

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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**East Bay Community Action Program, a Healthy Families America Site, Accredited for
Quality Service by Prevent Child Abuse America**
*Leading National Child Abuse Prevention Organization Accredits Healthy Families America, RI East
Bay site, to Serve Families*

Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) announced that the Healthy Families America (HFA) affiliate, East Bay Community Action Program, has been accredited as a provider of high-quality home visiting services to pregnant families and families with infants and young children.

HFA is the signature program of PCA America and has been providing home visiting services for nearly 30 years. Expectant and new parents are facing new stressors and have questions about their child's development. HFA connects with families through community partners like hospitals and pediatricians to support parents, meeting within the familiarity and convenience of the family's own home. HFA is an accessible, voluntary, and well-received service.

"HFA sites utilize evidence-based best practices to provide individualized support to families when needed most, and linkages to community services," said Melissa Merrick, President and CEO of PCA America. "We congratulate East Bay Community Action Program, and we commend the staff for their leadership and commitment that has contributed to this most notable and highly regarded achievement."

The accreditation process is based upon a stringent set of 12 critical elements grounded in more than 30 years of research. The process involves an in-depth examination of the site's operation, as well as the quality of the visits made by HFA home visitors.

"We commend East Bay Community Action Program for opening itself up to such an intensive review process," said Kathleen Strader, National Director of HFA. "We believe that all families and all communities deserve access to quality home visiting services."

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The HFA site in Rhode Island's East Bay region has offices in East Providence and Newport.

"Receiving program accreditation is not just a validation of our efforts—it's a reflection of the dedication and efforts of every team member. It's about more than just meeting standards; we're setting new benchmarks for excellence in family support. This accreditation energizes us to continue making meaningful differences in the lives of families we serve," said Donna Razza, EBCAP Senior Family Development Director.

One of the primary goals of HFA home visiting is to promote nurturing, responsive parent-child relationships. Home visitors in each community receive extensive training on a wide range of topics important to just about every new parent, such as: caring for a new baby, ensuring the baby is receiving the nutrition needed, promoting healthy child development, and coping with a myriad of other potential stresses, such as financial, housing, partner relationship, etc., that may become heightened with an addition to the family.

PCA America was established in 1972 with the belief that child abuse and neglect is preventable. The not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization is committed to preventing child abuse in all forms through education, research, public awareness, and public policy development. Today, PCA America supports a network of state chapters across the United States.

PCA America implemented the Healthy Families America (HFA) initiative in 1992. HFA serves families of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, meeting the needs of close to 600 communities in 38 states, D.C., the U.S. Territories, and Israel.

Healthy Families America is an effective and proven evidence-based home visiting program, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. PCA America is proud to support HFA and to be part of a national movement dedicated to improving the lives of families and children.

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