

ATTENTION: REPORTERS



Bright Beginnings, Inc. Will Use \$11,000,000 Head Start Grant to Strengthen the Lives of Homeless Children and Families

Bright Beginnings (BBI), an early childhood development and learning center for homeless children and their families, is thrilled to announce that it has just received a \$2,300,000 Head Start Birth-to-Five pilot grant which will be executed over the next 5 years, from HHS' Administration for Children and Families' Office of Head Start.

"The pilot aims to give communities greater flexibility in designing Head Start and Early Head Start programs to better serve the needs of young children and community from birth until they enter pre-K or kindergarten. Bright Beginnings was selected among 15 organizations within five communities. The five communities were specifically chosen to represent a wide variety of geographic and demographic challenges and opportunities. "-Kenneth Wolfe, Administration for Children and Families

This innovative, first time grant will allow BBI to expand services, addressing the needs of 157 infants, toddlers and preschoolers. New programming initiatives will not only support center-based families but also providing support for families living in shelters and transitional housing with a new home based visitation program.

Bright Beginnings will welcome additional staffing, including a nurse, family advocate nutritionist, and home visitors. BBI will also be partnering with various DC agencies providing shelter and social services, which will allow outreach specialists access to additional families in need.

About Head Start Services: Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to 5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development. Head Start programs provide comprehensive services to enrolled children and their families, which include health, nutrition, social services and other services determined to be necessary by family needs assessments, in addition to education and cognitive development services.