

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



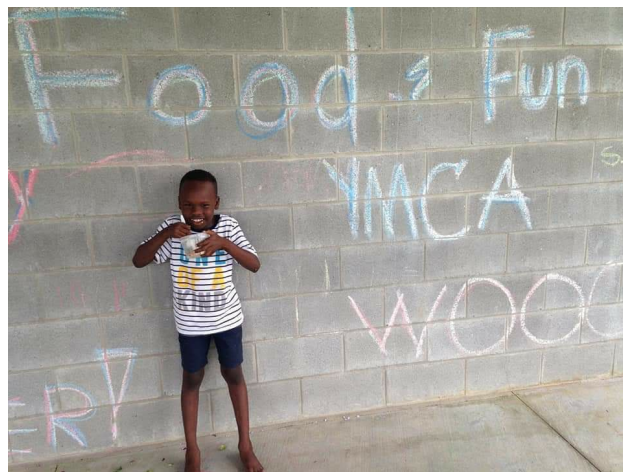
February 9, 2021

SFSP Sponsor Spotlight

North Georgia Community YMCA Eliminates Barriers that Prevent Kids from Accessing Healthy Meals

This month we introduce you to the **North Georgia Community YMCA**, a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsor since 2012 providing healthy meals to kids enrolled in their summer youth development programs.

John Donahoo, the YMCA's Branch Executive Director, manages all operations of the YMCA and SFSP is just one of several resources they provide to their community. "We are serving a low income population because 70% of the schools in our service area are eligible for SFSP. We understand the site eligibility requirements for the program and who is able to be served," said John. The North GA Community YMCA operates 16 meal sites in Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties. During SFSP FY2020, the YMCA served a total of 10,398 meals during emergency feeding and traditional SFSP.



COVID-19 brought challenges for the YMCA. They were especially impacted by the low attendance of children who regularly came to the YMCA for meals. Since school programs were no longer offering activities on a regular schedule, their usual meal prep operation was no longer financially viable. Fortunately, they were able to partner with another local YMCA in their service area. "Meals were prepared in their kitchen and delivered to our community," said John. "This was a major decision that helped make ends meet and worked within our budget," he added.

Public transportation is not available in the counties served by the YMCA, so the SFSP is essential for children who do not have access to nutritious meals when school is out for the summer. Parents and children are grateful to the YMCA for offering meals that focus on a healthy menu and meet USDA guidelines. Aside from nutritious meals, the YMCA also offers games and other physical activities that provide a well-rounded foundation for a healthy future.

Drawing from his 10 years of experience with SFSP, John recommends that sponsors secure back up funding early on for expected and unexpected COVID expenses related to their program. It is also important to maintain communication with each of the meal sites and partners to see how they are doing and if their continued support can be expected. John explains, “you will want to know early as possible if there are changes so you can account for that in your planning.”



Overall, John says that the best part about participating in SFSP is seeing the kids enjoy the program. “Most days, kids come to the picnic table, apartment office, or wherever we are in the community and wait for our staff and volunteers to arrive. That’s how we know what we are doing makes a difference.”

For more information on the North Georgia Community YMCA, please visit their [website](#).

Extending SFSP Operations through June 30, 2021

Pursuant to recent USDA guidance, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are permitted to extend their operations until June 30, 2021. Sponsors that wish to continue serving meals after December 31, 2020, will be required to meet all traditional SFSP requirements.

Approved SFSP Sponsors Extending through June 30, 2021

Sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional FY 2020 SFSP that would like to continue serving meals until June 30, 2021, must complete the following actions to be considered eligible for reimbursable meals:

- Register and participate in the virtual FY2021 SFSP Experienced Sponsor training scheduled on **February 17, 2021** or **March 10, 2021**. Registration opened on **January 11, 2021**. Approved sponsors may continue to serve meals until training sessions are made available. Failure to register and participate in a SFSP Experienced Sponsor training will result in meals no longer being eligible for reimbursement.
- Review and update the FY 2021 application in GA ATLAS, which may include:
 - Review of the entire application
 - Revision of the management plan
 - Submission of the annual budget
 - Review and revision of site applications (e.g., new operating dates, new mealtimes)
 - Submission of annual documents

All hard copy documents must be printed, completed (including signature), scanned and uploaded in GA ATLAS. Once all hard copy documents have been submitted and electronic application sections are completed, please notify your assigned Application Specialist via email of your submission.

