



## Evaluating Clinic Costs

### Evaluate Costs of Delivering Services

Your objective is to evaluate the cost to the health department for delivering services. This analysis must take into account other funding sources that may cover some of these costs (e.g., allotted tax dollars, grants, volunteers, etc.).

- ✓ When providing services to the public, fees should be set to cover the costs, not to make a profit.
- ✓ Public health services should not be in competition with available private services, but at the same time, fees cannot be set so high that clients will not utilize the services.

Some questions that need to be asked when doing this evaluation include: “What is the lowest amount that can be charged to pay for the service?” or “At what price does the cost become a barrier for the client?” or “What does it actually cost the department to provide this service to the community?”

### Tools to Assess Service Costs

- ▶ Medi-Cal & Medicare rates [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)
- ▶ Optum Fee Analyzer 800-464-3649 or <https://www.optumcoding.com/Product/40987/>
- ▶ CA PH Billing Manual [www.kernpublichealth.com](http://www.kernpublichealth.com)