



October 13, 2021

Update: Emergency Operating Costs Funding for CACFP Providers

Earlier this year, USDA announced that due to recently passed law, additional funds were being made available to program operators of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to help cover emergency operating costs incurred during the public health emergency.

DECAL has now begun to distribute this funding. Institutions and facilities that may be eligible for this funding including sponsors, independent centers, childcare centers, at risk afterschool centers, as well as daycare home providers.

Please note that if a program operator is eligible for this funding and is in direct agreement with DECAL, the payment will be made directly to the program operator. However, similar to monthly claims for reimbursement, if a program operator participates under a sponsor, the payment will be made to the sponsor who will then distribute the payment to its eligible sponsored facilities. Answers to questions regarding how the payments are calculated and how eligibility determinations were made can be found [here](#).

Generally, if a program operator experienced a decrease in claim payments between March 2020-June 2020 compared to March 2019-June 2020, the program operator may be eligible for a payment under this emergency cost program.

USDA has also provided answers to questions related to the Emergency Operational Costs program which can be found [here](#):

- [Q&A for Program Reimbursement for Emergency Operational Costs for Child Nutrition Programs during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs: Q&A #2](#)
- [Child Nutrition Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Programs: Q&As #3](#)

**Governor Kemp
proclaims**

October as Farm to School & Farm to Early Care & Education Month



Governor Brian Kemp has signed a proclamation recognizing October as Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education Month. Farm to School (F2S) and Farm to Early Care and Education (FTECE) programs represent an innovative opportunity to address some of the most critical issues facing Georgia through a comprehensive approach that seeks to improve child nutrition, thus improving academic performance and providing local market opportunities for Georgia farmers. Georgia agencies, schools,

ECE providers, parents, students, farmers, and communities are collaborating to implement F2S and FTECE programs to increase access and education around fresh, local, and nutritious foods, reducing childhood obesity. To learn more about the importance of these programs, view the [proclamation](#).

Livin' La Vida Okra! *October Farm to School Month*

October is National Farm to School Month and schools and early care centers across Georgia will be celebrating all things OKRA leading up to and through October! *Livin' La Vida Okra* is a state-wide celebration to get kids eating, growing and participating in okra-themed activities.

To participate in *Livin' La Vida Okra* at your school, home, early care center, or in your community,

visit bit.ly/livinlavidaoakra and sign up.

Participants will receive free electronic resources to help you plan and implement your activities. Resources include standards-based lesson plans, activities, recipes, videos, school garden planting and harvesting information, and more!

Share your *Livin' La Vida Okra* pictures and activities on social media with #livinlavidaoakra. Each week during October, anyone who uses this hashtag will be entered to win a gift card and at the end of the month there will be a grand prize winner. Questions?

Visit <https://farmtoschool.georgiaorganics.org/frequently-asked-questions> or email kimberlykoogler@georgiaorganics.org.



National Hispanic Heritage Month offers an opportunity to try traditional foods, flavors, and cuisines

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose

ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

You can also celebrate the cultural heritage of National Hispanic Heritage Month with [recipes and resources](#) from [Nutrition.gov](#), like these three nutritious meal ideas:

- Corn, chilies, squash, tomatoes, plantains, yucca, beans, and avocados are popular ingredients in Latin cuisines. Bring your household together for a family meal of [chicken enchiladas](#) served with [refried beans](#) and [guacamole](#)-topped salad greens.

Personal and cultural preferences are important for building lasting healthy habits, and the meals shared above provide only a small sampling of the culinary traditions. Explore more resources and culturally inspired recipes on [Nutrition.Gov's Twitter account](#) or in the [Food and Nutrition Updates e-newsletter](#).

CACFP Mini Grants Awarded for Training Resources

During the CACFP Meal Service Summit held last March, the Nutrition Division awarded mini-grants in the amount of \$750.00 to twenty-five CACFP organizations. The grants helped to supply training resources for Program staff on the CACFP updated meal patterns and to support the service of healthy meals.

One recipient, Family Resource Agency of North Georgia, utilized the grant funds to offer a virtual knife skills training for their food service staff at various Head Start locations.



