We Are All Public Health

2022 Annual Report
Public Health Institute
WE ARE ALL PUBLIC HEALTH

If there is one thing we learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is that public health is all around us. It is part of our daily lives. It is in the actions that we take, big and small, in seeing and caring for each other. Whether we have a crisis or not; we need a strong public health system. And every one of us—from teachers to farmworkers, church deacons to community leaders—is a critical part of public health infrastructure.

In our 2022 annual report, we share some of the unique roles we each play in making public health stronger, reach farther and connect better. When funding, goals and power are shared, public health is liberating and inclusive—especially to communities already abundant with the creativity, expertise and trust they need to build health and justice in their neighborhoods. As one of the largest nonprofit public health organizations in the country, the Public Health Institute has a mandate to use our resources and reach to connect across all areas of public health: sharing power, creating access, connecting new partners and contributing research. Working together, more funders can participate in “trust-based” giving to communities; together, we can gain more recognition for the Promotoras and community health workers who serve as vital connectors in their neighborhoods; together, we can ensure more resources for all of public health, including governmental public health, so we can each focus on what we do best. When we are all public health, a healthier, more equitable world is within our reach.

In solidarity.

Mary A. Pittman, DrPH
President & CEO
Public Health Institute
2022 Impacts

400M+
reached through COVID education, food and housing assistance and vaccine access

$45M+
award dollars guided to community-based experts by PHI’s fast, flexible funding model

3M
people living with more rights, gender equity and economic independence because of laws passed by girl and women leaders around the globe

Triple
the number of patients accessing MAT (medication for addiction treatment), after implementation of Bridge model

275+
peer-reviewed journal articles published on cancer, cannabis, alcohol, telehealth and more

102K
new cases of cancer captured and recorded to assist in better screening, research, treatment and prevention

Want to go in deeper on our work? Click impacts throughout our report to link to detailed program stories. Click the multimedia icon to hear from our community.
Government is Public Health.

40M people around the globe with increased rights, power, health and equity thanks to policies and practices changed across PHI’s programs.
Government is Public Health.

When many of us think about public health, the first thing we think of is the federal, state and local public health departments. From labs to research, resources to policies, governmental public health plays a topline decision-making role in how we address health issues, emerging crises, and the root causes of health. PHI partners with governmental public health: extending their reach into communities; accessing our networks to share information and expertise; and getting funding out the door quickly and effectively.

We need more thorough tools to measure equity, to understand our equity status.”

The Southeast Multi-State Racial and Health Equity SNAP-Ed Needs Assessment, Center for Wellness and Nutrition

“THE EYES WITH WHICH WE SEE THE CANCER PROBLEM”

Through the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program and in partnership with the state of California, PHI oversees the Cancer Registry of Greater California (CRGC), which captures and tracks more than 100k cancer cases every year. As one of the largest and most diverse cancer surveillance databases in the country, CRGC includes data from particular cancer populations, such as Hmong, LGBTQ+ and Pacific Islanders, that are often unavailable in other cancer repositories. This allows researchers to find and understand patterns in treatment, trial outcomes and prevention that are tailored to those with greater cancer disparities. In 2022, this meant identifying that LGBTQ+ patients have higher rates of breast cancer mortality, and recommending MRI screenings for women at high risk of cancer. The largest research study to ever examine disparities in prostate cancer among African American men is currently underway and is taking a closer look at factors such as structural racism and social drivers of health.
BUILDING A GLOBAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

Credence Management Solutions and PHI implement the Global Health Technical Professionals (GHTP), a project of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Technical professionals at all career stages work in D.C. and around the world to augment the Agency’s programs. They support the technical abilities of USAID offices, teams and working groups by bolstering technical leadership, accelerating innovation, increasing science and technology capabilities, strengthening local capacities and promoting gender equality.

Through the PHI/CDC Global Health Fellowship Program, emerging public health professionals have the opportunity to build their capacity and skills in global public health and receive hands-on, experiential training to support this important work. With a focus on recruiting from underrepresented communities and POC-serving institutions, 43% of the new 2022 fellows were Black. The top three fellowship career paths for alumni were: working for the CDC; pursuing higher academic training (PhD, MD), and working for state public health departments.

