

Nutrition News



Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

May 1, 2024

Up to \$10k Available in Grant Funding for Expanding Meal Access in Target Counties

Last Chance to Apply: Deadline May 13

Expanding access to nutritious meals and snacks in every Georgia county is an ongoing goal for Nutrition Services. Unfortunately during fiscal year 2023, 59 counties did not have a Happy Helpings meal site. In an effort to increase meal access and to feed more children this summer, DECAL is offering start-up grants.

New and experienced sponsors are eligible for up to \$10,000 in funding for establishing additional Happy Helpings meal sites in targeted areas with high rates of childhood food insecurity.

To qualify, sponsors must submit an application by **Monday, May 13, 2024**. Click [here](#) to apply.

What we are looking for:

DECAL Nutrition is seeking partners to increase access to meals and snacks in targeted areas with high rates of childhood food insecurity during summer 2024. These counties include:



Areas of Need: 59 counties

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| • Appling | • Cook | • Johnson | • Pulaski | • Webster |
| • Atkinson | • Dade | • Laurens | • Quitman | • Wheeler |
| • Bacon | • Dawson | • Lincoln | • Schley | • White |
| • Banks | • Dodge | • Long | • Screven | • Wilcox |
| • Berrien | • Emanuel | • Lumpkin | • Stewart | • Wilkes |
| • Bleckley | • Evans | • Marion | • Sumter | • Wilkinson |
| • Brantley | • Gilmer | • Miller | • Talbot | • Worth |
| • Brooks | • Gordon | • Montgomery | • Telfair | |
| • Calhoun | • Haralson | • Murray | • Towns | |
| • Camden | • Heard | • Oconee | • Treutlen | |
| • Charlton | • Jasper | • Oglethorpe | • Turner | |
| • Chattahoochee | • Jeff Davis | • Pickens | • Union | |
| • Clay | • Jenkins | • Pierce | • Warren | |



Project Specifications:

Each project will have a budget of up to \$10,000 for the period of June-August 2024. Please use the following items as references for the allowability of activities:

Allocating Cost in Child Nutrition Programs

Requirements:

- Must be an approved experienced Happy Helpings sponsor in good standing or an approved new sponsor prior to receiving funds. Payments will be issued once the sponsor has been approved to operate for FY24 but no later than June 28, 2024.
- Must sign a grant agreement amendment with DECAL.

- Must agree to operate a Happy Helpings meal site in one or more of the targeted counties. ***Failure to serve meals in at least one of the designated counties during FY24 will result in returning the funds to DECAL.***
- Must use grant funds on allowable Happy Helpings' costs.
- Must submit meal claims within 30 days.
- Must submit the Happy Helpings start-up grant application by 11:59 p.m. on May 13, 2024. Start-up grant applications will be evaluated using a point-scoring system. The higher number of points will result in a larger award amount.
- Must have the ability to share project outcomes including how funds were used along with photos by September 30, 2024.

Grant Timeline:

Date	
March 19	Grant Information Call
May 13	Grant Application Due
May 31	Grant Awards Finalized
June 3	Grant Awards Announced
June 17	Amendments Signed
June 28*	Grant Funding Issued
September 30	Project Outcomes Due

**Payments will be made once your organization is approved to operate in 2024.*

Resources to Promote Meal Sites

Ensuring families and guardians are aware of the availability of meals in their area is an important part of the Happy Helpings program. Nutrition Services has created several promotional resources to help sponsors gain exposure for meal sites this summer.

These resources include:

- Editable flyer
- Editable Poster
- Social Media Graphics
- Vehicle Magnet*

**To produce a vehicle magnet, print the artwork and take it to any sign company.*

Social Media Graphics

Flyers

Posters

Vehicle Magnet

Facebook

Right click on image and save



Instagram

Right click on image and save



To locate these resources, visit the [Nutrition Page](#) on [Decal.ga.gov](#) and locate "Happy Helpings Participant Information" on the menu. Expand the menu and scroll to "Posters and Flyers." Click on the link and it will take you to a password protected section. The password is "Flyer."