During the Summit, Knife Skills Training was provided to Chattooga Early Head Start Food

Representatives from Mountain View Head Start/Early Head Start and Ft. Oglethorpe Head Start practice their Knife skills.



Service Staff (above) and Dade Head Start/Early Head Start Food Service Staff (below).



Oct 1- Deadline to implement Grain Ounce Equivalents in Menu Planning

Approximately five [5] years ago on April 25, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the final rule entitled "Child and Adult Care Food

Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.” Its primary function was to update the CACFP meal pattern requirements as well as the meal pattern requirements for both infants and preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP and specified that meal planners must use ounce equivalents to determine the amount of creditable grains served as part of a reimbursable meal or snack.

However, grain ounce equivalents implementation was delayed from 2019 until 2021. The two-year extension allowed FNS to develop additional technical assistance materials and for State agencies & sponsoring organizations to provide training & technical assistance to support meal planners and to assure compliance.

Beginning **October 1, 2021**, Program operators must implement grain ounce equivalents in menu planning. For organizations who do not meet the requirements, fiscal action may be taken this program year (FY 2022).

Please note: Program operators have the option to apply for the Specific Meal Pattern Flexibilities waiver that expires June 30, 2022. Under this waiver, CACFP operators in States that elect to be subject to this waiver may serve meals that do not meet specified meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency due to COVID-19, including the following:

- That at least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich.
- That the crediting of grains by ounce equivalents must be fully implemented by October 1, 2021.
- That low-fat milk (1 percent) must be unflavored.

DECAL has opted into all three [3] flexibilities but requests must be targeted and justified with a demonstrated need, based on plans to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19.

To ensure your success with meeting this requirement, see the DECAL and USDA resources listed below. These resources are also available on [DECAL's website](#).

- **Grain Ounce Equivalents Webinar Recording**
- **CACFP Trainers' Circle: Training Program Operators to Use Grains Ounce Equivalents Webinar Recording**
- **Exhibit A Grains Tool to the Rescue Webinar Recording**
- **[Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP](#)**
- **[Crediting Single-Serving Packages of Grains in the CACFP](#)**
- **[Feeding Infants Using Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP](#)**
- **[Determining Ounce Equivalents of Grains in CACFP Recipes](#)**
- **[Calculating Ounce Equivalents for Grains in the CACFP](#)**

Annual Renewal Requirements must be completed to participate in CACFP

All institutions/sponsors were required to complete annual renewal requirements by September 30, 2021, to continue participating in the CACFP. Institutions/sponsors that didn't complete annual renewal requirements will not have an approved FY 2022 application, and therefore, will not be authorized to operate in FY 2022.

If your organization would like to continue participating in the CACFP, please complete all annual renewal requirements.

For instructions on how to register, complete FY 2022 Annual Training and Assessment Questions and enroll in FY 2022 application, [click here](#).

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

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (zero)-G	Paula.Lawrence@dec.al.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka.Blount@dec.al.ga.gov	(404)656-6411
Kenya Taylor	Q-Z	Kenya.Taylor@dec.al.ga.gov	(404) 463-4040

CACFP Budget Submission Required for FY2022

As you are aware, all institutions/sponsors are required to complete annual renewal requirements to continue participating in the CACFP. The deadline to submit annual renewal requirements was September 30, 2021.

If you have not completed a budget revision for FY2022, please complete and upload all required documents immediately.

At a minimum, annual budgets are required when:

- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY2021 that intends to use FY2022 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 FY2021 with approved costs and the same costs in FY2022, 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 Day Care Home sponsoring organizations.

If you need further guidance on submittal requirements for costs, please refer to the [Budget Guidance Manual](#) or contact [Gwendolyn Howard](#).

How to Handle FDCH Carry Over

According to the CACFP Policy Memo, [Carry Over of Unused CACFP Administrative Reimbursement](#), dated October 1, 2020, Family Daycare Homes (FDCH) Sponsors may only carry over 10% of administrative payments received into the succeeding fiscal year. Funds exceeding 10% must be returned to DECAL or used in another USDA Child Nutrition Program. If the 10% carryover funds are not expended in the succeeding fiscal year, you are required to return the unused funds to DECAL. FDCH sponsoring institutions also have the option of returning all excess funds without carrying funds into the subsequent period.

