



July 14, 2023

Registration for FY 2024 CACFP Renewal

Registration for Annual Training Opens July 14; Enrollment Opens August 1

Participating CACFP Sponsors and Institutions are required to meet annual renewal requirements by September 30, 2023. The Nutrition Division opened registration for the required annual training on July 14, 2023, and open enrollment for the application renewal will be available beginning August 1, 2023.

Step 1: Complete Annual Training Requirements

Registration for the CACFP Annual Training requirements opened on July 14. These requirements include:

- Reviewing the CACFP 2024 Annual Training presentation in GA ATLAS
- Completing the CACFP 2024 Annual Training Test Assessment in GA ATLAS

Once the annual training assessment has been completed and submitted, you will receive access to the FY 2023-2024 CACFP application.

Step 2: Enroll in FY 2024

Upon completion of the Annual Training and Assessment, the CACFP application for the associated program year will change the institution or sponsor's status to "Not Enrolled" and the "Enroll" button will be available.

- Enroll into FY 2024 on or after August 1, 2023

Step 3: Submit your FY 2024 Application on or before September 30

Original or Annual Budgets and Budget Amendments must also be submitted on or before September 30, 2023.

Please Note: Failure to complete the annual requirements by the specified deadline date will impact continued participation in the CACFP, which includes submission of monthly claims for reimbursement.

DATE	Task
July 14	Registration Opens for required 2024 CACFP Annual Training
August 1	Enrollment Opens for FY 2024 Upon completion of Annual Training and Assessment, Sponsors & Institutions may enroll in FY 2024
September 15	Deadline to submit any additional changes to the FY 2023 Application Any FY 2023 changes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updates to the application • management plan and budget • the addition/termination of centers/homes <p>MUST be completed in GA ATLAS by September 15, 2023 to allow time for review and processing.</p>
September 30	Deadline to complete 2024 CACFP Annual Training and Assessment Deadline to submit 2024 CACFP Application Deadline to submit original or annual budget and budget amendments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Application Specialist:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Jerald Savage	o (zero)-G V-Z	Jerald.Savage@dec.al.ga.gov	(770) 405-7916
Shericka Blount	H-P, Q-U	Shericka.Blount@dec.al.ga.gov	(404)656-6411

Is Your Institution Required to Submit an Annual Budget?

Original or Annual Budgets and Budget Amendments must be submitted on or before September 30, 2023. At a minimum, annual budgets are required when:

- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2023 intends to use FY 2024 reimbursement funds for new operating and/or administrative costs that require prior approval, specific prior written approval, or formal procurement.
- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2023 with approved costs and the same costs in FY 2024, but new supporting documentation must be submitted for review and approval (e.g., lease agreements for center space, equipment rental, etc.).
- All Administrative, Center and DCH sponsoring organizations must submit an annual budget.

Please follow links below for budget related tools and references:

- [Budget Guidance Manual](#)
- [Budget Checklist](#)
- [Budget Allocation Worksheet](#)

For budget questions or concerns, please contact Gwendolyn Howard, Budget Compliance Supervisor, at 404.651.7191 or email Nutritionbudget@dec.al.ga.gov.

Procurement Updates

Monitoring Executed Contracts, Agreements, and Services

As a reminder, organizations are encouraged to monitor and evaluate executed contracts,

agreements, and invoices frequently, as well as to assess current and potential meal sites.

Monitoring contracts, agreements, and services may help with the following:

- Finding unexpected changes by the vendor on prices or supplies
- Inspecting unanticipated changes in the number of meals served to apply in the upcoming Program year
- Discovering a need for a new vendor based on unfilled terms in the agreement or contract
- Preparing for the end of the contract
- Identifying there are no remaining renewal options
- Determining an alternative procurement method to use compared to the prior year (i.e., new bid process, new agreements, amendments, change in procurement method overall, etc.)

If the Sponsoring Organization has to execute formal procurement or a new vendor should be used for the upcoming year, remember securing a new bid is a multi-step process.

Plan early with these steps:

- Assessing and identifying the procurement needs
- Preparing the Invitation for Bid
- Submitting the Invitation for Bid to the State Agency
- Publicizing of Invitation for Bid and publicly announcing the IFB at least 14 days before bid the openings
- Notifying the State Agency of the time and place at least 14 days before the bid opening
- Publicly opening all bids received
- Submitting to the State Agency copies of all contracts, a certificate of independent price determination, and copies of all bids received
- Evaluating the bids received
- Awarding the contract
- Monitoring the contract

For questions regarding procurement, please contact Tempest Harris, Procurement Compliance Specialist at tempest.harris@decalf.gov.