If you have questions, please contact Cindy.Kicklichter@decals.ga.gov

Submit Your Happy Helpings Application

Federal Deadline: June 15

If you have not submitted your Happy Helpings (HH) application, please make sure to do so by the federal deadline on Saturday, June 15, 2024. Applications not submitted by the deadline date will not be reviewed; therefore, they cannot be approved.

If your organization still has plans to participate this summer, you are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application before the deadline date. For detailed instructions on completing the application, you may refer to the [FY 2024 HH Application Instruction Booklet](#).

Follow these Tips to Complete Your Application

- To minimize confusion and delays, only the program contact and/or authorized representative should be contacting the application reviewer. Keep in mind that the program contact is responsible for entering the information in the online application, GA ATLAS.
- Complete all forms in their entirety.
- The Food Service Permit Inquiry Form needs to be submitted/signed in every county where meals are being served prior to being submitted to DECAL.
- If utilizing a food service management company (FSMC) or acting as FSMC, ensure that numbers 42 & 43 are responded to correctly on the institution application.

Board of Directors Section:

- Ensure that all sections are completed for each board member.
- Any changes made to the Board of Directors (BOD) need to be supported with board meeting minutes.
- Ensure that the "delegation of authority" form is signed by an officer of the board (as defined on the form).

Management Plan:

- The plan should be updated annually.
- The percentage of time allocated to Happy Helpings for personnel/staffing should align

- with the allocation on the staff distribution report.
- Staff and duty allocations in the Management Plan **must** match the names of staff and duty time listed in Staff Distribution Worksheet.

Site Application:

- Your FY2024 HH application must be submitted **first** before your HH budget can be reviewed/approved.
- Site changes, including add-a-sites, need to be approved prior to making changes to an approved budget.
- Ensure to indicate days that the site will not serve meals during normal operating dates on #14.
- If site is outdoors (park, driveway, pool), please detail the plan if indicating that meals will be served indoors when answering #28.

Maximum Meal Count (MMC):

- The threshold for the maximum number of meals that can be served is 100.
- Sponsors that request a MMC over the threshold prior to the initial approval of the site application must submit written justification to their assigned Application Specialist explaining why an increase is needed.
- Enrollment/registration information should be submitted to justify the increase for sites that are closed enrolled.
- Letters of authorization for sites located at unaffiliated schools and/or unaffiliated apartment communities can include information to justify the increase.
- A justification letter is not required for sites requesting the same MMC over the threshold that was approved the previous year. Additionally, if the request is over the MMC threshold, but under the approved MMC that was approved the previous year, no justification letter is required.
- If a request appears unreasonable/unsupported, then the MMC over 100 will not be approved.
- Sponsors that begin operations and later request a MMC over the threshold must submit written justification to their assigned Business Operations Specialist explaining why the increase is needed. Additionally, three consecutive days of daily meal count (DMC) forms must be submitted. If the request is unsupported, the MMC to provide more than 100 meals will not be approved.

15-day Contact:

Your specialist has 15 days to review your initial FY 24 application, including the budget, after it has been submitted.

Budget

Excess Funds

- Prior Year Reconciliation documents must be approved before use of funds.
- You must have completed and approved FY23 reconciliation documents submitted before excess funds are approved for use.

Two Business Day Response

- Allow two business days for the budget specialist to provide a response to your budget inquiries.
- Ask detailed questions via email to receive a detailed response.

Submitting Supporting Documents

- Properly label supporting documents by cost category and upload to the Attachments List

Related Party

- Please ensure to submit the related party disclosure form and ensure that all applicable categories are checked in the budget questions and assertions section.

On March 27, 2024, FNS issued new guidance on Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services. The memorandum Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers #2 can be found [here](#). This guidance is a second set of questions and answers on the rural non-congregate summer meals option.