Returning Sponsors Operating through June 30, 2021

Experienced Sponsors who did not operate SFSP in FY2020 but would like to serve meals through June 30, 2021, must complete the following actions to be eligible for reimbursable meals:

- Complete an abbreviated viability screening process (Government entities, School Food Authorities and CACFP Sponsors are exempt). Please contact [Demetria Thornton](#) to

- request a viability assessment.
- Sponsors that meet the viability requirements will be required to register and participate in the virtual FY 2021 Experienced SFSP Sponsor Training scheduled on **February 17, 2021** or **March 10, 2021**. Registration opened on **January 11, 2021**.
 - Returning sponsors will be given access to start their applications and serve meals until training sessions are made available. Failure to register for and participate in a SFSP Experienced Sponsor training will result in meals no longer being eligible for reimbursement.
- Enroll in Program Year FY2021*
- Complete Annual Certification Statements*
- Review and update the FY2021 application in GA ATLAS, which may include:
 - Review of the entire application
 - Revision of the management plan
 - Submission of the annual budget
 - Review and revision of site applications
 - Submission of annual documents

All hard copy documents must be printed, completed (including signature), scanned and uploaded in GA ATLAS. Once all hard copy documents have been submitted and electronic applications sections are completed, please notify your assigned Application Specialist via email of your submission.

***Note:** Dual sponsors who have already enrolled in FY2021 CACFP are not required to re-enroll and do not need to complete annual certification statements.

New Organizations Interested in Participating in SFSP

New organizations interested in participating in the SFSP will be required to complete a viability screening assessment.

A complete and accurate viability screening packet must be submitted at least seven business days prior to the last new sponsor training to allow time for review of the submitted information.

Organizations that meet all viability requirements will be registered to attend one of the required two-day trainings for new sponsors scheduled on **March 24-25, April 7-8, or April 28-29, 2021**. Registration opened on **January 11, 2021**.

***Note:** School Food Authorities (SFAs) and government entities are exempt from the Viability, Capability, and Accountability (VCA) Checklist requirement. These organizations can contact **Leslie Truman** at **404-657-1779** to register for new sponsor training.

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

Application Specialists or Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (zero)-G,	Paula.Lawrence@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka.Blount@decal.ga.gov	(404)656-6411
Temika Moore	Q-Z	Temika.Moore@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-1494

Budgeting for SFSP

Pursuant to recent USDA guidance, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are permitted to extend their operations until **June 30, 2021**. Sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional FY 2020 SFSP that would like to continue serving meals until June 30, 2021, must update their institution's budget to include months January - June 30, 2021. If sponsors are certain their institution will continue operations beyond June 30, the sponsor can include the remainder of FY2021 (July - August) SFSP's reimbursement and costs in the budget. Please contact **Shonda Franklin**, Budget Compliance Supervisor with any questions or concerns.

In accordance with the budget guidance provided above, sponsors with food costs exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold of \$250,000 must proceed with formal procurement procedures. Food costs will not be approved in excess of \$250,000 until a contract has been executed. For further instruction on how to complete the formal procurement process, please contact **LaMonika Jones**, Procurement and Purchasing Compliance Officer.

SFSP Reimbursement Rates for Summer 2021

Effective January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Meal Type	Rural or Self Prep	Other Types of Sites
Breakfast	\$2.4625	\$2.4150
Lunch/Supper	\$4.3175	\$4.2500
Snack	\$1.0200	\$0.9975

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

February 15, 2021 - Memo Monday!

This webinar will provide an overview of the following new and/or revised policy memorandums for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

- **SFSP Policy #11 - Audit Reports for Nonprofit Sponsors Participating in the SFSP**
- ***Simplified SFSP and Bright from the Start's Annual Year-End Reconciliation Process - Revised (v.4)*** dated February 7, 2020
- ***Civil Rights Complaint Procedures (v.4)*** dated November 20, 2020
- ***Requirements for Institutions Providing Civil Rights Training to Frontline Staff (v.3)*** dated November 20, 2020

Registration is now open.

Time: 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Registration: Both steps are required

1. Click on **GA ATLAS** to register
2. Click on **GoToWebinar** to register (please remember to complete step 1)

Click here if you need a refresher on how to register for training in GA ATLAS

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Orientation and Program Training

Do you plan to serve summer meals during the FY 2020-2021 program year? If so, please plan to participate in **one (1)** of the upcoming *SFSP Orientation and Program Training* sessions. All sessions will be offered virtually. **Registration opened on January 15, 2021.**

SFSP Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)

- **February 17, 2021**
- **March 10, 2021**

SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)

- **March 24-25, 2021**
 - **April 7-8, 2021**
 - **April 28-29, 2021**
-

In Case You Missed It: Memo Monday!

