



June 15, 2023

Registration for FY 2024 CACFP Renewal 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 will open 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 opens 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

End of Covid-19 Public Health Emergency and Impact on CACFP

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**.

The Administration planned for the COVID-19 PHE to expire on that date. As a result of the end of the PHE, many flexibilities that have been available to CACFP institutions and sponsors have ended or will soon come to an end.

CACFP Nationwide Waivers Ending

The following CACFP Nationwide Waivers have expired.

- Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the CACFP: The onsite monitoring waiver waived the requirement that CACFP monitoring requirements be conducted onsite. **This flexibility came to an end on June 10, 2023.**
- Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP: This flexibility allowed for the reimbursement for meals and snacks served to young people, ages 19-24, in emergency shelters participating in the CACFP. **This flexibility came to an end on May 11, 2023, the end of the PHE.**

As a result of the end of the PHE, Nutrition Services does not anticipate any further CACFP Nationwide Waivers being issued by USDA.

CACFP Statewide Waivers Ending

Due to the emergency authority, allowing USDA to offer nationwide waivers in response to COVID-19, coming to an end on June 30, 2022, DECAL applied and was approved on July 1, 2022 to use certain waiver flexibilities statewide; however, these **CACFP Statewide Waivers will be expiring June 30, 2023**. Those soon-to-be expiring waivers are as follows:

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

As a result of the end of the PHE, Nutrition Services does not anticipate USDA providing additional opportunities to request statewide waivers for the above-mentioned flexibilities.

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 will come to an end on June 30, 2023**.

As a result of the end of the PHE, Nutrition Services does not anticipate USDA extending these allowances.

Area Eligibility Flexibilities Ending for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool and Family Day Care Homes

On May 13, 2022, USDA issued the memorandum, [Area Eligibility for Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-2023](#). This memorandum provided guidance on the transition from COVID-19 Nationwide waivers related to the establishment of area eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs for summer 2022 and SY 2022-2023 and allowed Program operators to use one of the following two options with regards to school data:

- Use school data from SY 2019-2020 to determine area eligibility.
- School Food Authorities (SFAs) could use Community Eligibility Provision Data (CEP). Once area eligibility data is established, all NSLP afterschool snack programs, SSO, CACFP at-risk afterschool and family day care homes, and SFSP operators could establish sites based on the determination.

This flexibility was applicable to School Year 2022-2023. At this time, Nutrition Services does not anticipate this flexibility being applied to School Year 2023-2024.

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@decalf.ga.gov



Middle Georgia Aquaponics Greenhouse teaches Students about Alternative and Sustainable Gardening Options

Baldwin County School District, a CACFP provider, recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new aquaponics greenhouse and inclusion garden pathway that is located on the Baldwin County High School Campus. Julie Edwards, Nutrition Services Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator for the East Region attended the event on behalf of GA DECAL.

Susan Nelson, Director of Nutrition for Baldwin County School District, says "the aquaponics lab will teach students about alternative and sustainable gardening options." The new aquaponics system is part of the agribusiness model that will show students the entire farming process, from planting the seed to selling produce to the consumer.

The new greenhouse and lab were made possible by a USDA Food and Service Learning Project Grant and partnership between Baldwin County School District and Fort Valley State University, a major agricultural college.

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@decalfga.gov.

Is Your Vendor in Good Standing?

Knowing the vendor status is vital whether your sponsoring organization uses informal procurement, formal procurement, or soliciting business from a food service management company or a food vendor. The status of an entity ranges from good standing, debarment and suspension.

What exactly do the terms debarment and suspension mean? Debarment and suspension are tools the Federal Government uses to ensure that it does business with only responsible persons and entities.

- A **debarment** is an action taken to exclude persons or entities from doing business with the Government for up to three years for specific causes, such as the commission of fraud or certain other crimes or violations of specific statutes. Specific statutes are legislation that has already been introduced in a legislative body and a specific legislative proposal that an organization either supports or opposes.

- **Suspension**, which can precede a debarment, is a temporary action. A suspension can be used pending the completion of an investigation or legal proceeding. Subpart 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) covers procurement suspension and debarment; these regulations are supplemented at the Department of Agriculture (USDA) through USDA Acquisition Regulation, 48 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), subpart 409.4.2.

What can sponsoring organizations do to ensure the business contracted out is not disbarred or suspended from USDA programs? Along with the agreement or Invitation for Bid, the contractor, vendor, or Food Service Management Company completes the Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion AD-1048 Lower Tier Covered Transactions form.

This form certifies the prospective entity, nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

Lastly, the General Services Administration (GSA) maintains the list of companies and individuals debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from doing business with the government on a publicly available website at www.SAM.gov.

For questions regarding procurement, please contact Tempest Harris, Procurement Compliance Specialist at [Tempest Harris](mailto:Tempest.Harris).



Celebrate Farm to Summer Week June 26-30

DECAL's Nutrition Services is celebrating Farm to Summer Week June 26-30, 2023. Farm to Summer engages kids and families through fun, hands-on experiential learning activities, improves the quality and appeal of summer meals, increases access to fresh fruits & vegetables, & nourishment while school is out.