If you have any questions, please contact Robyn.Parham@dec.al.ga.gov

Updated Guidance: Rural Non-Congregate Parent/Guardian Pick up and Delivered Meals

Per the FNS memo, [Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers #2](#), for homes where eligibility is based on area data, sponsors do not need to document individual eligibility to be reimbursed for home-delivered meals.

However, for homes that do not meet area eligibility requirements, sponsors must establish individual child eligibility via Income Eligibility Statements (IES forms) or individual school data supported by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a school food authority (SFA).

For homes that are not area eligible, sponsors can only claim the meals served to children who meet income standards (free or reduced).

In addition, Nutrition Services has further defined “guardian” for the purposes of the parent and guardian pick up flexibility. Guardians that can pick up meals for children at rural non-congregate sites are adults that meet one of the following three criteria:

1. A legal guardian of a minor, where the guardian has power over the minor the same as a parent, standing in the place of the parent per O.C.G.A. 29-2-21(a);
2. A state-regulated foster parent; or
3. An adult who maintains a caregiver relationship with a child on the day of meal service. These adults can be relatives or other adults who provide supervisory care for children on the meal service day. The child does not need to share a residence with the guardian; however, the guardian must provide supervisory care for the child at the child's residence or the guardian's residence on the meal service day.

As a result of these updates for home delivery and parent/guardian pick up, the following three documents have been revised:

- DECAL memorandum: [Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program](#)
- [Home Delivery Procedures Statement](#)
- [Rural Non-Congregate Application and Instruction Guide](#)

If you have any questions, please contact, Robyn.Parham@dec.al.ga.gov

New Waivers Available during Excessive Heat and Air Quality Advisories

On March 26, 2024, USDA granted a Nutrition Services request to waive certain requirements in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for summer 2024 operations. Specifically, Nutrition Services was approved to waive the requirement to serve congregate meals during times of excessive heat and air quality advisories.

Non-Congregate Meals during Excessive Heat Waiver

This waiver allows SFSP sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without temperature-controlled alternative sites as non-congregate sites on days

when the area is experiencing excessive heat. These waivers may only be used on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor meal site is located, as indicated at <https://www.weather.gov/>. These waivers are effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*.

Non-Congregate Meals during Air Quality Advisories Waiver

This waiver allows SFSP sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without alternative indoor sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing certain air quality advisories. Sites may be approved for non-congregate meal service on days when the site's zip code has an Air Quality Index (AQI) "purple" flag or higher, as indicated at <https://www.airnow.gov/>. These waivers are effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*.

Additional Flexibilities Available

The following flexibilities are also available during times of excessive heat and air quality advisories. These flexibilities are effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*

- **Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up**
- **Meal Service Time Flexibilities**

Guidance Available on Waivers and Approval Process

Nutrition Services has developed instructions and further guidance on applying for these waivers and flexibilities entitled Happy Helpings Excessive Heat and Air Quality Advisories Application and Instruction Guide. The guidance can be found [here](#).

All sponsors who desire to apply for these waivers are strongly encouraged to review this guidance as it offers information on required documentation to be maintained and submitted. In addition, the guidance contains instructions on how to report meals served during the utilization of these waivers.

Sponsors interested in utilizing these waivers and flexibilities must request approval via the Waiver Module in GA ATLAS. Sponsors must have approval to utilize these waivers and flexibilities prior to serving meals in non-congregate settings during excessive heat and/or air quality advisories.

For general questions on requesting a USDA approved waiver, please contact Tammie.Baldwin@dec.al.ga.gov.

For specific policy questions pertaining to waivers, please contact Robyn.Parham@dec.al.ga.gov.

Unanticipated School Closure Waivers Available

On August 30, 2023, Nutrition Services received USDA approval for statewide waivers for Happy Helpings sponsors to utilize during unanticipated school closures.

The following waivers are available during unanticipated school closures when meal service operations are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency for similar unanticipated causes.