Post-Public Health Emergency Resources Available

With the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, Nutrition Services added a new feature on the Nutrition page of the DECAL website that provides quick and accessible resources for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings. The resources include post-PHE FAQs, reminders on expired PHE waivers, and other resources made available after the PHE. You can find the resources [here](#).

As a reminder, all DECAL policy guidance regarding the CACFP is available under ‘CACFP Participant Information’ on the Nutrition Services page on DECAL's website.

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Flexibilities Expired

Pursuant to a February 9, 2023, declaration by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) came to an end on **May 11, 2023**. COVID-19 flexibilities that have been available to Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) institutions and sponsors have ended.

Nationwide CACFP Waivers

The following CACFP Nationwide Waivers have expired:

- Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the CACFP –**Expired June 10, 2023**

- Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP –
Expired May 11, 2023

Statewide CACFP Waivers

The following CACFP Statewide Waivers expired on **June 30, 2023**:

- Non-Congregate Meal Services
- Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup
- Meal Service Times

CACFP Reimbursements

The Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 provided an additional 10 cents for each meal and supplement served in the CACFP and allowed tier II day care homes to be reimbursed at the tier I rate beginning July 1, 2022. **Both allowances ended on June 30, 2023.**

Reminder - PolicyStat available on Nutrition Services' Webpage

PolicyStat is an *online policy management system* that allows CACFP and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program, organizations and DECAL staff to navigate, locate, and access policy documents more quickly. The links for PolicyStat can be accessed at the following two links:

- For CACFP, [click here](#)
- For Happy Helpings, [click here](#)

CACFP and Happy Helpings organizations are encouraged to take a moment to become familiar with the system.

For questions, please feel free to contact Robyn Parham at Robyn.Parham@decalf.ga.gov.

Are you pumped for "Pepper Palooza?"

Farm to School Month 2023

Each year, Georgia Organics coordinates a statewide campaign to get kids eating, growing, and learning about a locally grown fruit or vegetable during October Farm to School Month. This year's campaign will be celebrating *Pepper Palooza!*



To participate in "*Pepper Palooza*" at your school, home, early care center, or in your community, visit the [website](#) to register. Participants will receive access to a free electronic toolkit filled with pepper-themed activities, standards-based lesson plans, fact sheets, recipes, school nutrition resources, and more!

- **The sign-up is now live. Participants will be able to access those resources by July 20.**

The first 300 people to sign-up will have the option to receive a free packet of pepper seeds, washable pepper tattoos and a Georgia Planting and Harvest Calendar for school gardens.

Share your "*Pepper Palooza*" pictures and activities on social media with #pepperpalooza. Each week during October, anyone who has used this hashtag will be entered to win a prize and at the end of the month there will be a grand prize winner.

If you have questions, visit October Farm to School Month FAQ page [here](#) or email yaza@georgiaorganics.org.

Apply for PAACT Repair & Renovation Grants

Deadline is July 28

PAACT: Promise All Atlanta Children Thrive is encouraging Atlanta's childcare providers to apply for up to \$75,000 in funding that will allow them to repair, renovate or otherwise improve their facilities. Eligibility is limited to providers who are participating in Quality Rated and serving Atlanta children ages zero to four from families with low incomes.

Apply for the grant [here](#).

Look What's Growing at Little Leader Learning Center

Deserray Petitt of Little Leader Learning Center, LLC, sent us a video of all that is growing in her garden.

Ms. Petitt was awarded a Farm to ECE Mini Grant through the USDA Farm to School Grant during FY20. She used the funds to refurbish and rebuild her gardens and planted watermelons, squash, cantaloupe and more.

"I love how the child behind her runs over with excitement and repeats back what's growing," said Diana Myers, Nutrition Education & Physical Activity Supervisor. "It really emphasizes that Farm to ECE is more than food – it's vocabulary, exploration & curiosity, and physical activity," she added.



Watch the video to see what's growing at Little Leader Learning Center.

