2024-2025 Family Priority Definitions

The following terms define priorities listed on the family priority rubric:

1. **Child of DCC student/staff -** An early learner described as a "Child of a Delgado Community College (DCC) student or staff" is one whose parent or guardian is either enrolled as a student or employed at DCC.

2. **Child of SUNO student -** An early learner described as a "Child of a Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) student " is one whose parent or guardian is enrolled as a student at SUNO.

3. **Child of a teacher** - is defined as an early learner who has a parent or guardian currently working or actively looking for work as a teacher within the educational sector.

4. **Children with an IFSP -** Children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) are those who have been diagnosed with developmental delays or conditions and are officially enrolled in EarlySteps, receiving specialized services tailored to their unique needs.

5. **Children in Foster Care -** Foster care provides a provisional home for early learners unable to be cared for by their parents, recognized by child welfare agency personnel. These children might reside with kin, with foster parents, or in group homes. Typically, a government or social service agency organizes foster care and compensates caregivers for their costs.

6. **Children with an Individual Education Plan (IEP)**-are those who have been diagnosed with developmental delays or conditions and are receiving specialized services tailored to their unique needs by the local education agency.

7. **Children with income below 130% -** Children from families whose income is beneath 130% of the Federal Poverty Level are identified as those residing in households with earnings that do not meet the federally established poverty guidelines.

8. **Continuing Pre-K 3 student -** continuing PK3 student refers to a student who was previously enrolled in PK3 program and is applying for a PK4 seat at the same program/center.

9. **Continuity of care -** Continuity of care refers to providing consistent services to early learners from birth to age four, emphasizing stable

primary caregiving and minimizing transitions throughout their early childhood experience.

10. **Geographic priority zip-code -** Geographic priority gives preferential consideration to applicants based on their physical closeness to the early childhood school/program.

11. **Half-mile walk zone -** The half-mile walk zone denotes the area within a half-mile radius of a provider, referring to early learners living within this distance who are seeking enrollment with that provider.

12. **Homeless -**"Homeless children and youths" refer to early learners without a stable nighttime residence, including those sharing housing due to economic struggles, living in inadequate accommodations like motels or shelters, residing in places not meant for sleeping, or staying in public spaces and vehicles. It also covers migratory children facing similar conditions.

13. **Siblings of continuing students -** Sibling priority is a preference exclusively to prospective early learners who either currently have a sibling enrolled or are simultaneously enrolling with a sibling at the same educational institution or program within the academic year.