Additional Requirement

To support the calculation, a FDCH sponsor must submit a general ledger or the bank statement showing the total ending balance with the FDCH Carryover Letter to the Budget Compliance Specialist, [Gwendolyn Howard](#).

How to Request Continued Use of USDA Waivers for FY 2021 – 2022

CACFP Institutions and Sponsors (excludes sponsors of Day Care Homes):

CACFP institutions and sponsors must certify continued use of USDA Nationwide Waivers for the new Program year by completing and saving the **FY 2021 – 2022** USDA waiver request

template (illustrated below) which can be found in the **USDA Waiver Module in GA Atlas**.

Child and Adult Care Food Program Ga Atlas

Home | Reports | My Account | Resources | Search | Administration | Help | Log Out

USDA Waivers - Centers List > Program Year: 2020 - 2021

VIEW | MODIFY | DELETE | INTERNAL USE ONLY

**USDA Waivers Received by Site List
For School Year 2021 - 2022**

15580 Status: Active
TTA Test Sponsor
DBA:
123 Curious George Way
Atlanta, GA 30334
FEIN: 11-1111111
County: Fulton

0002 Status: Active
LITTLE BABY BUMP ACADEMY
555 Baby Bum Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30334
EIN:

1. **Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs – through 6/30/21**

No Waivers Have Been Received

Participating in waiver

Months of waiver participation (check all that apply for the current month and/or future months as applicable):

All: Jul: Aug: Sep: Oct: Nov: Dec:

Jan: Feb: Mar: Apr: May: Jun:

Distribution method (Grab and Go, Household Delivery, etc.):

2. **Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – through 6/30/21**

No Waivers Have Been Received

Participating in waiver

Months of waiver participation (check all that apply for the current month and/or future months as applicable):

All: Jul: Aug: Sep: Oct: Nov: Dec:

Jan: Feb: Mar: Apr: May: Jun:

Specifically:

- The FY 2021 - 2022 template will become accessible once the institution/sponsor’s application renewal for the new Program year has been approved. In GA Atlas, the **Application Packet Status** must indicate “**Approved**” for FY 2021 -2022. For a reminder of the CACFP application renewal instructions, please click [here](#). For complete instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas, please click [here](#).
- Participating institutions with previously approved waivers, must also certify continued use of these waivers for FY 2021-22 via the waiver module in GA ATLAS. This will ensure DECAL has the most current and accurate waiver usage information possible for reporting and monitoring purposes.
- Participating institutions that have not utilized waivers in the past and/or new institutions in need of a waiver, must also do so via the waiver module.

Child and Adult Care Food Program Ga Atlas

Home | Reports | My Account | Resources | Search | Administration | Help | Log Out

USDA Waivers - Centers List > Program Year: 2021 - 2022

USDA Waivers List

15580 Status: Active
TTA Test Sponsor
DBA:
123 Curious George Way
Atlanta, GA 30334
FEIN: 11-1111111
County: Fulton

Action	School Year	# of Sites	Status
Detail	2021 - 2022	1	Not Started
Detail	2020 - 2021	1	Not Started
	2019 - 2020	0	Not Started

< Back

When accessing the waiver module, the “**Detail**” link on the **USDA Waivers List** page will be active for School Year 2021 – 2022 as shown; click the link to begin the waiver request process.

Day Care Home Sponsors (DCH):

GA Atlas is currently undergoing system changes to accommodate waiver requests from day care home sponsors. Therefore, accessing the waiver module remains temporarily unavailable to organizations in this category. DCH sponsors who wish to request a waiver for their homes must contact Tammie Baldwin via email at Tammie.Baldwin@decalfga.gov.

Completion of Forms for Uploading (new):

As of August 1, 2021, SFSP & CACFP operators may begin using the new **USDA Waiver Request Addendum** to request waivers for **Parent/Guardian Pick-up** and the **Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver** when using home delivery only. This addendum will now be used in place of forms previously posted on the DECAL website. All other available waivers can be requested through the waiver module in GA Atlas without further completion of an additional form. The USDA Waiver Request Addendum is available [here](#) and can also be found on the DECAL website. Once completed, the form can be uploaded within the waiver request template in GA Atlas.

