



September 15, 2023

Annual Renewal Requirements due September 30

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 opened enrollment for the application renewal on 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

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	Jerald.Savage@decalf.ga.gov	(770) 405-7916
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka.Blount@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 656-6411
Cassandra Washington	Q-Z	Cassandra.Washington@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 591-5616

Determine Estimated Food Costs & Procurement Methods for FY24

Before saying goodbye to CACFP Fiscal Year 2023, ensure food costs and supporting documents for the procurement method(s) used are submitted, received, and approved by DECAL before September 30, 2023, **7 CFR 226.16(e)**.

As the new CACFP Fiscal Year 2024 approaches, now is the time to assess your budget to determine the estimated food costs and procurement method(s) before the year begins.

All CACFP program operators planning to participate in the CACFP FY 2024 must adhere to the Federal procurement regulations 7 CFR 226.22 and procurement standards 2 CFR Part 200.317-326 when procuring foods, supplies, equipment, and other goods and services for CACFP.

For informal procurement, price comparisons must be obtained and documented for costs below the Small Acquisition Threshold (SAT) of \$250,000. For formal procurement, a CACFP program operator must conduct an Invitation for Bid (IFB) and Request for Proposal (RFP) for foods, goods, and services that exceed the SAT of \$250,000.

DECAL issued Election Notices to CACFP program operators that utilized formal procurement in FY 2023 with established contracts. Please complete and submit the Procurement Election Notice if you have not already. Also, visit the **DECAL Procurement** website to download updated procurement documents for formal and informal procedures.

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

Are you required to submit a FY2024 CACFP Annual Budget?

If your organization meets any of the criteria below, you must submit a FY2024 CACFP budget by September 30, 2023:

CACFP Independent Institutions (7 CFR 226.7 (g))

- Required to submit a budget with their initial application and annually thereafter if:
- The center project costs that require prior, specific prior written approval or to use the meal reimbursement to pay for allowable administrative expenses;
- **or**, has previously approved FY2023 costs that require supporting documentation annually

Any costs that have been previously approved in FY2023 that were not self-prep food costs under \$250k, non-food costs under \$250k, and operating labor costs **will require** you to submit an annual budget.

CACFP Sponsors of Affiliated & Unaffiliated Centers (7 CFR 226.6 (f))

- Required to submit a budget annually under all circumstances.

CACFP Day Care Homes (DCH) Sponsors (7 CFR 226.7 (g))

- Required to submit a budget annually under all circumstances.

For questions or more information, please contact nutritionbudget@decal.ga.gov.

Announcing New Application Services Team Members

The Application Services team is announcing some recent staff changes that have resulted in new institution assignments for CACFP Sponsors and Institutions.

We are pleased to welcome two new team members: Cassandra Washington, Application Specialist and Vanessa Goodman, Business Operations Representative. They both have a wealth of knowledge and experience that has prepared them to be successful in their new roles.

Additionally, effective 9/15/23, Edith Pierre is no longer with the Nutrition team. During Edith's five-year tenure, she made significant contributions to our division and the agency's mission. We wish her success in her future endeavors and want to thank her for her years of service to our team.

Please see the updated application assignments below:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Jerald Savage	o (zero)-G	Jerald.Savage@decal.ga.gov	(770) 405-7916
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka.Blount@decal.ga.gov	(404) 656-6411
Cassandra Washington	Q-Z	Cassandra.Washington@decal.ga.gov	(404) 591-5616

Business Operations Representatives	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Lavesia Ervin	o (zero)-C, H-P	Lavesia.Ervin@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 293-5258
Vanessa Goodman	D-G, Q-Z	Vanessa.Goodman@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 591-6027

At-Risk Afterschool Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closures

On August 30, 2023, DECAL was approved by USDA to grant CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meal Component facilities waivers for the following:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up
- Meal Service Times
- At-Risk Enrichment Activities

You may access the waiver request approval [here](#).