VALUING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHWs

PHI’s Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP) advocated for a new statewide Medi-Cal reimbursement policy, through the California Department of Health Care Service’s Asthma Preventive Services benefit, that covers asthma education and home environmental asthma trigger assessments conducted by community health workers, Promotoras and other non-licensed professionals. Promotoras provide home visits and custom mitigation plans, bridging causes of health disparities. The community health workers build their capacity to improve asthma management through trainings and capacity building from RAMP. And with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, RAMP also partnered with the National Center for Healthy Housing to develop step-by-step guidance on how to implement virtual asthma home services.

SUPPORT FOR LHD’s TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE & EQUITY

With climate-related disasters increasing, we need substantial sustained investment of state and federal funds focused on expanding the capacity of local health departments (LHDs) to effectively address the intersection of climate change, health, and equity, says Local Health Departments and Subject Matter Experts Address Climate Change Readiness in California: Findings and Recommendations, developed by the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative in partnership with PHI’s Public Health Alliance of Southern California and Urban Resilience Strategies. Other recommendations include ensuring that health equity and protecting vulnerable populations from climate change impacts is a “front-burner issue,” elevating existing leadership, and ensuring collaboration and community partnership.

“Every LHD would benefit from securing sustained, multi-sectoral funding for climate change efforts, and allocations should be based on an equitable funding formula that takes into account population size, need, and climate vulnerabilities.”
Meet Mmamelo.  
Young Women are Public Health.

Mmamelo is 24 years old and lives in Johannesburg, South Africa. As a participant in CAMI Health’s Word on the Street project, she is also now an advocate for greater sexual and reproductive health choices for women. PHI’s CAMI Health program promotes research and development of Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (MPTs), innovative products that can simultaneously prevent HIV, other STIs, and/or unintended pregnancy. Young women in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are disproportionately impacted by HIV, other sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancy and are among the most underserved populations for sexual and reproductive health in the world.

However, data alone tells an incomplete story. CAMI Health, in collaboration with Wits RHI and FHI360, asked young women and key influencers in their communities (male partners, grandmothers and technical experts) in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Uganda about their sexual and reproductive health experiences. Their first-hand stories provide glimpses into the diversity of their needs and desires and offer insights into solutions for improving their lives. Serving as an advocacy tool for female-initiated HIV prevention and family planning options, this StoryMap aims to foster the adoption of MPTs as potential game-changers in addressing these issues. Word on the Street was made possible with support from the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, through USAID, under Envision FP’s PROMISE Collaboration.

“We women don’t have a choice... We must take care of ourselves. If we don’t we either get infected with HIV or we get pregnant. We need to take charge.”
Hospitals and Healthcare are Public Health.

209K people seen for substance use disorder through medication assisted treatment and substance use initiatives made available to every emergency department in California.
Hospitals and Healthcare are Public Health.

The health of a hospital is dependent on the health of its surrounding community. And the reach of a hospital extends well beyond its front doors. By integrating social determinants of health into healthcare—from affordable housing and prescription produce to behavioral health and racial equity—everyone lives longer, healthier and more equitable lives.

YOUTH-GUIDED SOLUTIONS FOR SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

Opioid overdose and hospitalization rates are growing fast among teenagers and young adults, yet they have some of the lowest rates of substance use treatment. PHI’s Bridge youth treatment pilot program established a youth advisory council and worked with youth partners to develop new protocols and procedures for healthcare providers to screen teen patients and connect them with substance use navigators to support long-term care and recovery. Over two years, they screened 26,516 youth for substance use disorder and referred 1,186 to navigation services. Youth-focused outreach and education were critical in better serving this vulnerable population. Empower Watsonville, part of PHI’s California Overdose Prevention Network Accelerator 3.0 program, created a youth-administered survey to assess local youth’s experiences with substance use. The findings established a restorative justice policy for students who possess drugs or are intoxicated on school campus.