The themes for the week are as follows:

- Monday – What is Farm to Summer?
- Tuesday – Gardening & Physical Activity with Young Children
- Wednesday – Cooking & Taste Testing with Young Children
- Thursday – Locally Grown in Meals & Snacks
- Friday – Literacy, Music & Movement

Share your photos with us throughout the week of your program participating in Farm to Summer activities using #GAFarmtoSummer or via email to morgan.chapman@decalfga.gov.

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Dates

July 12, 2023

Let's Hydrate!

Are you frequently thinking about fun ways to increase fluid intake? Join this webinar to learn:

- creditable milks and juices,
- fun ways to increase water intake, and
- the importance and benefits of water consumption.
- **Participants can earn two [2] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.**

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.***

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 the **Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE)**.

Snack Attack *New Recipes!*

The **National CACFP Sponsor Association** has shared snack options for program operators that are #CACFPcreditable.

- Shredded chicken and tortilla
- Whole Grain-Rich (WGR) pasta and vegetables
- Red pepper sticks and grapes
- Edamame and Melba toast
- Mixed greens and grapefruit

Best Practices for Menu Planning

The **National CACFP Sponsor Association** has developed this infographic to help with menu planning. Top Tips include:

- striving for balance
- creating contrast
- adding a variety of color
- considering eye appeal
- **[Get Top Tips]**

Meal Pattern Minute *New Video(s)!*

The **National CACFP Sponsor Association** has developed quick CACFP meal pattern tips, recipes, resources, and videos. View the videos of the following meal pattern minute tips below.

- **Meal Pattern Minute: Serving Nuts & Seeds**
- **Meal Pattern Minute: Crediting Popcorn**
- **Meal Pattern Minute: WIC Cereals**
- **Meal Pattern Minute: Crediting Beans**
- **Meal Pattern Minute: Vegan Cheese**
- **Meal Pattern Minute: Home-Frozen Fruits**
- **Meal Pattern Minute: Serving Pancakes to Infants**
- **Serving Meats and Meat Alternates at Breakfast *New!***
- **Potato Chips *New!***

Team Nutrition Web Quizzes *New Quiz Added!*

USDA's Team Nutrition has developed interactive ten-question web quizzes as a fun way to introduce a variety of nutrition topics. The quizzes can be used during staff training and other nutrition events. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion. These web quizzes are also available as a widget. Please see a list of available quizzes below.

- **Infant Nutrition Quiz [Spanish]**
- **Toddler Nutrition Quiz [Spanish]**
- **Meal Components Quiz**
- **Milk in the CACFP Quiz**
- **Older Adult Nutrition Quiz**

- [School Gardening Quiz](#)
- [Whole Grains Quiz](#)
- [Child Nutrition Label Quiz](#) *New!*



Nutrition Ed Nook

Cool as a Cucumber

Cucumbers are the June Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight! During the hot summer months when children are outside more often, it is important to make sure they are replenishing the water their bodies lose throughout the day. Some foods contain high amounts of water which is great for good

hydration and digestion. Cucumbers are one way to “eat your water” as they are 96% water. Fiber, vitamins A, C and K and potassium are other important nutrients found in this green vegetable.

Fresh Georgia cucumbers are available for six months each year, from May through November. Some types are used for slicing, which is most common in grocery stores. English, Persian (or cocktail) and pickling are some slicing varieties. When purchasing, choose cucumbers that are firm, unbroken and have a dark-green skin with a waxy appearance.

Enjoy raw cucumbers as a snack along with a yogurt dip or hummus. You can also add them on top of sandwiches and include them in wraps for some extra crunch.

Fun Fact: Cucumbers belong to the same plant family as melons, pumpkins and squashes.

Integration:

- [Corn and Cucumber Salad](#)
- [Cucumber Tuna Boats](#)
- [Strawberry Cucumber Salad](#)
- [Cucumber Flavored Water](#)
- [Cucumber Yogurt Dip](#)

Education:

- **Watch** a video on [Georgia Cucumbers by Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association](#) to learn how cucumbers are grown and harvested in Georgia!
- **Read** the book [The Adventures of Jackson: Jackson's Cucumbers by Amanda L. Green](#) or [Cucumbers Are Delicious by Rhythm Lynn Johnson](#).
- **Grow** cucumbers. They are relatively easy to grow and require lots of sunlight and well drained, nutrient rich soil. The seeds are sensitive to cool weather so it’s important to plant the seeds when the soil is warm from the spring sun.
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation such as scrubbing cucumbers under running water or safely peeling cucumbers using a vegetable peeler. **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate cucumbers into their meals!

Conversation:

- Have the children you serve eaten cucumbers before?
- What is their favorite way to eat cucumbers?
- What are cucumbers full of?

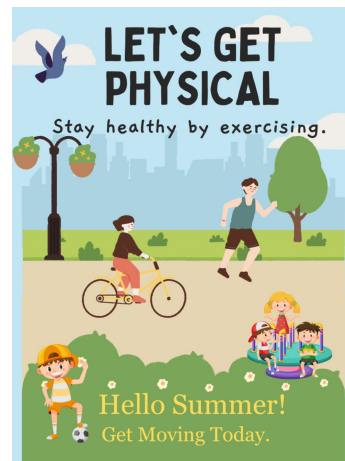
Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of cucumbers with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCHc at morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov.