Please Note:

- Institutions will be notified of the status of their request via the USDA Waivers module or via email.
- Institutions are encouraged to ensure all waiver requests are “submitted” no later than October 31, 2021 and “certified” before November 30, 2021.
- For sponsoring organizations with more than 100 sponsored facilities in need of continued use of the **Parent-Pick Up** waiver or the **Home Delivery** option (under the non-congregate feeding waiver), please contact Tammie Baldwin prior to completing the Waiver Request Addendum.

For additional information on requesting a waiver, please access the following resources:

- [USDA Waiver User Guide](#) – Provides step by step instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas.
- [Important Reminders when Using USDA National Waivers](#)
- [July Memo Monday Webinar](#) - Discusses procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waiver feature in GA ATLAS.

For general questions regarding requesting a USDA Nationwide Waiver, please contact Tammie.Baldwin@decalfga.gov.

Guidance for Serving School-Age Children in the CACFP during COVID-19

On August 21, 2020, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued questions and answers intended to provide clarification to State agencies and Program operators (institutions) about serving meals to school-age children who are attending school virtually, and who are also enrolled and attending child care during the day. You can review the USDA memo [here](#).

Based on this guidance, DECAL has developed a document that outlines the requirements institutions must follow when serving meals to school age children. Please review the document [here](#).

As a reminder, to ensure program integrity, DECAL is requiring Sponsors/Institutions to take the following action:

1. Sponsors must complete the [School-Age Children Certification Statement-Sponsors](#) confirming that they will follow program guidelines and agree to inform, train and monitor program accountability for their applicable sites.
2. Independent Centers must complete the [School-Age Children Certification Statement-Independent Centers](#) agreeing to follow program guidelines.

3. School-Age Children Certification forms must be kept on file at the sponsor's office or center and must be made available upon request by USDA, DECAL or an authorized representative.

Reminder: Review Your Online CACFP Applications for Accuracy

Institutions and Sponsors are required to review and ensure that all sections of their CACFP application in GA ATLAS are accurate at all times. Failure to maintain an accurate application could result in a finding(s) and/or an adverse action.

[Click here](#) to access CACFP application update procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Temika Moore, Business Operations Representative.

Business Ops Representatives	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Temika Moore	o (zero)-M	Temika.Moore@dec.al.ga.gov	(404) 463-1494
Edith Pierre	N-Z	Edith.Pierre@dec.al.ga.gov	(404) 463-8314

CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

[Expiring Soon: Updated CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibilities](#)

[Celebrating Breastfeeding as the Best Source of Nutrition](#)

[CACFP Reimbursement Rates: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022](#)

[Strategic Plan for Growing Farm to School and Early Care and Education in Georgia](#)

[Beech-Nut to stop selling a specific baby rice cereal because of arsenic levels found in some test samples](#)

[What to do if you have Lost or Destroyed Records](#)

[Monitoring Sponsored Centers](#) Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures

[Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) for FY 2022

[CACFP Training Resources](#)

[Farmers Resource List](#)

[Questions and Answers](#) for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 21-22

[How](#) to file a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement

[How](#) to update your banking information

[How](#) to Exclude Cash-In-Lieu (CIL) When Calculating for CACFP Administrative Cost

[How](#) to Calculate Allowable Administrative Costs Each Month

[Guidance](#) on Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP

[Guidance](#) on P-EBT for Schools and Childcare

[FAQs](#) Child Nutrition Program: Emergency Operational Costs Program

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

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

October 18, 2021 - Memo Monday!

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will offer an additional webinar on how to be successful with COVID-19 waiver(s) implementation and recordkeeping requirements during our October *Memo Monday*.

**Registration
Coming Soon**

October 27, 2021 – Allocating Cost in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs)

Are you familiar with allocation methodologies and how to allocate shared cost?