HELPING KIDS WITH CANCER SURVIVE—AND THRIVE

At PHI, the Children’s Oncology Group brings together more than 10,000 experts in childhood cancer at more than 200 institutions. They support clinical research trials that study and determine the underlying biology of childhood cancers, emerging treatments, supportive care, and survivorship, and care for more than 90% of all children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer each year. In 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sought data and findings for brentuximab vedotin (BV, a drug that could be used with chemotherapy for patients with classical Hodgkin lymphoma. The FDA utilized data from the Children’s Oncology Group randomized trial of 600 patients with high-risk Hodgkin lymphoma. Research findings indicated that BV was an effective medication for treating children with cancer, and informed the FDA’s approval of the drug—expanding access to this effective medication for pediatric cancer patients. 80% of children with cancer now survive 5 years or more as a result of efforts of the Children’s Oncology Group and its predecessors.
In Los Angeles County, there are 46 delivery hospitals where an average of 114,000 births take place each year. To address vast disparities in Black parental and infant mortality there, Cherished Futures, a joint initiative of Communities Lifting Communities, PHI’s Public Health Alliance of Southern California and the Hospital Association of Southern California, convened stakeholders including Black patients, birth justice advocates, and healthcare administrators. They recommended a birth equity designation for hospitals, which would include disaggregating data to identify racial disparities; updating clinical protocols; and fostering cultural humility, community powerbuilding and trust-building. A second Cherished Futures report addressed the impact of structural racism on birth outcomes, recommending culturally rooted patient education and breastfeeding tools, incentivizing birth equity for payers, and long-term efforts to address systemic conditions and reduce stress on Black families.

In Los Angeles County, Black babies are two-to-three times more likely to die in the first year of life than white babies; the rate of babies born prematurely is 50% higher among Black birthing people than for white or Asian babies.”

Advancing Birth Equity, Cherished Futures

OPIOID TREATMENT OPTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

In 2022, PHI’s Bridge received more than $40 million in new funding from the California Department of Health Care Services to administer the CalBridge Behavioral Health Navigator Program and make addiction treatment accessible to every hospital emergency department (ED) in the state. Hospitals may now obtain up to $120,000 to place navigators in the ED to address substance use disorders as a treatable medical emergency, to identify patients who can benefit from initiating medication for addiction treatment (MAT), and to identify mental health services if needed. Bridge’s Emergency Medical Services Buprenorphine Use Pilot project is a first-responder Emergency Medical Services model for treating patients with opioid use disorder. It trains street-level paramedics to assess and treat patients from an ambulance with buprenorphine, a medication that reduces cravings for opioids and protects against overdose. 35% of those treated were still in substance use treatment at the 30-day mark.

ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES, FOR BLACK BIRTH EQUITY

In Los Angeles County, there are 46 delivery hospitals where an average of 114,000 births take place each year. To address vast disparities in Black parental and infant mortality there, Cherished Futures, a joint initiative of Communities Lifting Communities, PHI’s Public Health Alliance of Southern California and the Hospital Association of Southern California, convened stakeholders including Black patients, birth justice advocates, and healthcare administrators. They recommended a birth equity designation for hospitals, which would include disaggregating data to identify racial disparities; updating clinical protocols; and fostering cultural humility, community powerbuilding and trust-building. A second Cherished Futures report addressed the impact of structural racism on birth outcomes, recommending culturally rooted patient education and breastfeeding tools, incentivizing birth equity for payers, and long-term efforts to address systemic conditions and reduce stress on Black families.
At Highland Hospital in Oakland, CA, Kelvin Sen helps save lives every day. He’s not a doctor or nurse, but the role he plays is just as critical to connecting patients struggling with addiction to the care they need: Kelvin is a Substance Use Navigator (SUN) who ensures that patients who come to the emergency room get treatment for substance use—a condition that kills over 100,000 Americans each year. PHI’s Bridge works across the country with professionals like Kelvin so that anyone can walk into an ER, day or night, and get started on medications that help people recover from addiction.

Stigma and discrimination often prevent patients from disclosing substance use and seeking treatment—but SUNs meet people where they are, building trust and addressing fears and concerns, and ultimately acting as patient advocates and coaches. SUNs also help to connect patients with outpatient treatment and community partners, so that they’re supported with resources and care at every step in their recovery journeys.
Students, Researchers and Universities are Public Health.

275+
peer-reviewed journal articles published on cancer, cannabis, alcohol, telehealth and more in 2022
Students, Researchers and Universities are Public Health.

Evidence-based research is the foundation of public health practice and policy. PHI undertakes important research and fosters the next generation of public health leaders through critical partnerships across schools and universities, as well as through our own portfolio of governmental and philanthropic research. PHI’s in-house Institutional Review Board conducted 256 reviews in 2022.

To respond to the legal attacks on public health, we must reframe the conversation with a focus on the landscape—the systems and conditions that support our collective well-being.”

Championing Public Health Amid Legal and Legislative Threats

To help the field make an effective case for public health, PHI’s Berkeley Media Studies Group and Real Language researched narratives around the current attacks on public health’s authority, to identify problematic language and opportunities for improvement. Recommendations include: lead with strengths; use plain language; and, frame public health as indispensable.

IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO BETTER ENGAGE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

When biomedical and health sciences researchers only include those with European descent in their research, they miss crucial information about how diseases and treatments affect underrepresented communities of color. PHI’s Population Health Innovation Lab explored motivations, facilitators, and barriers faced by researchers conducting community engaged research. Recommendations to funders included technical assistance, mentorship and community-of-practice opportunities. Researchers were encouraged to operationalize community engagement and to prioritize relationship building and trust with communities.

LINKING HEAT IMPACTS TO DRINKING WATER

As climate change increases temperatures, harmful algal blooms (HABs) caused by cyanobacteria are on the rise in lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, posing a health threat to humans, domestic animals and wildlife. A study published by the Public Health Institute’s Dr. Gina Solomon and PHI’s Tracking California program revealed that microcystin, a toxin produced by cyanobacteria, contaminated private drinking water that many community members in Clear Lake, California rely on—including the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, who partnered on the project.
More than 4,250 COVID deaths could have been prevented in one year if all of California met national PM2.5 Air Quality Standards

Association Between Long-Term Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution with SARS-CoV-2 Infections and COVID-19 Deaths in California, U.S.A, PHI’s Tracking California

LINKING POLLUTION TO COVID DISPARITIES

California is home to some of the highest concentrations of air pollution in the nation. A study, Association Between Long-Term Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution with SARS-CoV-2 Infections and COVID-19 Deaths in California, U.S.A., conducted by PHI’s Tracking California and the University of California, San Francisco, found that, when compared to those living in neighborhoods with the lowest PM2.5 exposure, individuals living in neighborhoods with the highest long-term PM2.5 exposure were at 20% higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 infections, at 51% higher risk of COVID-19 mortality, and more likely to be Hispanic and from low-income communities.

UNIVERSITIES & COMMUNITIES ADDRESSING PRESSING PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

In 2022, PHI launched the California Alliance of Academics and Communities for Public Health Equity, a collective impact program uniting academics from California’s university schools and programs of public health with community service and/or advocacy organizations. The Alliance has already brought together faculty and leaders from 29 universities as well as 34 community-based organizations from all corners of the state. The foundational work done in 2022 prepares the Alliance to make an impact in statewide policy, training and practice around strengthening the public health workforce, expanding preventative approaches to violence, and addressing the public health impacts of climate change and environmental hazards.

CRITICAL RESEARCH ON SUBSTANCE USE—AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

A study from PHI’s Alcohol Research Group (ARG) examined the impact of Medicaid expansion on alcohol and opioid treatment admission rates among adults. Medicaid expansion led to increased Medicaid-insured alcohol and opioid treatment rates in the general population, and particularly among Black and Hispanic/Latinx groups. While the increased rates of treatment entry are promising, the study’s findings also suggest that there are significant disparities emerging between low-income individuals living in expansion and non-expansion states, particularly in the southern region of the U.S.—which could continue to widen treatment disparities.

ARG’s training program mentors and trains pre- and post-doctoral scholars engaged in alcohol and drug-related research. More than 270 ARG fellows work around the globe as researchers, scientists and public health professionals.
Meet Zeeshawn Mahmood Khan.
High School Students are Public Health.

Zeeshawn is a high school student who joined PHI’s FACES for the Future in 2022 as a Public Health Youth Corps COVID Peer Educator. Zeeshawn learned about public health and health disparities, youth advocacy, COVID vaccine basics, and interpersonal skills for navigating difficult conversations.

“One piece of advice I would give to public health officials” says Zeeshawn, “is that culturally competent communication matters. Public health officials should first understand their target community’s culture, traditions, norms, religious values, and most importantly, language. The reason why most of the East Asian and Middle Eastern Muslim community (which I am a part of) got vaccinated is largely due to the efforts of UC Davis Health’s Shifa Clinic. Shifa Clinic had multiple weekend pop-up vaccine clinics in the basement of the Muslim Mosque Association. News would spread rapidly among families and elders, Muslims from all over Sacramento and nearby came to Shifa Clinic to get their vaccines.”

Zeeshawn and his peers completed certifications in Mental Health First Aid, CPR/Basic Life Support, “Stop the Bleed” Tourniquet Training, and Opioid Overdose Intervention with Narcan. Together, they conducted 63 presentations in their Sacramento communities to promote COVID prevention. Leveraging student voices and the credibility students already have with their families and in their communities is an effective way to relay public health messaging and change hearts and minds.