Memo Monday webinars provide an overview of new and/or revised policy memorandums for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

If you missed our December *Memo Monday*, the recorded webinar link is below and more previously recorded webinars are located on the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage.

Memo December 2020

- [Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit](#) dated 4.17.19
 - [Food Service Permit Inquiry Form](#)
-

It's Never too Early to Start Planning for Summer 2021

Providing summer meals is a year-round effort. At any point throughout the year, there are things you can do to prepare for next summer! Click [here](#) for more information on proactive planning for sponsors.

February

- Sign up for mandatory sponsor training classes.
- Determine which sites are returning, explore new site options, and meet with community partners.
- Plan site staff training, meal production and delivery, and programs and activities.
- Begin exploring the potential for serving mobile meals.
- Continue developing a marketing and outreach campaign.

March/April

- Review sites and ensure you are aware of their locations, operational hours, staff, and dates for monitoring.
 - Think about how meals will be delivered to the sites and how many will be served.
 - Complete pre-operational site visits.
 - Ensure administrative staff are trained.
 - Finish application and renewal forms.
 - Contract with a food service management company, if necessary.
 - Check with DECAL to determine if there are any potential sites lacking sponsors or areas lacking sites and sponsors and consider extending service to those areas.
-

Help Spread the Word: 2021 SFSP Summit

February 16, 2021

Non-profit organizations that are interested in learning more about the Summer Food Service Program are invited to attend the FREE virtual SFSP Summit on Tuesday, February 16.

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fee: FREE

Click [here](#) to register. For more information, contact [Cindy Kicklighter](#).

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Food Service Program

Virtual Summit | FEB. 16, 2021



Updates to DECAL's Nutrition Division Child Health & Wellness Webpage Now Available!

Child Health & Wellness encompasses the whole child as a state of physical, mental, intellectual, social, and emotional well-being. Engage these available resources to improve the way you reinforce child health and wellness in your programs.

The newly updated webpage includes useful resources, knowledge, and information revolved around:

- Nutrition Education
- Meals and Menu Planning
- Farm to Child Nutrition Programs
- CACFP Meal Patterns
- USDA Recipe Box
- Food Safety
- Physical Activity
- Georgia SHAPE

Please click [here](#) to check out all of the available resources.

Waiver to Claim Meals Prior to SFSP Approval *Can SFSP Sponsors claim meals prior to approval?*

The answer is, yes. On September 11, 2020, FNS issued a nationwide waiver to allow state agencies to reimburse Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors for meals served prior to the sponsor receiving notification that the sponsor or site was approved for participation in the program.

[Click here](#) to access the notification. Sponsors who would like to utilize this waiver must update their FY 2021 SFSP site application(s) in [GA ATLAS](#) to reflect changes (e.g., new operating dates, meal times). Once changes are made, Sponsors must complete Attachment Q-Site Update Form, and send the completed form to their assigned Business Operations Specialist. [Click here](#) to access Attachment Q-Site Update Form.

Note: Sponsors are only eligible for reimbursement for meals served. Supporting documentation for all meals served must be maintained on file.

Revised SFSP Policies and Memoranda

DECAL Nutrition Services recently revised important policies and memoranda with respect to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). As a reminder, sponsors are strongly advised to carefully read each policy and memorandum listed below. Further, sponsors are strongly encouraged to frequently refer to such guidance as needed. The policies and memoranda listed below can be found on the DECAL website under their applicable subheading.

Policies

- **Policy No. SFSP/03-5, *Recordkeeping Requirements for All Sponsors and Sponsored Facilities Participating in the SFSP*** This policy was revised to further align with the existing CACFP policy. The revisions add language concerning electronic recordkeeping, recycled milk, closures, and alternate forms.
- **Policy No. SFSP/04-14, *Sponsors Owing Outstanding Debts to the SFSP*** This policy was revised to further clarify the collections process and applicable Program terms.
- **Policy No. SFSP/04-15, *Serious Deficiency Process for Sponsors in the SFSP*** This policy describes the serious deficiency process and procedure for sponsors applying to or participating in the SFSP. The policy was revised to better align with the CACFP policy and clarifies Program terms.

