



**CA Public Health Corps**  
TRAINING & PATHWAYS PROGRAM

**Monthly Update**  
MARCH 2022

# What is the California Public Health Corps (CA-PHC)?

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the **need for a well-trained & versatile public health workforce**. To respond, the California Department of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles, & University of California, San Francisco partnered to develop & launch the CA-PHC Training & Pathways Program in summer 2021.

The CA-PHC is a **paid training & job placement program for early-career public health professionals** to gain experience working at local health jurisdiction host sites.

**CA-PHC fellows & host site preceptors receive ongoing support** from the program team comprised of public health professionals from the three partner agencies.



## our mission

Create a workforce pathway for early-career public health professionals from diverse backgrounds & disproportionately affected communities to conduct communicable disease prevention & control, community engagement, & emergency response activities at local health jurisdiction host sites

Ensure a well-trained public health workforce across California that can effectively & efficiently respond to public health issues to ensure the health & safety of the population

# What did the CA-PHC accomplish in March 2022?

## TRAINING

**8 hours of content delivered**  
(trainings occurred every other week)

### Topics included...

- Presentation Skills and Research
- Developing Codebooks
- Time Management
- Avoiding Burnout



## FELLOW ACTIVITIES

### Group presentations

Fellows worked in regional groups to create presentations focused on public health issues their local health jurisdictions face.

Presentations began in March and topics discussed included...

- Access to healthcare services for people who are undocumented
- Resources for people who are unhoused
- Diabetes among California's Native American communities



## FELLOW PROJECTS

Fellows are actively conducting disease investigation for COVID-19 and other diseases, **including...**

- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Tuberculosis
- Enteric diseases
- Vector-borne diseases

With many fellows starting work within new subject areas, they are receiving additional trainings and extra support



## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

# Katherine Manganaro

(Pronouns: She/Her)



LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION HOST SITE  
**Plumas County**



EDUCATION  
**UC Los Angeles**  
**BS Human Biology, Global Health**



HOMETOWN  
**Saint Joseph, MO**

### WHY JOIN THE CA PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS (CA-PHC)?

When I first moved to California to go to UCLA, my plan was to study some sort of biological science and go on to medical school. As I journeyed further into my coursework, the field of public health started coming up quite frequently. The more I learned about it, the more I realized that my passions and goals align very closely with public health work. This led me to learn about the CA-PHC Pathways Program around the time I graduated. Being a novice in the field, I wasn't sure what to do next. I recognized CA-PHC as an amazing opportunity to get tangible experience in various areas of public health and to meet some amazing people along the way, so I applied, and the rest is history!

### WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON?

My role at my LHJ has changed throughout my time here. In addition to smaller projects such as writing the 20,000 Lives Quarterly Newsletter, I was originally on our COVID response team, working closely with school administration and nurses as the Plumas County School Specialist. Because COVID cases in our county have dropped and we've identified other areas of need within our LHJ, I'm taking a step back from my COVID-related duties and focusing more on harm reduction.

The other main project I've been working on since starting is creating an operations manual for the Health Access Vending Network (HAVEN) Project. The HAVEN Project is a network of vending machines placed across the county that contain various preventative healthcare products such as HIV test kits, sterile syringes, and condoms, to name a few. Participation is completely anonymous and free. The goal of the operations manual is to provide other organizations interested in implementing a similar program with information and resources that could be of use. I recently finished the document which is free and open to be widely distributed. Since then, I've taken on a larger role in the harm reduction program and am involved in community outreach, grant management, and leading meetings.

### WHAT COMES AFTER CA-PHC?

The wide range of projects I've been able to take on and general focuses of public health I've learned about throughout the duration of this program thus far have taught me that there's so much more out there for me to learn. Because of this, it seems like there will be some form of higher education in my future. Beyond that, I'd like to continue doing harm reduction work in some capacity. Otherwise, only time will tell!

## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

# Carlos Del Carmen Luna

(Pronouns: He/His)



LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION HOST SITE  
**Madera County**



EDUCATION  
**UC Merced**  
**BS Microbiology & Immunology**



HOMETOWN  
**Mexico City, MX**

### WHY JOIN THE CA PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS (CA-PHC)?

Originally from Mexico City, I grew up in San Jose and eventually ended up in the Central Valley, where I studied at UC Merced, earning a BS in Microbiology & Immunology in 2020. While in college I worked at a wastewater treatment plant, splitting my time between environmental compliance and the lab. After graduation, I briefly worked at a winery lab, a food safety lab, and the UC Agricultural Research Center. My introduction to public health was with the Madera County public health lab in the middle of the pandemic where I performed RNA extractions of clinical samples tested for COVID-19.

### WHY JOIN CA-PHC? [CONTINUED]

This opportunity taught me a lot about public health and highlighted the vulnerabilities of low-income communities. While in college, my professor said that we should try to stay in the valley because the valley needs us, and those words echoed in my mind as I processed the increasing number of samples. The Pathways program presented itself to me as an opportunity to do more for a community with limited access to healthcare.

### WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON?

Since being accepted to the program, I have been working on several projects at my LHJ: I primarily work in COVID workplace outbreaks, helping businesses navigate the Emergency Temporary Standards, providing support, guidance, and tracking cases for the county. I also serve as the liaison for the jails and prisons reporting their COVID cases. I continue to work with the lab, providing triage for samples to be sequenced based on the criteria set by the state. I also collect and analyze data for the laboratory regarding their turnaround times as part of the continuing improvement metric for the accreditation process. As COVID ramps down, I have been training to do case investigations that are not COVID-related and working with the oral health team to promote preventative treatments.

A special project that I have been working on is bringing back the quarterly communicable diseases report. In addition, I have been looking into the possibility of bringing wastewater surveillance to the county, which would add an early warning system and complement efforts already in place.

### WHAT COMES AFTER CA-PHC?

This program has opened many doors and provided me with opportunities to connect with established public health professionals. At its conclusion, I plan to attend graduate school and earn an MPH and continue to work in the Central Valley.