“The Imam of the Mosque always announced the date and times of the vaccine clinics during Friday Prayer where around 300 worshippers would show up. News would spread rapidly among families and elders. I’ve seen first hand how community-targeted health measures work, and in fact work way more effectively than general health measures.”
Communities are Public Health.

265K
Individuals in workforce development initiatives through PHI supported CBOs
Communities are Public Health.

Community-based organizations are rooted deep in their neighborhoods, with years—or generations—of experience working together. They speak the same languages, are trusted and connected, and able to prioritize needs and imagine solutions. Yet without sustainable funding and a solid infrastructure, they are too-often called upon only in emergencies. CBOs need reliable resources, access to operational infrastructure, and to share power with other public health organizations so they can lead as experts, not as implementers. Here’s how we partner with CBOs.

“Those who are closest to the problems are likely to be most resourceful in creating the solutions.”

Somava Saha, MD, PHI’s Communities RISE Together, at the White House Summit on the American Rescue Plan and the Workforce.

CULTURALLY ROOTED NUTRITION

PHI’s Center for Wellness and Nutrition partnered with California Tribal Organizations and community partners to promote healthy living and traditional foods, and to expand collaborative nutrition education activities and opportunities. The CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) Tribal Ambassador Committee includes tribal partners from communities throughout California who provide feedback, guidance, and suggestions on nutrition education materials, healthy traditional recipes, and partnership development to better serve California American Indian/Alaskan Native communities. This committee has developed a range of new culturally rooted CFHL resources that promote healthy living and traditional foods.

ADDRESSING AAAI MENTAL HEALTH

PHI’s Lotus Project provides technical assistance, to mental health service providers, clinicians, community health workers, and school staff who work with Asian American & Asian Immigrant (AAAI) children and families affected by traumatic events and stress. Lotus Project high school interns delivered mental health awareness messages through Instagram (e.g., “Violence Against Asian Women in the U. S,” “How is Culture Related to Mental Health,” and “The Model Minority Myth”), and partnered with other student organizations to establish a Lotus Project Youth Advocacy Network to raise awareness and advocate for policies to improve mental health outcomes for AAAI communities.
WOMEN & GIRL LEADERS CHANGING LAWS, CHANGING LIVES

In 2022, leaders from PHI’s Rise Up passed laws and policies ensuring greater health and rights for more than 3 million people. Rise Up Leader Unathi Mahlati strengthened protections and conditions for 133,998 women currently in custody across 243 correctional facilities in South Africa, providing clear ways to report abuse, mandatory training for prison staff and community oversight. Rise Up girl leaders in Honduras advanced policies impacting more than 223,000 girls and adolescents. They made comprehensive sexual education a reality through a public policy in the municipality of El Progreso, Yoro and an education program in sexual reproductive health in Jutiapa Atlántida. In the municipality of La Ceiba, street sexual harassment will be prohibited and prevented, through a new ordinance, and psychological, physical, and sexual violence in schools will be addressed through a new public policy of prevention.

48% of community-based organizations indicated that technical assistance around contracts and procurement would at least somewhat or strongly impact their ability to quickly apply for funding from local health departments.

Supporting Communities and Local Public Health Departments During COVID-19 and Beyond – PHI’s Public Health Alliance of Southern California

ELIMINATING LEAD’S IMPACT IN LOUISVILLE

The Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health trains multi-sector teams from across the country to advance their leadership skills and achieve health equity in their community. Teams collaborate on an applied health leadership project, focusing their growth and skills to support existing work in their communities.

The Louisville Lead-Free Community Team joined NLAPH with a focus on implementing lead-free strategies, starting with one high-need neighborhood, Smoketown, and learning from and spreading successful strategies to other zip codes where there was need. After their involvement in NLAPH, the team developed local policy recommendations that were implemented in Louisville, including hazard mapping and launching campaign ads in the Smoketown community that informed community members about lead prevention and reflected the residents and voices of those living in the Smoketown community.
Meet Eulalia Mendoza. Agricultural workers are public health.

