

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



August 5, 2021

Transitioning from SFSP to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals

Many existing SFSP sites are well-positioned to offer afterschool meals during the school year through CACFP. Both organizations and communities benefit when meals are offered to children in low income communities year-round.

Now that the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is more than halfway into the season, the opportunity for SFSP sponsors to transition to At-Risk Afterschool Meals, a component of CACFP, is upon us.

Here are a few things to consider:

- An application for SFSP sponsors transitioning to CACFP is required upon initial entry to the CACFP. General updates and annual renewal will be required thereafter.
- As part of the current ATLAS CACFP application process, SFSP sponsors are required to sign a CACFP agreement in addition to their existing agreement.
- Sponsors are required to adhere to all monitoring requirements.
- Sponsors are required to attend training. The next CACFP At-Risk Virtual Orientation and Program Training (2-Day) is scheduled for **August 18 & 19**.
- If you have questions or are interested in registering for training, please contact [Leslie Truman](#) at 404.657.1779.

After School Programs Required to Apply for License or Exemption to Participate in At-Risk

Afterschool programs **MUST** apply for license or exemption in order to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program by submitting a complete license or exemption application to DECAL's [Child Care Services \(CCS\)](#).

Available Resources:

- [License Application](#)
- [Exemption Application](#)
- [Child Care Learning Center Information](#)

For more information, requirements, License Orientation meeting, and state laws, contact CCS at 404.657.5562.

Nonprofit Food Service CEO Indicted for Falsely Claiming to Have Provided Over \$800,000 in Meals for Low-Income Children

Dawn Eggleston, CEO of nonprofit Our Daily Bread, Inc., has been indicted by a Camden County grand jury for submitting false reimbursements relating to the operations of the Summer Food Service Program.

In 2017, Our Daily Bread, Inc., provided SFSP meals at 177 different locations from Brunswick to Albany encompassing most of Southern Georgia. After routine evaluations at multiple sites, DECAL administrators suspected that CEO Dawn Eggleston had misrepresented the total number of meals actually served.

Subsequent surveillance by the Office of the State Inspector General and other investigating agencies confirmed that Eggleston regularly inflated the meal counts, and that Eggleston submitted a fraudulent reimbursement in the amount of \$831,354 for July 2017. As a result of this investigation, DECAL rejected the reimbursement request.

[Click here](#) to read the article in its entirety.

Annual Year End Reconciliation Notice

Extended SFSP & Traditional SFSP or Traditional SFSP Only: Due October 31

Institutions operating Extended SFSP and Traditional SFSP or only Traditional SFSP must complete an Annual Year End Reconciliation Form. The form should include all operating months from October 1, 2020 - August 30, 2021.

The combined Extended or Traditional SFSP reconciliation form and final bank statement/general ledger must be submitted to DECAL no later than **October 31, 2021**.

[Click here](#) for the Annual Year End Reconciliation Form. Please submit the form via email to Gwendolyn.Howard@decalf.gov. Please reach out to Gwendolyn Howard with any questions or concerns.

How to Submit a Waiver Request

To better streamline the process for receiving waiver requests, a module was incorporated into [GA ATLAS](#) that allows SFSP sponsors to electronically request, track, and monitor each waiver request within their program application.

As of March 15, 2021, requests for waivers must be completed through an online Waiver Participation Form in the new **USDA Waivers Module** in GA ATLAS. Operators will still be required to complete the applicable Waiver Request Form located on DECAL's website under [COVID-19 Resources](#); however, these forms must now be uploaded to the USDA Waivers Module as part of the new process.

A Memo Monday recording on how to use this new feature can be found at the bottom of the [Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#) in the **Recorded Training Webinars/Videos folder > Memo Monday Webinars > July Memo Monday**. Register to view the recording.

The [GA ATLAS Waiver Guide](#) can be found under [COVID-19 Resources](#) in the *Nutrition Waivers – Waiver Request Forms* section.

For general questions about the waiver, please contact [Tammie Baldwin](#) or call 404-656-6332. You may also contact your assigned Technical Assistance Coordinator or the [Nutrition TA Mailbox](#).