The following approved waivers are available when schools are closed with no virtual learning:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up
- Meal Service Times
- Service of Meals at School Sites

The waivers listed above are available through June 30, 2024. To read more, click [here](#).

Have You Determined this Summer's Food Cost & Procurement Methods?

Now is the perfect time to determine food cost and choose the methods of procurement that best fit the organization's Happy Helpings (SFSP) meal service, [7 CFR 225.17](#) and [2 CFR 200.317-326](#).

Knowing the plate cost per participant is essential to developing the project food cost for Happy Helpings FY 2024. Calculating plate costs has benefits, such as understanding the food cost and ingredient pricing and enhancing Quality, Quantity and Service (QQS) to participants.

Think about the last time your organization reviewed its inventory management. Calculating plate costs requires you to take a detailed look at the ingredients purchased and the individual price of each ingredient.

You might learn that specific ingredients cost significantly more than previously planned due to food inflation and may need to be more cost-effective on the menu. Identifying plate costs will help the organization adequately design the menu (based on the meal pattern outlined in [7 CFR 225.16](#)) and the Happy Helpings FY 2024 food cost. Once your food cost for Happy Helpings FY 2024 is determined, choose the appropriate procurement method(s) outlined in the section below.

For further information on procurement, please contact Tempest.Harris@decal.ga.gov.

Procurement Methods At-A-Glance

Informal Procurement:

Small Purchase or Micro-purchase: All projected costs will fall below the Small Acquisition Threshold of \$250,000.

Formal Procurement:

New Bid or Renewal Contract: Projected costs will exceed the Small Acquisition Threshold of \$250,000.

Other Methods:

- Non-Federal Program Funds: Use other funds [excluding CACFP/Happy Helpings (SFSP)] to pay for goods and/or services with an expected excess of \$250,000 for FY 2024. Happy Helpings (SFSP) funds will not contribute toward costs procured out of compliance with federal regulations [7 CFR 225.17](#) and [2 CFR 200.320](#).
- School Food Authority: Utilize a School Food Authority (SFA) for Happy Helpings FY 2024.

Visit Nutrition's [Procurement Manual](#) and [Procurement Policy Template](#) for additional details on procurement methods.

Upcoming Training Dates

May 14, 2024 –

Tuesday Tip! Physical Activity for 0-5 Year Olds

Would you like to learn effective strategies for implementing physical activity in early care settings? Join this webinar to learn:

- how to educate on the benefits of physical activity,
- how to identify ways to increase physical activity throughout the day, and
- how to provide physical activity ideas for small spaces, outdoor areas, and while using minimal equipment with 0-5-year-olds.

May 20, 2024 –

Memo Monday!

Are you familiar with the new food items that may be served in Child Nutrition Programs?

Join this webinar to learn the latest information in the following memos:

- **Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program - Revised November 29, 2023**
- **Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs – November 2, 2023**

Please click [here](#) to register for all DECAL webinars listed above.

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 the **March Memo Monday** webinar. It discussed rural non-congregate meal service summer option in Happy Helpings.

Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs *Food Yields!*

New yields are now available in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based (FBG) Tool and FBG Mobile App! New yield data is available for: USDA Foods canned mixed fruit and canned beef, smoked salmon fillet, cactus fruit (prickly pear), purple rice, instant long grain brown rice, and quick cooking medium grain brown rice. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases coming soon. Explore the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) today!

Nutrition Services attended Spring Back to Health Event in Clarkston



The Nutrition Services Division participated in the Spring Back to Health event on April 13 in partnership with the Clarkston Resource & Wellness Hub and *GSU: Connect to Care* - a community health initiative funded by the Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority.

Nutrition education for children and information on how to locate a Happy Helpings meal site was shared with the families attending. Additionally, the health event focused on wellness screenings, cancer prevention in adults and infant feeding.

The goal of the event was to connect community residents in Clarkston (historically

underserved with high rates of uninsured and underinsured community members experiencing high rates of chronic disease) to reliable and affordable health services.

