



# Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Sponsors Needed to Serve Meals to Hungry Children in Summer 2020

*DECAL hosting information summit on Feb 25 to share information about becoming a Sponsor for the Summer Food Service Program.*

*Clarissa Hayes from FRAC will keynote on Child Hunger in GA at the Summit*

**Atlanta, Ga., (January 27, 2020)** – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is looking for eligible organizations (called sponsors) to serve healthy meals to children when school is not in session through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Approved organizations receive partial reimbursement for serving meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines.

“DECAL administers the Summer Food Service Program which last year served **more than 4.8 million meals** to Georgia’s children, said Nutrition Director Tamika Boone. “We are proud of that accomplishment, but there’s more to do to ensure that the 500,000+ children in Georgia without access to nutritious food are fed in summer 2020.” [Click here](#) to see the child food insecurity rate by county.

DECAL is hosting an information summit on Tuesday, February 25, at Helms College in Macon, GA, for those that are interested in learning more about the program. The FREE summit is themed, “Together, we can feed Georgia’s Hungry Children.” Clarissa Hayes, senior child nutrition policy analyst, with the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) will serve as the conference keynote speaker and will discuss Child Hunger in Georgia.

To participate in the SFSP, organizations must be nonprofit, which means units of government; private, nonprofit organizations; public or private nonprofit camps; public or private nonprofit universities or colleges; and schools may be eligible.

Sponsors operate SFSP sites in their communities where children receive meals and participate in recreational or enrichment activities. Meal sites may be located in places such as schools, community centers, parks, churches, playgrounds, migrant centers, homeless feeding sites, or summer camps.

Sponsors receive training and support relating to the application process; setting up and operating a successful SFSP; and nutrition education. They also receive technical assistance while the program is operating.

For more information, about the SFSP or the Summit, contact Cindy Kicklighter, marketing & outreach manager, at [cindy.kicklighter@decals.ga.gov](mailto:cindy.kicklighter@decals.ga.gov) or (404) 656-3221.

For more information on becoming an SFSP sponsor, visit DECAL's website at <http://decals.ga.gov/SFSP/BecomingASponsor.aspx> or contact the SFSP team toll free at 1-855-550-SFSP (7377) or via e-mail at [SFSP@decals.ga.gov](mailto:SFSP@decals.ga.gov).

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages the voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).