SFSP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous SFSP Newsletters:

- [Income Eligibility Guidelines for FY 2022](#)
 - [Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-2022](#)
 - [What to do if you have lost or destroyed records](#)
 - [SFSP Reimbursement Rates for 2021](#)
 - [Updated SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19](#)
 - [Waiver to Claim Meals Prior to SFSP Approval](#)
 - [How to File a SFSP Claim for Reimbursement](#)
 - [Budgeting for SFSP](#)
 - [Pre-Award Costs and Advance Requests](#)
 - [USDA extends Flexibilities for Summer 2021](#)
 - [Suspension and Debarment Certification Requirement](#)
 - [Update: Procurement Templates \(Formal and Informal Documents\)](#)
 - [Virtual Vendor Summit Replay](#)
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Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

Now available!

SFSP Transition to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Webinar Recording

Are you interested in serving meals year-round when school is in-session?

Click on [Webinar Recording](#) to register and learn:

- the overview of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program,
- eligibility, application, licensing, and exemption requirements to participate.

August 19, 2021

Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in Community Meals Programs

Are you aware of the Civil Rights requirements regarding meal modifications in SFSP?

We are pleased to invite you to a webinar hosted by the FNS Civil Rights Division to learn:

- Modifications to accommodate disabilities and
- Civil Rights requirements regarding meal modifications.

You may join this webinar using one of the following ways:

- Join by clicking on [Meeting Link](#)
 - Join by phone: 1-415-527-5035 US Toll; Access code: 199 467 9034
-

Procurement Reminder:

Update Contract Period for Formal Contracts

As traditional summer feeding ends, sponsors and institutions who have executed formal contracts with periods for one full calendar year due to COVID-19, may have to revise the contract period to reflect the updated end date for summer meals. If you have a contract effective for one year, the contract period will need to be revised to reflect the end date of summer meals approved in your application.

Local Sourcing Spotlight

What's Up Watermelon?

It's summertime which means it is watermelon

season here in Georgia. With over 40,000 acres in production, **watermelons** are Georgia's number produce crop according to Georgia Dept. of Agriculture. Most watermelons are grown primarily in and around Central Georgia or southern Coastal Plains as well as Crisp County near the city of Cordele.

Located in Cordele, **Leger and Son, Inc.** is a family generation of growers known for producing and shipping high quality watermelons throughout the Southeast. Visit their website to learn how to purchase locally grown watermelon, discover new watermelon recipes as well as learn more about their sustainability practices.

Also, feel free to use this helpful guide when purchasing watermelons for your next meal whether it be a snack or taste testing a new recipe!



Buyers Guide to Melons

- When buying whole watermelons, look for a firm, slightly dull rind, that is fully round.
- When buying cantaloupes choose medium sized melons with thick, above surface netting

For questions regarding procurement, please contact **LaMonika Jones** Procurement Compliance Officer.

Nutrition Ed Nook

Whimsical Watermelons



Thirst quenching watermelons are ripe and ready this month as our August Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight! Did you know that every bite of **watermelon** you eat contains 92% water?

Watermelon serves as a summertime staple and back-to-school delight. Containing vitamins A and C, watermelon yields a nutritious fruit component for your snack or meal.

Integration:

- **Watermelon Salsa**
- **Watermelon Gazpacho**
- **Strawberry Watermelon Popsicles**

Education:

- *Taste* watermelon. Try it fresh and sliced, blended in smoothies, made into popsicles, or added to salsa for a uniquely sweet twist!
- *Count* watermelon seeds. Counting seeds can encourage fine motor skills and connect to mathematical learning lessons in your program.
- *Read* different books themed around watermelon. Examples include *Icy Watermelon* by Mary Sue Galindo, *Chasing Watermelons* by Kevin White, and *One Watermelon Seed* by Celia Barker Lottridge. Find more watermelon-themed book recommendations [here!](#)

Conversation:

- How many pounds do you think a watermelon weighs? What fruits are smaller than watermelons? Have you seen any fruits that are bigger than watermelons?
- Did you know that watermelons grow on a vine? Show your participants watermelons

- growing in the garden or grow them yourselves!
- What was your participant's favorite way to try watermelon? How would they describe the taste of watermelon?

Share your summer Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of watermelon with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at diana.myers@dec.al.ga.gov!



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Leslie Truman, Administrative Assistant*

If you've ever dialed the main phone number for Nutrition Services, most likely the voice on the other end of the phone was **Leslie Truman**. In her role as Administrative Assistant, Leslie is the first point of contact for both providers and the public who want more information about the child and adult nutrition programs that are administered by the department.