These waivers can only be utilized during unanticipated school closures resulting from natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes or when approved by DECAL for similar unanticipated causes.

In order for an At-Risk Afterschool Meal Component facility to utilize the above-mentioned waivers, the facility:

- Must be approved to operate the At-Risk Afterschool Meal Component program;
- Must be located in an area impacted by an unanticipated school closure resulting from natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes or when approved by DECAL for similar unanticipated causes; and
- Must limit the use of the waivers to no more than 10 consecutive days. In situations that may warrant a longer time period, Food Nutrition Service (FNS) approval will be required.

CACFP organizations must seek approval to utilize these waivers and can request their usage through the waiver module in GA ATLAS.

Please note: If desiring to utilize the Home Delivery or Parent/Guardian Pick-up meal service models, CACFP organizations must complete and attach in the waiver module, the USDA Waiver Request Addendum, which can be found [here](#).

For questions, please contact [Robyn Parham](#) or [Tammie Baldwin](#).



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.**

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.

Free Digital Resources available for Farm to School Month



Sign up to receive **free** digital resources from the American Heart Association and Small Bites Adventure Club to celebrate October Farm to School Month by making Rainbow Wraps with Bell Peppers!

All teachers that register will receive free digital resources. The first 50 Georgia Pre-K through 2nd grade teachers that register by Sept. 18, 2023, will also receive a free mini-cooking kit and a \$125 Instacart gift certificate for recipe ingredients.

- *Only Pre-K through 12 public schools may be eligible for this offer.

If your school is not in an Instacart delivery area, you will only receive a mini-cooking kit. Sign up [here](#).



Navigate Toddlerhood with Webinars by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta *Strong4Life* is now offering webinars for parents and caregivers of toddlers. With doctors, nurses, dietitians, mental health experts and more on staff, Strong4Life can help you navigate toddlerhood with evidence-based tips and resources.

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to learn more and register.

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Dates

September 20, 2023

Fostering Multicultural Connections

Are you interested in fostering children's connections with various cultures across the world? Food is an optimal way to build this connection through hands-on experiences.

Join this webinar to learn recipes and ways to add multicultural connections through the dramatic play area and literature!

- **Participants can earn two [2] state-approved hours for attending this**

October 19, 2023

Bid Specifications and Managing Contracts

Contract (agreement) management plays a crucial role in the procurement success of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. It helps ensure that all parties adhere to the terms of the agreement such as the bid specifications and the federal, state, and local regulations.

Join this webinar to learn.

- What is contract management?
- What are the elements of contract management?
- What are bid specifications and how they are developed?

Registration: This is a **two-step** process:

- **Step 1:**
 - After registering in GA ATLAS, you will receive a Training Confirmation email *immediately* from Georgia DECAL Help Desk -helpdesk@cnpus.com with a registration link to attend the webinar (**check your spam/junk folder**).
- **Step 2:**
 - You must then register for the training using the link provided on the Training confirmation email.
 - If you should have an issue with registering, please contact Leslie Truman **prior** to the day of training.
 - **Click here** if you need a refresher on how to register for training in GA ATLAS.

Please note: Only the Program Contact (PC) can self-register within GA ATLAS. If an additional person will be attending, please contact Leslie Truman, Administrative Assistant, at (404) 657-1779 for assistance.

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 **CACFP Renewal Readiness**. It discussed how to successfully complete the required Annual Renewal requirements for FY 2024 in GA ATLAS.

Crediting Handbook for CACFP *New Spanish Version!*

The Spanish translation of the **Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program** (CACFP) is now available online. The Crediting Handbook plays an important role in helping CACFP operators to plan nutritious, age-appropriate meals with diverse options. The Crediting Handbook is a supplementary resource to the **Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs** and contains additional information on creditable foods served in child and adult care centers including crediting grains in ounce equivalents.