In 2017, Eulalia Mendoza was working in the fields in Ventura County, California during the Thomas Fire, the largest fire in the history of California. She witnessed first-hand the immediate health impacts and long-term trauma that the farmworker community experienced from the destruction. Ventura County is among the most productive agricultural regions in the nation. It is also one of the regions most harmed by global warming, particularly farmworkers and farmers. COVID has done tremendous harm to food chain workers from farm to table in Ventura and across the state. Now Eulalia advocates for better safety protections in the face of our changing climate, including serving on the advisory board of PHI’s Achieving Resilient Communities (ARC). ARC is helping to increase farmworker and farm resilience in collaboration with PHI programs including Tracking California and Roots of Change, and three Ventura County community-based organizations: Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), Mixteco Indigena Organizing Project (MICOP) and Lideres Campesinas. As part of the advisory board, Eulalia recommended the launch of Ventura County’s new emergency audio alert system that shares audio messages in Mixteco and Zapoteco, to notify farmworkers when air quality reaches unhealthy levels due to wildfire smoke. It now serves as a nationwide model.

“For farmworkers, it’s a very big impact, since the majority of them don’t even know that they can ask for N-95 masks to protect themselves against the smoke and fires, out of fear that they would get fired from their job or because they won’t be offered work next harvest season or called to return.”
Intermediary Organizations are Public Health. How PHI’s subaward model shares power with/in communities.

“By partnering with trust and appreciation for those who are the experts in their own communities, we can build a public health system that addresses the needs of all people and is prepared to handle any crisis.” That’s what Susan Watson, the director of PHI’s Together Toward Health (TTH) initiative, said in the Chronicle of Philanthropy in April of 2022. In total, TTH partnered with government, philanthropy and hundreds of community groups, connecting 23 million people throughout California with vaccines and vital COVID resources rooted in how and where they live, organized by people they trust, and in more than 50 languages—while also bolstering local infrastructure to boost workforce development, sustainability and community resiliency. “We were able to identify leaders in our community and get them trained and certified as community health workers,” said Isai Garnica-Palma, with TTH-funded CBO Valley Onward.

PHI’s fast, flexible funding model helped funders direct $90 million in awards to CBOs around the world in 2022 to address gender justice, COVID prevention, ACEs, substance use, and so much more. Many of these CBOs were too local, small or low-resourced to have been able to successfully apply for funding on their own. Many were community-trusted CBOs that PHI helped funders reach. As an intermediary, PHI provides technical assistance to support CBOs. We create networks that connect isolated communities—like Native American tribal regions, LGBTQ+, or Hmong speakers—so they can share resources and build power. PHI advances award money to minimize time delays in beginning life-saving work, and provides insurance, compliance and legal guardrails that keep funders and communities creative, supported and flexible.

$90M
in funds disbursed to local organizations around the world in 2022 through PHI’s fast, flexible partnerships with state, federal, county and philanthropic funders

540 CBOs
funded to reach their communities in work including COVID prevention, ACEs, substance abuse prevention and gender justice

$3M+
invested into workforce development initiatives
The Public Health Institute is Public Health.

See how we helped our funders, partners and programs extend their reach, and advanced wellbeing and health equity with communities around the world.
$234M+
annual revenues, offering a stable financial base for initiatives to safely launch, scale and grow

600+
funding awards received, managed and implemented by compliance-trained grants and contracts experts

450+
positions created and posted by PHI’s human resources team

720K
visitors to phi.org to find information, jobs, expertise, research and impacts

6K+
outside party agreements administered and executed by PHI’s legal experts

256
reviews conducted by PHI’s in-house Institutional Review Board; 275+ peer-reviewed journal articles published on cancer, cannabis, alcohol, telehealth and more

2022 Infrastructure
How We Work

FISCAL SPONSOR

The Public Health Institute (PHI) leads and manages public health projects as a fiscal sponsor. We provide operational infrastructure and administrative support—human resources, grant development and support, compliance, staffing—that allow programs to focus on what they do best: making an impact. PHI helps public health professionals launch, scale and grow and develops the next generation of public health leaders and advocates.

THOUGHT LEADER & CATALYST

PHI advocates for policies and legislative solutions. We develop new research and work with communities, policy-makers, and legislators to enact policies and influence practices that promote equitable health outcomes. We identify emerging issues and speed staffing and resources where they can quickly make an impact. We bring the right people to the table. We influence and shape how public health issues are understood, sharing evidence for action.

PARTNER

PHI works with funders, the private sector, government and other agencies to strengthen and implement their vision. Our multi-disciplinary team provides specialized expertise—all based on best practices and rooted in equity. We bring a broad network, nimble infrastructure and a roster of proven interventions. This allows us to launch new projects quickly and bring effective work to scale.

