



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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Project Bisita I Familia, a Healthy Families America Site, Awarded Accreditation

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) is pleased to announce its home visiting program, *Project Bisita I Familia*, administered under the Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services, has been awarded accreditation by the Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) America, as a provider of high quality home visiting services to families that want to improve their child's health, nutrition and developmental outcomes. The accreditation process is based upon a stringent set of 12 critical elements (152 standards) ground 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 home visitors.

The DPHSS *Project Bisita I Familia* is a Healthy Families America (HFA) affiliate, a signature program of PCA America that has been providing home visiting services for more than 20 years. The PCA America implemented the HFA initiative in 1992 in partnership with the Ronald McDonald House Charities, building on two decades of research in the field of home visiting. The HFA serves families of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, meeting the needs of close to 600 communities in 40 states, District of Columbia, all five U.S. Territories and Canada.

The DPHSS *Project Bisita I Familia* supports families beginning with prenatal care and can extend as long as three to five years after the child is born. The home visitors, who are registered nurses, implement the program based on three critical program elements: service initiation, service content, and staff characteristics. These home visits, which are conducted weekly, focus on supporting parents, the child-parent interactions and educating parents to prevent child maltreatment.

The DPHSS *Project Bisita I Familia* currently services over 260 children and adults in the villages of Mangilao, Dededo and Yigo. The voluntary program has been providing home visiting services since December 2012. *Project Bisita I Familia* is funded through the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting grant administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

The HFA is an effective and proven evidenced-based home visiting program according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Guam is the first amongst the U.S. Territories to receive this national accreditation.

For more information on *Project Bisita I Familia*, please contact Ms. Margarita B. Gay at 735-7111 or email margarita.gay@dphss.guam.gov.

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