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Dates

July 18, 2023

Tuesday Tip! Serving Milk in CACFP

Are you offering the minimum milk requirements per age group? Join this webinar to learn what kind of milk to serve in CACFP and the required serving sizes.

- ***Participants can earn one half [0.5] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.***

August 2, 2023

FY 2024 CACFP Renewal Readiness Training

Do you need a refresher on the requirements to successfully complete the application renewal process? Join this webinar to learn:

- detailed information on annual requirements,
- documents required for submission, and
- how to complete the FY 2024 annual renewal process in GA ATLAS.

August 3, 2023

CACFP Budget Readiness

Are you having challenges with your budget? Do you need guidance on requirements and processes of a CACFP budget? Join this webinar to learn:

- the purpose of the budget package,
- the purpose of all the budget line items in GA ATLAS, and
- how to prepare & develop a complete GA ATLAS budget package.

August 3, 2023

CACFP Procurement Readiness

Do you have questions or challenges when executing procurement? Do you know procurement regulations, requirements, and procedures? Are you practicing *proper* procurement requirements? Join this webinar to learn:

- procurement regulations,
- relevant procurement practices when procuring food & non-food items,
- how to develop formal solicitations, and
- how to incorporate local sourcing practices into meal service.

August 16, 2023

Engaging Families in Meaningful Ways

Are you thinking of creative ways to engage families in meaningful ways through sharing, connecting, and family support. Join this webinar to learn.

- ***Participants can earn two [2] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.***

August 29, 2023

Tuesday Tip! How to Support Breastfeeding in CACFP

Are you ready to learn how to support breastfeeding moms within your child nutrition program? Join this webinar to learn tips on ways to enhance support for breastfeeding moms in CACFP.

- ***Participants can earn [0.50] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.***

Training Resources

In Case You Missed It: Webinar Recordings Now Available!

If you missed a *webinar*, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's training highlight is [Let's Move! Encouraging Physical Activity throughout a Lifespan](#). It discussed ideas to increase physical activity throughout the day in small spaces, outdoor areas, and while using minimal equipment.

Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) *New Tip!*

Team Nutrition has developed these great tip sheets to provide handy references for program operators on how to credit the five meal components in child nutrition programs. Each tip sheet provides simple, easy-to-use information for one meal component.

- **Fruits**
- **Vegetables**
- **Meat/Meat Alternates**
- **Milk**
- **Grains *New!***

Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten *New Videos!*

USDA Team Nutrition is pleased to announce a new and updated *Discover MyPlate* and the addition of three [3] videos to our *Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten* resource for teachers and families.

- **Discover MyPlate Training Video**: Learn about the *Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten* resource and its contents.
- **Discover MyPlate Reach for the Sky Music Video**: Dance along with this music video demonstrating movements to the *Reach for the Sky* song about the five food groups.
- **Discover MyPlate Look and Cook Recipes Video (English & Spanish)**: See how to prepare your favorite *Look and Cook* recipe, or check out all five!

Check out more *Discover MyPlate* materials, including audio-described versions of these videos, located [here](#).

Video nuevo de Descubre MiPlato: educación nutricional para el jardín de niños
¡Feliz cumpleaños, MiPlato! Para celebrar, la iniciativa Team Nutrition del USDA se complace en anunciar un video nuevo para maestros y familias que añadimos a nuestro recurso *Descubre MiPlato: educación nutricional para el jardín de niños*

Haga clic en el título del video para verlo:

- **Video de recetas Mira y cocina de Descubre MiPlato** : vea cómo preparar su receta favorita de *Mira y cocina* o todas las cinco recetas de esta colección.
- Vea este vídeo con audio descripción y más materiales de *Descubre MiPlato* en: fns.usda.gov/es/tn/discover-myplate-nutrition-education-kindergarten.

Para ver todos materiales de *Descubre MiPlato* en inglés, visite: fns.usda.gov/tn/discover-myplate-nutrition-education-kindergarten.

Growing Healthy Eaters: How to Feed Young Children

2 Hour State-Approved Training

Quality Care for Children (QCC) is offering hands-on training on Saturday, July 22 that will focus on the 'how' of feeding young children.

The training will cover:

- responsive feeding practices that make mealtime more enjoyable for kids and caregivers,
- ideas for promoting healthy eating habits through experiential learning activities, and
- strategies for overcoming picky eating habits.