Join this webinar session to learn:

- allocating cost items to CACFP,
- allocation methodologies for popular shared cost categories and
- required budget forms.

In Case You Missed It: *Memo Monday!*

If you missed a *Memo Monday*, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars. The [July Memo Monday](#) webinar discussed procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waivers feature in GA ATLAS.

FREE Virtual Instructor-Led Training

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is offering free online training for the following areas:

- Food Safety Fundamentals,
- Cleaning and Sanitizing,
- Facts about Foodborne Illness,
- Keeping Food Safe,
- Preventing Foodborne Illness and
- Norovirus in Child Care.

[Register Now](#)

Providers' Day Saturday Summit

The National CACFP Sponsors Association is hosting a Saturday Summit for CACFP child care providers, center staff and the Head Start community. Earn up to four [4] hours of continuing education. Click [here](#) for more information.

Online Course! Getting Started with Farm to Early Care and Education

Are you ready to explore ways to cultivate healthy eating habits of young children by connecting their cultures and life experiences with what they learn in school? Join this course hosted by Black Child Development Institute (BCDI) – Atlanta and Georgia Organics to:

- recognize Farm to Early Care and Education and initiatives in Georgia,
- explore developmentally appropriate gardening experiences for young children,
- explore developmentally appropriate cooking and tasting experiences for young children,
- examine methods for incorporating social and racial equity with nutrition,
- discover strategies for engaging stakeholders in nutrition education and
- develop Farm to Early Care and Education goals and a plan of action.

[Register Now](#)

Integrating Local Foods into Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs)

Looking for local foods? Check out the new USDA fact sheet on integrating local foods. The opportunities for serving local foods in child nutrition programs are abundant. Not only can local foods span the plate, but program operators can also serve local foods in all types of programs – summer meal programs (Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option), afterschool and early childhood settings (Child and Adult Care Food Program).

Serving Vegetables in the Child and Adult Care Food Program Worksheet

You can serve vegetables as part of a reimbursable breakfast, lunch, supper, or snack in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This option gives you more choices for menu planning that offers important nutrients like potassium, folate (folic acid), vitamin A, and vitamin C. USDA has developed this worksheet to help you learn more about serving vegetables.

CACFP Best Practices Worksheet

These best practices serve as a guide for child care providers who choose to take additional steps to offer high-quality and nutritious meals in their program. USDA has developed this worksheet to promote consistency in programs and increase confidence that education efforts will result in positive nutrition and health-related behavior changes.

Serving Adult Participants in USDA CACFP Worksheet

Not all adults have the same nutrition needs. The CACFP meal pattern for adults provides flexibilities to allow you to plan meals that best meet the needs of adults in your care. USDA has developed this worksheet to provide an overview of meal pattern requirements and optional menu planning flexibilities for adult participants.

Serving Meats and Meat Alternates at Lunch and Supper in the USDA CACFP Worksheet

Meats and meat alternates provide protein, B vitamins, and minerals such as iron, zinc, and magnesium. USDA has developed this worksheet to provide information about serving meat and meat alternates in CACFP and sample meals with standardized recipes that include meats and meat alternates.

Offering Water in the USDA CACFP Worksheet

Child care providers are required to offer water to children throughout the day and program operators are encouraged to make water available to adult participants. USDA has developed this worksheet to provide ideas for offering and making water available throughout the day.

Available Nationwide Waivers During COVID-19

In light of the exceptional circumstances of the current public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has extended Nationwide Waivers to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact [Sonja Adams](#).

NATIONWIDE WAIVERS

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19

For full details on the CACFP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo or [click here](#) for more information on DECAL's website.