Ya está disponible en línea el **Manual de Acreditación para el Programa de Alimentos para el Cuidado de Niños y Adultos** (CACFP, por sus siglas en inglés) traducido al español. El manual tiene como objetivo principal ayudar a los operadores del CACFP a planificar comidas nutritivas, con opciones diversas y apropiadas según la edad. Este manual es un recurso complementario a la **Guía de compra de alimentos para los Programas de Nutrición Infantil** titulada, Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs y contiene información adicional sobre los alimentos acreditables que se sirven en los hogares y centros de cuidado para niños y adultos, incluyendo la acreditación de granos en onzas equivalentes.

Consulte otros recursos para el CACFP de Team Nutrition en <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-care-organization>

Nutrition Ed Nook

Apples: Crisp and Delicious



Crisp and delicious apples are September's Harvest of the Month spotlight. Apples are a good source of **vitamin C**, which supports healthy gums, skin, and blood; **potassium**, which helps lower blood pressure; and **fiber**, which helps keep you regular, controls blood sugar and lowers cholesterol. Eat the peel to get the most from this nutritional powerhouse. Apples are a great low-calorie snack that are naturally fat and sodium-free.

Apple season in Georgia is July to December. North Georgia is the center of the state's apple industry with more than 85% grown in Gilmer and Fannin counties. The state's apple varieties include Fuji, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Red Delicious, and more.

Fun Fact: Did you know (#DYK) apples, apricots, blackberries, cherries, peaches, pears, plums, raspberries, and strawberries are all members of the rose family?

Integration:

- [Apple Sandwiches](#)
- [Cranberry Applesauce](#)
- [Chicken Apple Salad Wrap](#)
- [Fall Apple Pumpkin Oatmeal](#)
- [Apples with Raspberry Fruit Dip](#)

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.
- **Compare & Contrast** different apple varieties, such as Granny Smith, Gala, Fuji, using the five senses, look, feel, taste, sound, and smell.
- **Read aloud** [Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis by Robbin Gourley](#). Long before the natural-food movement gained popularity, before greenmarkets sprouted across the United States, Edna Lewis championed purity of ingredients, regional cuisine, and the importance of bringing food directly from the farm to the table. The story follows Edna from early spring through the growing season to a family dinner celebrating a successful harvest.
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation such as choosing which apples to buy at the store or rinsing apples under cool running water. **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate apples into their meals!

Conversation:

- Have the children you serve eaten apples before?
- What is their favorite way to eat apples?
- What is their favorite color apple to eat?

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

Physical Activity Corner:



Make Time for Activities, Games and Movement

Physical activity, exploration, and play are critical for all ages, especially our youngest learners. Through this, children develop coordination and strong, healthy bodies and exercise their minds through sensory play including touching, reaching, grasping, and exploring.

Movement is one of the main ways that children learn, develop, and grow. Each new phase of physical activity development brings new opportunities for learning and

development. An infant might explore by tummy time, touching books, grasping blankets, banging toys, or crawling. A toddler might explore by walking or climbing. Young children are naturally curious and excited to learn about their surrounding environment.

According to the CDC, physical fun such as free unstructured games during playtime helps children develop motor and coordination skills, prevent childhood obesity, and build social and emotional intelligence. A child builds their confidence in a safe enjoyable environment.

Enjoy these fun ideas to get our younger children moving:

- Provide child-friendly sports equipment, like balls, poly spots or throwable beanbags.
- Make time for outdoor play at a park or playground, in the backyard, on a beach or at a football field. Moving around on various surfaces develops strength, balance, and coordination.
- Make an obstacle course or treasure hunt.
- Provide chalk to draw outside with a child.
- Go for a nature walk. This gets a child moving, and they can also collect leaves, sticks, or pebbles for crafts or pretend play when you get home.
- Younger children can practice coordinating the small movements of their fingers through playdough, blocks, and drawing activities.

Providing children plenty of opportunities to play is one of the best ways to help them grow into curious, creative, healthy, and happy adults equipped with the skills they need today.

