



## Home-Based Program

### Who We Are

The Home-Based Program at Bright Beginnings, Inc. (BBI) offers Early Head Start (EHS) services to 63 children and their families in their home environments. We specifically serve families experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. As an EHS program, we are able to enroll pregnant women and children from birth through their third birthdays. Since we serve homeless families, we conduct “home visits” in whatever environment they call home.

Many families enter the Home-Based Program as a way to make an initial connection to BBI while they await an available space in the center. This allows families to begin receiving BBI’s comprehensive services and also gives enrolled children a priority for transition into the center. Other families may have their children already enrolled in another center but choose to enroll in Home-Based in order to receive additional support around parenting.

### What We Do

The cornerstone of the Home-Based program is the weekly home visit. During this 90-minute visit, Home Visitors (HVs) meet with parents and children in the family’s home environment. That means HVs spend much of their time out “in the field” visiting families. During the visits, the HV’s role is to coach parents on strategies to use to be the best “first teacher” they can be for their children. During home visits, HVs also conduct screenings and assessments just like in BBI’s classrooms; they complete Brigance, ASQ-3, and ASQ-SE screenings as well as on-going COR observations.

Home-Based families also receive all the other comprehensive services that BBI offers. These include health, mental health, and disability services; family support; a workforce development program; and a diaper incentive program.

In addition to weekly visits, HVs organize two socialization activities per month. These provide a chance for families to come together for fun and learning. Event locations vary, from BBI to libraries to parks. Periodically, families meet at a fun destination such as the zoo for a field trip socialization.

### How to Partner

For more information about BBI’s Home-Based Program, contact Alissa Tombaugh at [atombaugh@brightbeginningsinc.org](mailto:atombaugh@brightbeginningsinc.org) or 202.842.9090, ext. 1017.