CACFP

Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs & for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022

This waiver allows schools and at-risk afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to claim all National School Lunch Program, Afterschool Snack Service and Child and Adult Care Food program At-Risk Afterschool meals and snacks at the free rate. This waiver also allows day care homes participating in the CACFP to claim all meals served to enrolled children at the Tier 1 rate, regardless of their location. . ****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Reimbursement for Meals & Snacks served to Young Adults in the CACFP **New!**

This waiver allows emergency shelters to claim reimbursement for meals and snacks served to

individuals under the age of 25. ****Waiver in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.**

Parent Pick-Up:

Under this waiver, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. ****Waiver extended to June 30, 2022****

Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility

This waiver allows program operators to serve meals that do not meet specified meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency. FNS is establishing a waiver for all States of the following CACFP requirements:

- That at least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich.
- That the crediting of grains by ounce equivalents must be fully implemented by October 1, 2021.
- That low-fat milk (1 percent) must be unflavored

****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Meal Times Waiver:

The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2022****

Non-Congregate Feeding:

The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended to June 30, 2022****

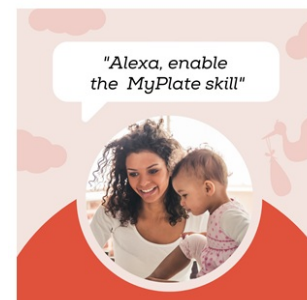
Onsite Monitoring Requirements

FNS waives, for all CACFP sponsoring organizations, that CACFP monitoring requirements included at 226.16(d)(4)(iii) be conducted onsite. To ensure Program integrity during this time, sponsoring organizations should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). ****Waiver remains in effect until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.****

MyPlate Launches Alexa Skill

The USDA introduced a digital tool for parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers ages 4-24 months. Alexa users can receive nutrition information on what and how to feed their child based on age.

[Learn More About MyPlate on Alexa](#)



USDA Webinar: Meal Service Flexibilities for the FY 2021-2022 School Year

On August 26, 2021, USDA FNS delivered a live webinar to State agencies and local program operators providing an overview of nationwide waivers for School Year 2021-2022. During the webinar, staff discussed scenarios where flexibilities may be utilized and suggestions for planning for the unexpected. Resources were also shared to further help State agencies and local program operators meet the unique needs of their community. This webinar is primarily focused on school meal programs, however, applicable Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) waivers are also mentioned. To access the recorded webinar, click [here](#).

Procurement Reminders

Procurement Training – Monitoring of Procurement Practices

Thank you for attending the STAR (Sponsor Training & Advanced Resources) refresher training on Monitoring of Procurement Practices. As a reminder, this training was geared toward the new [DECAL CACFP Memo: Monitoring Requirements – Monitoring Sponsored Centers Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures](#).

If you were unable to join us for the refresher training or would like a copy of the training PowerPoint presentation, please visit the [Training and TA webpage](#).

Procurement Election Notice CACFP FY22

In preparation for CACFP FY22, please complete and return the Procurement Election Notice. Sponsors and Institutions who have previously executed formal procurement must complete and return the election notice with details on how your organization intends to procure food and non-food items for CACFP FY22. If you have not received the Procurement Election Notice, please contact our Procurement and Purchasing Compliance Officer [Lamonika Jones](#).

Procurement Tips

As the school year resumes, now is a great time to begin contract/agreement and vendor maintenance. These procedures are beneficial as they present an opportunity for you to determine whether the vendors and suppliers used to provide meals or bulk food items is a responsible and responsive vendor.

When making this determination, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Were deliveries made on time?
2. Was pricing invoiced at the agreed or contracted rate?
3. Did the vendor communicate any perceived challenges with food shortages, missed or late deliveries, etc.
4. Were invoices and packing slips received from the vendor in a timely manner?
5. If individual food items were not delivered, did the vendor provide substitutions or alternate products?
6. Were meals delivered at the correct temperature?

Local Sourcing Spotlight

A is for ...



It's apple season! Nothing says autumn more than apples. Gilmer and Fannin County serve as the epicenter with 85% of [Georgia Grown](#) apples harvested in North Georgia.

There are several varieties of apples grown including: Ozark Gold, Paulard (available July – August); Red Delicious, Golden Delicious (available July – December); Rome Beauty, Mutzu Crispin (available August – December); Empire, Jonagold, Jonathan (available August – September); Arkansas Black, Fuji, Granny Smith, Stayman Winesap and Yates (available October – December).

Located in Ellijay, [Red Apple Barn](#) officially opened for apple picking Labor Day Weekend. Owned and operated by the Pritchett Family, this family farm has been planting, growing and harvesting apples since 1965. Visit their website for helpful [Apple Tasting Chart](#) or checkout their pumpkin patch opening in October.