Pictured above: Cindy Kicklighter, Marketing & Outreach Manager and Tina McLaren, Physical Activity Specialist.

Nutrition Ed Nook

Berry Delicious!

Berries are the May Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight. Berries pack a nutritional punch in each bite.

They are highly nutritious, containing many vitamins and minerals. Berries are also loaded with antioxidants. Antioxidants may help boost immune function, fight inflammation, and protect against cancer and heart disease. Another great thing about berries is they are a good source of fiber. Consuming fiber helps you to feel fuller longer and promotes digestive health.



Blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries are among the many berry varieties that reach their peak during the summer months. Now is the perfect time to add some berries to your meals and snacks. Most berries are naturally sweet and require little effort to prepare. Try adding sliced strawberries to a bowl of whole grain cereal, stir raspberries into low-fat yogurt, or sprinkle blueberries on a salad. Blend fat-free or low-fat milk or yogurt with fresh or frozen fruit for a smoothie.

Fun Fact: The city of Alma, in Bacon County, is Georgia's blueberry capital. Blueberries are the number one fruit produced in the state. They beat the peach with 18,328 acres producing 39 million pounds of blueberries valued at over \$120 million. Alma will host their annual Blueberry Festival on Friday, May 31, 2024.

Integration:

- [Breakfast on a Stick](#)
- [Berry Blast Smoothie](#)
- [Strawberry Yogurt Parfait](#)
- [Cranberry Applesauce](#)
- [Raspberry Fruit Dip](#)
- [Banana Berry Smoothie](#)

Education:

- **Watch** these *Harvest with Holly* videos that explore [strawberries](#) and [blueberries](#), 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 and contrast** different types of berries. Explore differences in colors, textures, shapes, smells, and tastes for each berry. Create an observation chart for your class to complete together. Make sure your observation chart is in a centralized area where all participants can see it and share in the discussion.
- **Read [The Berry Book by Gail Gibbons](#)** with you program participants. Berries grow on every continent except Antarctica, in the wild, or in cultivated fields and gardens. Gail Gibbons describes the many types of berries, edible as well as poisonous, and explains how several varieties are cultivated and harvested and used. Directions on how to grow strawberries, and recipes for blueberry pie, blackberry jam, and raspberry ice cream are included.

- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation such as rinsing berries under cool running water to be served with a meal. Bonus: Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate berries into their meals!

Conversation:

- Have your program participants eaten berries before?
- Which types of berries are their favorite?
- What new berries would they like to try?

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

Physical Activity Corner

It's National Physical Fitness and Sports Month



May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month – a campaign to provide an opportunity to celebrate and promote physical activity, sports, and all of its many health benefits to all ages, communities, schools, and workplaces.

Move in May is about enjoying physical activity, exercise, and sports. There are lots of ways to be more physically active, and to find a form of physical activity that each person can enjoy.

Physical activity is key to maintaining health and well-being. Being active can improve fitness, reduce stress and risk for many chronic diseases, and support good mental health. Youth sports can help kids and teens get active and develop leadership, time management, and relationship-building skills.

Physical activity is key to maintaining health and well-being. Being active can improve

Here are the recommendations for each age group according to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition (ODPHP).

- Children ages 3 through 5 years need to be active throughout the day.
- Children and adolescents ages 5 through 17 need to be active for 60 minutes every day.
- Adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination each week.
- Adults aged 65 and older need at least 150 minutes a week (for example, 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week) of moderate-intensity activity such as brisk walking. Or, they need 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity such as hiking, jogging or running.
- Adults with chronic health conditions or disabilities who are able should get at least 150 minutes (for example, 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week) of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity a week.

How to Observe Physical Activity:

- At home: Break away from sitting less and MOVE more. Take a 15-minute walk early in the morning or during a lunch break. End a long day of work with a few stretches or a yoga session for quietness, tranquility and peace of mind.
- To school (children/parents): As a family, go together with your children early in the morning to walk to and from school or after school in the afternoon.
- With the family: Walk in your neighborhood or community-- to the park, local mall, local farmer's market or a grocery store in the day or on a weekend. Be safe!!
- At work (colleagues): Invite a colleague to take a 10-minute walk (break) from the

computer/office. Take the stairs, instead of the elevator.

