

Talking Points

Healthy Families America:

- **Definition.** Is a voluntary home visiting program with three equally important goals:
 - to promote positive parenting,
 - to enhance child health and development, and
 - to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- **History.** Was launched in 1992 by Prevent Child Abuse America in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities and with ongoing support from the Freddie Mac Foundation.
- **Scope.** Started with 25 sites ten years ago. Now has over 450 sites in 38 states, Canada and Washington, DC, assessing 82,000 families and providing 50,000 families with comprehensive home visiting services each year. At least 21 states have laws establishing home visiting programs; in six of these states, the programs are specifically identified as Healthy Families America programs.
- **Funding.** In 2001 secured nearly \$185 million dollars in private and public funding and has received bipartisan political support from governors, state and federal legislators, and private funders.
- **Flexibility.** Programs are located in a variety of agency settings including: public agencies, local non-profit organizations and private institutions. Healthy Families America provides a unique structure and approach to ensure quality and encourage each community to use the program to best fit its needs.
- **Quality Assurance.** Ensures quality through twelve, research-based “critical elements” that represent high standards adherence to best practices in home visitation. Only those programs that commit to this level of quality can be affiliated with the national initiative. Healthy Families America is the only home visiting program to have a formal credentialing function linked with institutionalized credentialing systems to ensure quality.



- **Collaboration.** Actively collaborates in many states with other family support programs such as Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, Early Head Start, Head Start, Healthy Start, and the Nurse Home Visitation Program.

- **Research.** Studies show the program:
 - Promotes Positive Parenting Practices.
 - Improves Family Health.
 - Enhances School Readiness.
 - Increases Self-Sufficiency.

Healthy Families America Works. The program continues to expand as communities recognize the importance of providing parents with the information and skill-building opportunities they need to raise their children in a healthy, nurturing environment. Experience confirms that Healthy Families America is reducing child maltreatment and having a positive impact on families across the country.

For more information, particularly research cites, refer to website:

www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org