Integration:

- **Georgia's Early Care and Learning Standards (GELDS) - Songs, movement, and play**
- **Playgrounds in Georgia**
- **Active Play: Healthy Habits Start Early**
- **CDC – Making Physical Activity a Part of a Child's Life**

Education:

- **Read** out loud, **“Are You Ready to Play Outside?” by Mo Willems.**
- **Watch** the video on **Movement and Play: Play-based Learning with Dr. Peter Gray.**
- **Talk** with families about ways parents, educators, and communities can promote physical activity, movement and play all year round, whether at home, outside, in their local community, at your childcare site, or at their local community recreational areas. **Bonus:** Share **#ActivePlay**, **#OutdoorGames**, **#MovementandPlay**, **#MoveYourWay**, and **#LovePlay** pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Conversation:

- How do you encourage parents, educators, and staff to engage in physical activity?
- What are fun physical activities for family?
- How do you play with children of different ages?
- Why is family engagement, movement, and play important in physical activity?



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Cassandra Washington, Application Specialist*

Cassandra Washington recently joined DECAL's Nutrition Division as an Application Specialist. In this role, Cassandra will assist new sponsors and institutions with their applications to participate in the Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program. Other duties include reviewing and the processing of application documents, verification of compliance with federal regulations and state policy, coordinating field duties with field staff, issuing correspondence, and acting upon requests within specific time frames.

Previously, Cassandra worked for the Minnesota Department of Education as a Nutrition Consultant conducting administrative reviews for Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). She has over 20 years of extensive experience working in food service and with child nutrition programs- CACFP, SFSP and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). She has worked in the role of Food Service Director for one of DECAL's previously approved CACFP institutions.

Cassandra attended The Culinary Institute of New Orleans in Louisiana where she earned her Associate of Arts Degree. She was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and relocated to Powder Springs, Georgia, 17 years ago. She recently celebrated 27 years of marriage with her husband. Together, they have three children.

Eat Healthy and Live Active *Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 23-24 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.

The Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month is a collaborative campaign to promote a different local, seasonal fruit or vegetable in child care settings each month.

Visit the Georgia Department of Education's HOTM [webpage](#) and Quality Care for Children [webpage](#). 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:*

- **Stay Informed: CACFP Policy Updates**
- **Make Sure Kids Don't Lose Medicaid or CHIP Coverage**
- **Post-Public Health Emergency Resources Available**
- **Reminder - PolicyStat available on Nutrition Services' Webpage**
- **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**
- **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
September	Harvest of the Month: Apples
September 15	Deadline to submit any additional changes to the FY23 Application
September 20	Fostering Multicultural Connections Webinar
September 30	Deadline to complete renewal training and application
September 30	Deadline to submit original or annual budget and budget amendments
October	Farm to School Month 2023: "Pepper Palooza"
October 1	Sponsors must begin imposing findings/adverse actions for sponsored facilities not in compliance with procurement practices
October 19	Bid Specifications and Managing Contracts Webinar

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!

October is Farm to School Month

October is a busy month here at DECAL. The first week of the month is Georgia Pre-

On the next...
DECAL
Download 
New Episodes Every Wednesday!



Diana Myers
Nutrition and Physical Activity
Supervisor



This Week's Topic:

**October is
Farm to School Month**



K Week, but all month long it's National Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month. This is an innovative way to build children's relationship with food and the local food system through hands-on food education and gardening experiences.

There is also a focus on interactive and adventurous taste testing, and the inclusion of local Georgia grown items into meals and

snacks. The DECAL nutrition team fully supports the program as a great way to increase access to healthy foods, boost physical activity and mental wellbeing, all while supporting local farmers and communities. DECAL's Nutrition and Physical Activity Supervisor, Diana Myers joins us on this episode of DECAL Download to tell us more about October Farm to School Month.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter
Carl Glover

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Nondiscrimination Statement: English
Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

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