Enjoy the outdoors this summer season and Let's Move it!

Integration:

- [Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition](#)
- [National Sports Youth Strategy](#)
- [BlazeSports \(Youth\)](#)
- [Move Your Way® Community Resources](#)

Education:

- **Read out loud**, "*Sports*" by Alyssa Liang.
- **Watch** the video on [Move Your Way: Tips for Getting Active as a Family](#) .
- **Talk** with families about ways to move more at home in their community, at childcare and at adult care centers.
- **Bonus:** Share #MayFitness, #MoveInMay, #NationalPhysicalActivity&Sports, #MoveYourWay pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Conversation:

- What is your favorite physical fitness activity every day?
- Why is physical fitness important in sports?
- How do you stay motivated to exercise daily?
- What are the benefits of staying physically active?

Share your #DECALPhysicalActivity #NationalPhysicalActivityFitness&Sports #MayFitness, #MoveInMay, #BeActive, #MoveYourWay stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren, MPH at tina.mclaren@dec.al.ga.gov.

Celebrating Children's Mental Health Week

May 6-10



The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning will celebrate the fourth annual Children's Mental Health Week May 6 – 10.

Children develop social and emotional skills—mental health—through strong, nurturing relationships with the adults in their lives. There is a window of opportunity in early childhood to establish relationships that build the

foundation for a child's emotional wellbeing throughout life.

During Children's Mental Health we promote activities that help children, and their caregivers recognize the importance of social and emotional development.

Please share pictures on social media using the hashtags #KidsMindsMatter, #LittleKidsBigFeelings and #DECALCMHWeek2024 during the week, and you'll be entered into a drawing to win self-care gift cards being provided by our partners at the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS).

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.



Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
May	Harvest of the Month: Berries
May 6-10	Children's Mental Health Week
May 13	HH Start-up Grant Application Deadline
May 14	Tuesday Tip: Physical Activity for 0-5 Year Olds
May 20	Memo Monday
May 31	HH Start-up Grant Awards Finalized
June 3	HH Start-up Grant Awards Announced
June 17	HH Start-up Grant Amendments Signed
June 28	HH Start-up Grant Funding Issued
September 30	HH Start-up Grant Project Outcomes Due

Happy Helpings Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [BOLD Ministries, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Augusta and Burke County Public Schools recognized as Turnip the Beet Award Winners](#)
- [Budget Representatives Updated April 2024](#)
- [USDA Requests Input on Serious Deficiency Process](#)
- [Identifying the Difference between Pre-Award Cost Request vs. Excess Funds](#)
- [Make your Local Farmers Market a Meal Site Option](#)
- [FY24 Reimbursement Rates Released](#)
- [Increasing Access to Food Through Mobile Feeding](#)
- [Check your Email Messages in GA ATLAS](#)

How was my Customer Service?

Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



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

NEW DECAL Download

Early Childhood Educators of the Year



In December, DECAL and the Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning announced our three winners for Georgia’s Early Childhood Educators of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year.

In its second year, the program recognizes outstanding early education teachers of children ages birth to preschool. There are three categories, infant, toddler, and preschool. It goes along with our Georgia’s

Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year who are also recognized annually.

On this episode of DECAL Download, we are joined by our current Early Childhood Educators of the year, Noel Weimer from Water Oak Family Child Care Learning Home in Roswell, Bianca Brown from the Greenbriar School in Evans and Chantelle Hester from Smart Starters Academy Family Child Care Learning Home in Savannah.

We are also joined by Laura Wagner, the Executive Director for the Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning and Miranda Murphy who is our Practice and Support Service Outreach and Project Manager.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Nutrition Division
Marketing & Outreach

Cindy Kicklighter

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