Register for free [here](#).

If you have questions or need help registering, contact Monica Griffin at Monica.Griffin@qccga.org.

SATURDAY, 7/22/2023 | 9:00-11:00 AM
THE HUB AT AUGUSTA LOCALLY GROWN
631 CHAFEE AVE, AUGUSTA, 30904



Nutrition Ed Nook

Sweet, Georgia Peaches

Sweet, Georgia Peaches are the July Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight! Georgia is known as the Peach State; however, Georgia's production of peaches is ranked behind California and South Carolina for the third spot.

They provide important nutrients like vitamins C, A and E, potassium, and water. Peach peels are a good source of fiber which supports healthy blood sugar levels. This sweet fruit can be enjoyed as a snack or with your favorite yogurt or cereal for extra flavor and nutrients.

Peach season in Georgia is May through September, when they are at peak quality and most cost effective. There are two main varieties of peaches,clingstone and freestone with over 40 commercial varieties being produced in our state.

Fun Fact: More than 90% of Georgia's peaches were lost this year after abnormally warm weather this winter and a late-season freeze.

Integration:

- [Peach Salsa](#)
- [Peach Sundae](#)
- [Peach & Mint Infused Water](#)
- [Peach, Pineapple & Orange Smoothie](#)
- [Southern Sweet and Sour Chicken Bowl with Peaches](#)

Education:

- **Watch** the [Harvest with Holly](#) video that explores the Harvest of the Month spotlight, how these items grow, where they grow in Georgia, and how they get from the farms to school meals all across the state of Georgia.
- **Grow** peach trees. Plant peach trees in the spring in an area that receives full sun and has well drained soil.
- **Read** [Each Peach Pear Plum](#) by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. *Each Peach Pear Plum* introduces favorite fairy tale characters, such as Tom Thumb and The Three Bears and, with a poem on each page hinting as to what is hiding in the picture, children are encouraged to participate and follow the story themselves.
- **Talk** with families about how children can help with meal preparation such as washing fresh peaches to serve or spooning peaches into the blender to make a peach smoothie.
Bonus: Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate peaches into their meals!

Conversation:

- Have the children you serve eaten peaches before?
- What is their favorite way to eat peaches?
- How does the outside of a peach feel?

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of peaches with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCHc at morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov.

Physical Activity Corner: *Hydration - Quench Your Thirst*

Drink water often and stay healthy! According to the American Dietetic Association, water makes up 60 percent of body weight. It is important to replenish the water in your body by drinking at least 8-10 cups of water a day for a healthy body and to avoid heat stroke or exhaustion.



We have all been there. The feeling of parched or dried lips and excessive sweating after a workout, run, or even heavy gardening. These feelings are greater now in the summer, especially when we have temperatures in the 90's and humidity over 90 percent.

Here are great ideas to keep your children and family hydrated this summer and year-round while on the move!

- Drink plain or fruit & herb-infused water. Fill the pitcher with cool water. Add different combinations of flavors, such as lemon, cucumber, strawberry, orange, fresh ginger, or fresh whole leaves (mint, basil, rosemary, or parsley). Chill in refrigerator before enjoying!
- Eat foods with higher water content like cucumbers, watermelon, other melons, lettuce, celery, grapes, oranges, bell peppers, and broccoli.

- Combine ice and fruit in a blender to create a slushy, cool and refreshing drink when planning a family picnic or playing sports (i.e., soccer, baseball, basketball, etc.).
- Always carry a water bottle in the car, at home, and at school.
- Ask for water when dining out.
- Have a glass of water (8 – 10 glasses daily) near you when you are working out at the gym, gardening, farming, walking in the neighboring community, parks, and trails, running, hiking, and more.

Get children, families and the community moving and feeling good with sports-themed games and exercises. Drinking more water is one of the simplest things we can do to be healthier.