Nutrition Ed Nook

A is for Apple

Bite into your first apple of the season and *crunch* the sound and crisp air of fall is upon us as we celebrate apples as the **Harvest of the Month** item. Apples are high in fiber and vitamin C and add a sweet crisp to any added dish. Enjoy biting into apples together at the same time to see how loud of a crunch your class can make!

Integration

- **Easy Apple Coleslaw**
- **Homemade Applesauce**
- **Baked Batatas and Apples**
- **Baked Sweet Potatoes and Apples**



Education

- Perform a taste test with your classroom – enjoy Granny Smith, Red Delicious, Pink Lady, Gala and other apple varieties!
- Read **“Bring Me Some Apples and I’ll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis” by Robbin Gourley**
- Watch **“A is for Apples”** from Small Bites Adventure Club

Conversation

- Did you know apples grow on trees?
- What sound does an apple make when you bite into it?
- What color apples have children tried? (red, pink, green, yellow)

Share your fall Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of apples with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at diana.myers@decalfga.gov!



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Tamika Boone, Nutrition Services Director*

Tamika Boone serves as Director of Nutrition Services for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

In this role, she helps ensure children and eligible adults have access to healthy meals and snacks through the management and oversight of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program.

Previously, Tamika served as a Compliance Manager for DECAL and as a Principal Management Analyst with the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. She has significant experience working with government programs and with ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in operations.

Tamika, her husband Harold and their four year old daughter Alexandria reside in Fayetteville.

Victoria Carden earns CMP and CCMP Certifications

Congratulations to TA Coordinator **Victoria Carden** for earning her CACFP Management Professional (CMP) and CACFP Child Nutrition Professional (CCMP) Certifications.

The CMP and the CCMP Certifications are special designations for those in the CACFP profession who are committed to continually learning best practices and keeping up with changing trends in the field. This is a great achievement and reflects the dedication to upholding high standards in the profession. The certification shows commitment to attending additional trainings and workshops to gain further knowledge of the CACFP.



Deborah Gillison-Wilson elected to National CACFP Sponsors Association



Elections were recently held for three open seats on the Board of Directors for the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The Board welcomed CACFP and SFSP Sponsor **Deborah Gillison-Wilson**, CMP, CCNP, with Georgia Nutritional Services. Ms. Wilson will serve on the board for the next three years along with Blake Stanford, CMP; and Kati Wagner, CMP, CCNP.

NATIONAL **ANTI-HUNGER POLICY** CONFERENCE

March 15-17, 2022



Mark your calendar for March 15-17 for the 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

The 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference is once again virtual to allow thousands of anti-hunger advocates from all across the country to safely and conveniently attend without having to travel. The conference plenaries and content-rich workshops will take place on March 15 and 16 and then on March 17, head (virtually) to Capitol Hill to advocate for bold policy solutions for ending hunger in America.

The conference will offer a number of workshops featuring presenters from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences and content that explores one of the following conference themes:

- Building on Lessons Learned on the Critical Role of the Federal Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic
- Addressing the Inequities and Root Causes that Fuel Who Experiences Hunger in America
- Creating a Movement to End Hunger in America

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education Month• National Hispanic Heritage Month
October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline to implement Grain Ounce Equivalents in Menu Planning
October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memo Monday: How to be successful with COVID-19 waiver(s)
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allocating Cost in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) Webinar
March 15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

Ten Years of GEEARS



On the next ...

DECAL Download

New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Guests



Stephanie Blank
Chair, GEEARS Board of Directors



Mindy Binderman
Executive Director GEEARS

This Week's Topic:
Ten Years of GEEARS

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The Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, that most people know as GEEARS, celebrates ten years of community impact this year, although due to COVID the milestone was celebrated virtually.

Joining us on this week's DECAL Download to talk about Ten Years of GEEARS and its relationship with DECAL is Stephanie Blank, GEEARS founder and chair of the Board of Directors, and Mindy Binderman, Executive Director.

[Listen here.](#)



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

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