

## Community Clinics and Health Centers

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For the most current list of Community Clinic and Health Center addresses, visit the CCALAC "Find a Clinic" page at <http://ccalac.org/find-a-clinic>.

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### **Fact Sheet: Community Clinics and Health Centers**

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LA's Community Clinics and Health Centers are proud to partner with local hospitals and emergency rooms to ensure that our residents can access quality health care services in the most appropriate setting. **The attached listing provides information on community clinics and health centers that may be available to receive patients more appropriately served in primary care.** For more information about LA's clinics, please go to [www.ccalac.org](http://www.ccalac.org).

#### **What is a community clinic? A free clinic? A Community Health Center?**

Community clinics, free clinics and community health centers (clinics) are all licensed and regulated by the State of California. Clinics may charge patients a fee based on the patient's income and ability to pay. These private non-profit organizations serve populations with limited access to health care, and are located in or serve a high need community (for example: low income populations, the uninsured, those with limited English proficiency, homeless persons).

#### **What services do clinics provide?**

All of the clinics on the attached listing offer primary health care, which means they provide non-emergency, outpatient medical services. Many clinics also have dental, mental health and pharmacy services. You'll also find x-ray, vision, obstetrics, specialty referral and other medical services at community clinics.

#### **Who do clinics serve?**

Clinics serve everyone, with a focus on providing services to the uninsured, under-insured, working poor, high-risk and vulnerable populations. Clinic services are developed to serve the unique needs of their communities, making clinics able to address cultural differences and economic disparities that can impact the health of their patients. Services available to patients may include:

- Trained medical interpreters and bilingual staff
- Transportation to and from appointments
- Mobile clinic to reach the homeless and other populations in some areas, and
- Evening/weekend hours for working families

#### **How much does it cost to go to a clinic?**

Community clinics serve all, regardless of ability to pay. Some clinics offer all services for free, while others use a "sliding fee scale" to determine the fee, meaning the patient is charged a fee based on the patient's income. Often, federal, state and local funders offset the cost of services provided to the uninsured. Clinics employ staff to facilitate enrollment into coverage for those who may be eligible for public programs. Clinics bill public health

coverage programs such as Medicare and Medi-Cal, as well as private insurers for services provided to covered patients.

**Do you need to be a legal resident of the United States to use community clinics?**

No; patients can receive services regardless of their residency status.