Let us make your work stronger: phi.org/partner-with-phi
Financials

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The information presented here is drawn from PHI’s financial statements, prepared by independent auditors Crowe LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

A STABLE FINANCIAL BASE TO GROW IDEAS INTO MULTI-MILLION AWARDS

PHI’s Development Assistance Award initiative provides micro-grants, typically under $10k, to PHI programs to support our program community in growing innovative ideas into competitive grant awards. Sediq Hazratzai, MD, MPH, of PHI’s Sehat initiative, which focuses on community-rooted support to improve refugee health and wellbeing, was awarded $7,500. He used the micro-grant to serve as crucial seed funding for the Afghan Refugee Health Initiative. He was able to establish a virtual space, form collaborations, contribute in proposal development, and create a new and larger initiative/center. The seed grant helped lead to the successful award of $4 million for the Refugee Health Promotion Project and Special Immigrant Visa Mental Health initiative with the California Department of Public Health Office of Refugee Health, to build capacity in California to respond to the mental health needs of refugee and Afghan populations.

$5.2M
in PHI program awards generated from $30k invested in PHI Development Assistance support
2022 Leadership & Board

PHI Senior Management

Mary A. Pittman, DrPH
PHI President & Chief Executive Officer

Mélange Matthews, MPH, MCP
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Israel Ghebretinsae, MPA
Chief Financial Officer

Matthew Marsom
Senior Vice President for Program & Public Policy

Valerie McCann Woodson
Senior Vice President of Human Resources

Leah D. Williams, Esq
Chief Legal Counsel

Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH
Senior Vice President for Preventative Medicine & External Relations

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Board Chair, 2022
Chief Marketing Officer
Autodesk

Adaeze Enikwechi, PhD, MPP
Board Vice Chair
Research Associate Professor, Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe

Santiago Muñoz
Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Strategy Officer, UCLA Health System

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD
Director, Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Afia Asamoah, JD, MPP
Head of Legal & People, Waymark, Inc.

Anthony Barrueta
Past Chair
Senior Vice President, Government Relations, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.

Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Accreditation Board

Nick Macchione, MS, MPH, FACHE
Director, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

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Mary A. Pittman, DrPH
President & Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Institute

Susan Watson, MPH
Program Director, CA4Health, Public Health Institute
What We Value

MISSION
The Public Health Institute advances wellbeing and health equity with communities around the world.

VISION
Healthy communities where individuals reach their highest potential.

VALUES
Health is a fundamental human right. Just societies ensure equitable health outcomes for everyone.

APPROACH
The Public Health Institute develops research, leadership and partnerships to build strong public health policy, programs, systems and practice.

GOALS
Foster and invest in a culture of excellence | Design and implement sustainable programs that advance health equity | Leverage data and knowledge to advance public health solutions | Deliver innovative and best in class support for programs and leaders | Identify resources and partnerships to scale, strengthen and stabilize public health infrastructure.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY & JUSTICE

In the U.S. and around the world, structural inequities determine who is healthy and who is not: discriminatory housing policies trap families in areas with poor air quality; gender discrimination creates barriers to educational and economic opportunity; immigration status impacts income and access to health services.

Public health is our most effective tool for building a more equitable health system. To create better health, PHI and its programs focus on building more equitable systems through policy and community change, and by amplifying the power and voices of communities.
PHI’s Alameda County Care Alliance’s Advanced Illness Care Program is a faith-based, person-centered, lay care navigation intervention, serving individuals with advanced illness and their caregivers in Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and San Francisco. Care Navigators work with program participants to identify and address needs, provide trusted resources, and encourage skills to empower persons needing advanced illness care, and their caregivers.

One key to building trust in communities that are wary of the medical system is the inclusion of care navigators like Jae Williams, who have deep roots in the neighborhoods where they work. “We have to be as sensitive as possible, because it’s so difficult to consider. It takes getting to know them, finding out what is the source of that anxiety or aversion, and how I can break through that,” says Williams. “We frame it as empowerment.”

Through a series of in-person meetings and phone conversations over a period of about 6 months, the Care Navigator helps participants meet their advanced illness care needs and links them to resources. Working across more than forty churches, AICP has served more than 1,600 patients and caregivers so far. Three-quarters of participants have been African American, and 55 percent have gone on to complete advance directives.