Since 2006, Leslie has served as a resource about program operations, provider qualifications and training registrar for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). She enjoys talking to as well as assisting callers who have the passion to feed children, at-risk youth and seniors. She also enjoys helping to connect callers with other resources. She says, "Some call to inquire about our programs and then find out that they qualify for another program; The excitement that I hear in their voices about the new possibilities is very rewarding." In recognition of her commitment to assisting our customers, Leslie was awarded the division's Platinum Service Award in 2019.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, and raised in Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas and Louisville, Kentucky, Leslie attended Eastern Kentucky University and earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts-Musical Theatre. "I've been singing as long as I can remember," she says. "I used to perform in plays and improv, however, I have since retired."

A fun fact about Leslie is that she loves her cat Princess. Since Leslie has been working from home for the last 15 months, Princess has "supurrvised" Leslie from a box in her office. Leslie is also a huge KC Chiefs, Royals and KU fan. She will cheer for the Georgia teams to be polite.

COVID-19 Resources for Sponsors

FAQs: Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding serving meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SFSP: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time for Children During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Nationwide Waivers:

SFSP

For full details on the SFSP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo.

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers Due to COVID-19

For full details, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo, or [click here](#) for a complete list of the Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19.

Area Eligibility

Allows Program operators to locate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements. ****Waiver extended until September 30,**

2021**

Closed Enrolled Eligibility

Under this waiver, for all States, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

First Week Site Visits

FNS waives, for all States, the requirement that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. (2) This waiver applies to State agencies administering and local organizations that have operated the SFSP successfully in the previous year, and SFSP sponsors in good standing that have successfully participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Meal Time Waiver

This waiver allows program operators the flexibility to adjust the times meals and snacks are provided in order to streamline operations. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

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 until September 30, 2021****

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 until September 30, 2021****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsors

For sponsors only - FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.15(d) be conducted on site. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Meal Pattern Flexibilities

The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver expired June 30, 2021****

Important Reminders:

If you were previously approved for a SFSP only waiver, but would like to continue utilizing the waiver in your CACFP operations, please submit a request to utilize the waiver for the CACFP. Similarly, if you were previously approved for a CACFP only waiver but wish to utilize the waiver in your SFSP operations, a SFSP waiver request is required.

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

SFSP Meal Sites throughout Georgia



Georgia's children have access to free, healthy meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Click [here](#) to find a meal site location near you.



Nominations for the Turnip the Beet Award opens Aug 16

Nominations for the Turnip the Beet Award officially opens August 16, 2021!

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. Stay tuned for more details!

October Farm to School Month

Sign Up Today to Receive Access to an Online Toolkit

Are you ready to start livin' la vida okra with us!? The sign-up for this year's October Farm to School Month campaign is now open!

Sign up today to receive access to our online toolkit filled with okra-themed easy activities, standards-based lessons, recipes, and more. The first 300 individuals to sign up can choose to be mailed seeds, washable tattoos, and our school garden planting and harvest calendar.

To find out more and sign up, visit bit.ly/livinlavidakra. #livinlavidakra #farmtoschool @GeorgiaOrganics.



Strategic Plan for Growing Farm to School and Early Care and Education in Georgia

The Georgia Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Coalition (Coalition) and Georgia Farm to School Alliance (Alliance) engaged 53 partner

Read Now!

bit.ly/StrategicPlan2021-2025

organizations including K-12 school staff, ECE professionals, non-profits, health systems, universities, and state agencies (stakeholders) to create the 2021-2025 strategic plans.

In addition to independent strategic plans for each entity, the Coalition and Alliance stakeholders agreed on joint goals and key measures of success to document collective achievement of the plans.

Access the document [here](#).

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
August 16	• Nominations for the Turnip the Beet Award opens
August 18 & 19	• CACFP At-Risk Virtual Orientation & Program Training
August 19	• Webinar: Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in Community Meals Programs
October 1	• Farm to School Month
October 31	• Annual Year End Reconciliation Forms due

NEW DECAL Download *Chat with the Commissioner*

On the next ...

DECAL Download

New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Guest

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner of the Georgia
Department of Early Care and Learning

This Week's Topic:
Chat with the Commissioner

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With a lot happening this week here at DECAL, we thought it would be a perfect time to catch up and have a chat with **Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs**.

We discuss a number of topics including the return of Georgia's Pre-K Program and our return to in person visits to child care programs. Of course, we had planned on returning to our DECAL offices this month, back to five days a week but the rise in COVID cases and the delta variant has changed those plans and the Commissioner gives us an update on that as well.

[Click here to listen.](#)



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

Nutrition Division
Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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