

**YOLO COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

**Policy on Cost Recovery and Fees,
Adopted June 7, 2011**

C. POLICY

1. COST RECOVERY

- a. Departments shall seek to recover the full cost of all services they provide to agencies, entities or individuals outside the County of Yolo organization on a contractual or fee basis or when obtaining grant funding. The purpose of full cost recovery is to preserve the ability to provide sustained services.
- b. Internal Service Funds shall recover the full cost of all services they provide to departments, agencies, entities or individuals on a contractual or fee basis.
- c. Full cost is defined as the sum of direct costs plus departmental/fund overhead costs plus external indirect costs that conform to the Policy on Cost Accounting.
- d. Board of Supervisors approval is required for initiation or revision of public fees and charges (except for fee amounts that are fixed by statute), initiation and renewal of revenue contracts, and to apply for and accept grants.

2. FEES AND CHARGES

- a. The County can charge a fee for the following:
 - 1) A specific benefit conferred, privilege granted, service or product provided, directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged.
 - 2) Reasonable regulatory costs incident to the issuance of licenses or permits, performance of investigations, inspections or audits.
 - 3) A fine, penalty, or other monetary charge imposed by the judicial agencies as a result of violation of laws.
- b. Except for fees, fines or penalties that are fixed by law, fee rates shall be set to sufficiently recover, in the long-run, all and only actual full costs incurred by the County, directly or indirectly, and consistent with long-term cost trends.
- c. Except for fees, fines or penalties imposed by law, fees shall be charged or allocated to the payor in a manner that reflects fairly and reasonably the benefits received by the payor from the County or the burden caused by payor on the County.
- d. To the extent practicable, estimates of fees and charges should be provided in advance of providing services to the customers.

- e. All fees and proposed changes must be supported by calculations that have been reviewed by the County Auditor-Controller and that are based on methods authorized by the Auditor-Controller.
- f. The County Administrator shall review all proposed changes to the fee schedules, grant applications and revenue contracts from an overall policy perspective. The County Counsel and County Auditor-Controller shall review all revenue contracts to ensure that the County's interests are protected.

3. SUBSIDIES AND WAIVERS

- a. No board-approved fees or charges can be reduced or waived without the specific approval of the Board of Supervisors.
- b. The Board of Supervisors may reduce or waive certain fees that apply to certain individuals or organizations. Such reduction or waiver shall be requested by the party concerned in writing to the department providing the services; department staff shall evaluate the request and submit findings to the County Administrator, who will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for final decision. In the evaluation, the department should provide:
 - 1) The total amount of the reduction requested and approved reductions in the past.
 - 2) In regard to fees related to construction projects, a finding that the waiver or reduction does not create a public work.
 - 2) A finding that the waiver or reduction does not create a gift of public funds.
 - 4) A finding that the fee meets at least one of the criteria listed in section 2.a above in regard to this payor.
 - 5) A finding that describes one or more of the following:
 - i. The payment of the fee would cause economic hardship (defined in U.S. Treasury regulations as the inability to meet reasonable basic living expenses) due the financial condition of the payor.
 - ii. The payor is making a net economic contribution to the County that exceeds the amount of the fee; or is providing uncompensated services to the County that are of comparable value to the fee.
 - iii. The payor engages in activities that specifically advance the county's strategic goals.
- c. The Board of Supervisors may delegate the authority to reduce fees to other county officials and approve a procedure with specific criteria for the officials to follow.
- d. At least annually, the County Administrator shall report to the Board the types and amounts of fees that have been waived or reduced and the associated impact to county services.

- e. Statutes or the courts may allow certain fees and fines to be reduced or waived by specific county officials; such reductions or waivers are exempt from the provisions of this policy.