines, allowing patients to digitally schedule services from the City's mobile vaccination team via MyTurn, which is a component of myCAvax.
- **CalCONNECT** – We express support for the Governor's proposal for \$18 million General Fund dollars for maintenance and operations of the California Confidential Network for Contact Tracing (CalCONNECT). CalCONNECT is critical for case and contact management of individuals infected with MPOX, COVID, TB and syphilis. It ensures patients receive linkage to care services, which

ensures adherence to treatment or PEP/PrEP. The system also streamlines the development of disaggregated reports per communicable disease.

Thank you for your consideration of these important public health budget items that have been essential to the health and wellbeing of the greater Long Beach community. Should you have any questions, please contact Sarah.Patterson@longbeach.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rex Richardson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

CC: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District
Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Elissa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Patrick Le, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance (DOF)
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health & Human Services (CalHHS) Agency
Erica Pan, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California