Integration:

- [CDC – Increasing Access to Drinking Water to ECE Settings](#)
- [Department of Human Services – Hydrate My State Georgia](#)
- [USDA – Water, Hydration and Health](#)
- [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics – How Much Water Do You Need?](#)
- [USDA – Move More. Sit Less](#)

Education:

- Read aloud, “[Hey, Water! By Antoinette Portis](#)”
- **Watch** the video on “[Get Healthy: Hydration](#)” by NBC news.
- **Talk** with families about ways to stay hydrated and drink water in the summer or all year round, whether at home, outside, in their local community, at your childcare site, or at their local recreational areas. **Bonus:** Share [#QuenchYourThirst](#), [#RethinkYourDrink](#), [#StayHydrated](#), [#SummerMoves](#), [#DrinkWater](#) pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Conversation:

- What are the benefits of drinking water?
- How much water should you drink while exercising?
- What hydrates better than water in the summer?
- Why is it important to hydrate before, during, and after exercise?
- How do you beat dehydration in the summer?

Share your [#QuenchYourThirst](#), [#RethinkYourDrink](#), [#StayHydrated](#), [#SummerMoves](#) and [#DrinkWater](#) stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren at tina.mclaren@dec.al.gov.

Eat Healthy and Live Active

Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 22-23 Calendar

Harvest of the Month (HOTM) is the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program’s farm to school initiative that highlights an item each month that can be sourced locally and served in Georgia’s school meals.

DECAL’s Harvest of the Month calendar aligns with the Georgia Department of Education’s Harvest of the Month initiative and was created in partnership with Quality Care for Children, Georgia Organics, and the Farm to Early Care & Education Coalition for Early Care & Education settings.

Visit the Georgia Department of Education's HOTM Webpage [here](#) and the Quality Care for Children [website](#). Upon viewing, you can find tips and tricks for preparing produce items, curriculum connections, activity lists and book alignment for your early care classrooms.



CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- **Middle Georgia Aquaponics Greenhouse teaches Students about Alternative and Sustainable Gardening Options**
- **Updated Business Operations Representative Assignments**
- **How to File a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement**
- **SNAP, Inc. receives scholarship from National CACFP Association**
- **Check your Email Messages & Update Your Email Address in ATLAS**
- **Updated Application Specialists**
- **New Interactive Map shows CACFP Participation in Georgia**
- **Interactive State Policy Map**
- **Guidance on Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data**
- **Be a Health Hero - Health Empowers You**
- **Forecasting Purchases for CACFP**
- **Update Your Banking Information**
- **New and Revised CACFP Policies and Memoranda**
- **Non-profit Food Service & Procurement Procedures Monitoring**
- **Newly Revised CACFP Memorandum-Civil Rights Complaint Procedures**

You can find archived CACFP Newsletters [here](#).

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
June 30	Remaining COVID-19 Flexibilities expired
July	Harvest of the Month: Peaches
July 14	Registration opens for FY24 CACFP Renewal Training
July 18	Tuesday Tip! Serving Milk in CACFP Webinar
July 22	Growing Healthy Eaters training
July 28	Deadline to apply for PAACT Repair and Renovations Grants
August 1	Enrollment opens for FY24 CACFP Renewal Training
August 2	FY24 CACFP Renewal Readiness Training Webinar
August 3	CACFP Budget Readiness Webinar
August 3	CACFP Procurement Readiness Webinar
August 16	Engaging Families in Meaningful Ways Webinar
August 29	Tuesday Tip! How to Support Breastfeeding in CACFP Webinar
September 15	Deadline to submit any additional changes to the FY23 Application
September 30	Deadline to complete renewal training and application
October	Farm to School Month 2023: "Pepper Palooza"

How was my Customer Service?
Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



Click on the icon at right to participate in the customer service survey. Responses are anonymous.

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!
CACFP & Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

A promotional graphic with a blue and white background. On the left, it says "On the next ... DECAL Download" with a download icon and "New Episodes Every Wednesday!". Below this are photos of Tamika Boone (Director) and Cindy Kicklighter (Nutrition Marketing and Outreach Manager). On the right, it says "This Week's Topic: Happy Helpings" with a logo, "& CACFP" with a logo, and a QR code. At the bottom right is the Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning logo with the tagline "BRIGHT FROM THE START". Social media icons are at the bottom left.

DECAL's Nutrition Services Division administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program. These federal nutrition programs, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), ensure eligible children and adults have access to nutritious meals and snacks.

These programs improve the overall nutritional status of some of Georgia's most vulnerable citizens. Joining us this week to talk about Happy Helpings and CACFP is Tamika Boone, the Nutrition Services Director here at DECAL, and Cindy Kicklighter, the Nutrition Marketing and Outreach Specialist.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Cindy Kicklighter
Carl Glover

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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