

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 8, 2015

Contact: Karrey Britt
Communications Coordinator
Office: (785) 856-7362

Healthy Families Douglas County receives national accreditation

(Lawrence, KS) – Healthy Families Douglas County, an intensive parent support program offered through the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, has received national accreditation through Healthy Families America.

Health Department Director Dan Partridge said accreditation marks an important milestone for the program. “Becoming accredited speaks to our commitment to the families we serve. By following these standards, we can say with confidence that we are having a positive impact with the parents and children in our program.”

Healthy Families Douglas County’s mission is to optimize child development and prevent child abuse and neglect. The program does this by providing in-home support for new parents of children ages 3 and younger who are overburdened by risk factors, such as unemployment, unstable housing, single parenting and family history of abuse or neglect. The program offers a variety of assistance, which includes: supporting parent-child relationships, education about health and well-being, developmental screenings for children, applying for and getting access to medical care, referrals to community resources and creating social connections. The program serves about 75 Douglas County families each year.

Healthy Families Douglas County Supervisor Jenn Preston said accreditation affirms the program is meeting and exceeding national standards. “This work is important not only to families, but to our community because the research tells us that the quality of early childhood experiences impact our social, emotional and physical well-being throughout our lifespan. Helping our community be stronger and healthier has to include supporting and nurturing the parent-child relationship from the very beginning.”

Cydney Wessel, national director of Healthy Families America, commends Healthy Douglas County for going through the intensive review process, which included an on-site visit in June. “We believe that all families and all communities deserve access to quality home visiting services.”

About the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has served the Lawrence and Douglas County community for more than 120 years. Its mission is to advance policies, practices and programs that promote health for all, prevent disease and protect the environment.