Physical Activity Corner:

Be Active All Summer Long

Hello, Summer Activities! This is the perfect time to venture outdoors, bring out those running shoes, get ready to play and get in some physical activity.

It is recommended that children and adults get at least one hour of physical activity every day. Physical activity doesn't have to mean structured *exercise*, and instead can be a way to integrate movement in your day while being outdoors. Unstructured and structured play are both forms of physical activity.



Be prepared with activity ideas when children say, “I’m bored.” Have less screen time, turn off TVs, and electronic devices and get everyone moving at set times during the day. It may be helpful to brainstorm with the children a list of activities in advance that your family enjoys. Here are a few of summer activities for the children and families:

- Go on a group bike ride.
- Go on a trail walk, jog, or run with your family.
- Take time to go to local community pools early in the morning.
- Play games like *Freeze Tag* and *Red Light/Green Light*.
- Have a backyard garden party—invite the neighbors and friends to harvest a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Draw different shapes with sidewalk chalk and practice moving over, around, frog hops, and counting numbers like hopscotch.
- Play catch with a water balloon.
- Walk like different animals—bear, crab, chicken, dog, snake, etc.
- Set up a variety of targets— old bottles, cans, buckets. Then work on throwing a ball at them from different distances.

Integration:

- **Getting Started: Georgia Farm to ECE Guide**
- **Georgia Master Gardeners: Gardens of Georgia**
- **Quality Care for Children’s Farm to ECE Webpage**
- **UGA Extension’s Community and School Gardens**

Education:

- Read out loud, “**And Then Comes Summer**” by **Tome Brenner**.
- **Watch** the video on **Summer Safety Tips – Outdoor Exercise**.
- **Talk** with families about ways to get moving in the summer, whether at home, outside, in their local community, at your childcare site, or at their local recreational areas. **Bonus:** Share #GetMoving, #BeActive, #SummerMoves, #InstaMoves, #KeepKidsMoving pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Conversation:

- What are some fun physical activities for preschoolers?
- What are some of your favorite summer indoor/outdoor activities?
- How do you beat the heat in sports?
- Why is being hydrated in summer important?

Share your #GetMoving, #BeActive, #SummerMoves, #KeepKidsMoving, #InstaMoves stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren at tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov.



Meet Demetria Thornton, Application Services Manager

Demetria Thornton is currently the Application Services Manager for Decal's Nutrition Services Division. She has worked in the Nutrition Services Division for the past ten years in various roles; serving as Application Specialist, Program Supervisor and now, Application Services Manager.

In her current role, Demetria provides frontline management over the application process for both federal nutrition programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program. "I find this job to be rewarding because I help ensure that Georgia's children and adults are receiving healthy meals and snacks," said Demetria.

Demetria is originally from Chesapeake, Virginia. She earned her bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Virginia State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Walden University.

In her leisure time, she enjoys Do-It-Yourself home décor projects and spending time with her husband and adult daughter.

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.

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:

- [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**
- **Procurement Helpful Hints**
- **Forecasting Purchases for CACFP**
- **Update Your Banking Information**
- **New and Revised CACFP Policies and Memoranda**
- **Non-profit Food Service & Procurement Procedures Monitoring**
- **FY2023 Annual CACFP Budget Submission**
- **Newly Revised CACFP Memorandum-Civil Rights Complaint Procedures**
- **Reminder - PolicyStat available on Nutrition Services' Webpage**
- **Procurement Documents Now Include Updated Non-discrimination Statement**
- **Unique Entity Identifier Field Added to ATLAS**

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

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
June	Harvest of the Month: Cucumbers
June 26-30	Farm to Summer Week
June 30	Remaining COVID-19 Flexibilities expire
July 12	Let's Hydrate! Webinar
July 14	Registration opens for FY24 CACFP Renewal Training
July 18	Tuesday Tip! Serving Milk in CACFP Webinar
August 1	Enrollment opens for FY24 CACFP Renewal Training
September 15	Deadline to submit any additional changes to the FY23 Application
September 30	Original or Annual Budgets and Budget Amendments due
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!

Find Help Georgia

Find Help Georgia is a new resource helping Georgia families find services they need. It's a new one-stop-shop where families can locate information on a host of services including financial assistance, finding food pantries, medical services and even childcare.

On the next ...

DECAL
Download 
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Topic:

FIND HELP
GEORGIA



Amanda Tarpley
CAPS Family Support
Director for Operations

Amy Roys
CAPS Director for
Development and
Partnerships

Jennifer Stein
Executive Director of Prevent
Child Abuse Georgia





Find Help Georgia is a collaboration by DECAL, the Technical College System of Georgia, and Prevent Child Abuse Georgia. Joining us on this episode of DECAL Download to discuss Find Help Georgia is Amanda Tarpley, the CAPS Family Support Director for Operations and Amy Roys, the CAPS Director for Development and Partnerships. We are also joined by the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia, Jennifer

Stein.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

Carl Glover

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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