Memoranda

- **Policy Memorandum, *Site Caps in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)*** This memo was updated to clarify that appeal rights are not required to be provided to a sponsoring organization when a site cap is issued during the initial application review or as a result of a review.
- **Policy Memorandum, *Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit (v.5)*** The previous version of the Food Service Permit Inquiry Form mentioned in this memorandum was removed. Instead, a link to the newly revised form is provided within this memo and can also be accessed on DECAL's website.

Link to the SFSP Federal Regulations has Changed!

To ensure that sponsors have access to the most recent version of the applicable Federal regulations (7 CFR 225), a direct link to them was added to our website. To access the regulations, please visit the Nutrition page and click on **SFSP Participant Information**. From there, you will see **Federal Regulations** appear from the drop-down menu.

COVID-19 Waiver Extension Update – *FSMC Contract Duration*

On January 6, 2021, USDA FNS released *COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #71*. This guidance extends the waiver, for all State agencies, school food authorities, and SFSP sponsors the food service management company contracts duration requirements at 7 CFR 210.16(d) and 225.6(h)(7).

This waiver allows food service management company (FSMC) contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2021 and have not been extended for SY2020-2021 to be extended through school year 2021-2022 (June 30, 2022).

To ensure Program integrity during this time, extended FSMC contracts are limited to one-year only. Further, this waiver applies to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program. To access the guidance, please visit the

For questions concerning these updates, please contact the Nutrition Services' Policy Administrator, [Kate Alexander](#).

Updated SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19

New Guidance and Fact Sheets regarding Off-Site Monitoring in Child Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic

On November 13, 2020, USDA issued guidance and fact sheets regarding Program monitoring in the CACFP, SFSP and the National School Lunch Programs. Each correspondence reiterates monitoring requirements as well as flexibilities for State agencies and Program operators as a result of the pandemic. The flexibilities mentioned in the guidance are extended through September 30, 2021. To review copies of the guidance, click [here](#) and see *Nationwide Waivers – Policy Guidance*.

A **Sponsor Monitoring Guide** was created to provide guidance on monitoring during COVID-19, monitoring waiver options, and conducting virtual/desk reviews. Due to the continuation of the Summer Food Service Program operations in FY2021, this guidance has been developed to ensure sponsors are in compliance with SFSP monitoring requirements per 7 CFR 225.15 (d)(2)(3) and to provide additional guidance regarding on-going site monitoring after the first and fourth week visit/review.

Effective January 4, 2021, DECAL recommends that, in addition to the first and fourth week visit/review, all sponsoring organizations conduct on-going quarterly monitoring reviews for all sites in operation in FY2021. Refer to the guidance below:

- [SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [Record Request Checklist Template](#)

The documents can also be found at DECAL's website under COVID-19 Resources>Resources.

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.

Nationwide Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the SFSP

FNS waives the requirement that reimbursement shall not be paid for meals served at a site before the sponsor has received written notification of approval for participation in the Program. ****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2021****

Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP & SSO Operations through June 2021

This waiver allows the SFSP & SSO to continue to operate through June 2021.

****Waiver is effective until June 30, 2021****

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 June 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 June 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 June 30, 2021****

Meal Pattern Flexibilities

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

Meal Times 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 June 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 June 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 June 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****

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.

Waiver requests can be submitted to [Leslie Truman](#). Waiver request forms that were previously approved for both CACFP and SFSP do not need to be re-submitted.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact [Kate Alexander](#).

Procurement News

Reminder

As of January 1, 2021, formal procurement procedures will be required for sponsors who will

be participating in SFSP FY21 through June 30, 2021. Please take this time to review your anticipated food costs. If your food costs will exceed the small purchase threshold of \$250,000, formal procurement procedures will need to be executed.

Suspension and Debarment Certification Requirement

USDA/FNS requires verification that persons with whom child nutrition program providers intend to do business have not been excluded or disqualified when entering into a transaction covered by this section. The certification requirement applies equally for procurement transactions across all Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs.

This verification may be done by:

- Checking the System for Award Management (SAM) or the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS); or
- Collecting a certification from that person; or
- Adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person.

If using the certification method to meet the verification requirements, the [Suspension and Debarment Certification Form AD1048](#) must be used and cannot be deviated from in any way. This form is located on the [Procurement Web Page](#).

Update: Procurement Documentation

Procurement documentation has been updated to reflect the use of the Suspension and Debarment Certification. Please see below.

Revisions have also been made to the Procurement and Purchasing Policy Template to regarding “*Conflict of Interest*” and “*Code of Conduct*.” Please review the revisions and be sure you are utilizing the most current version.

A list of updated documents can be found below as well as on the [Procurement Web Page](#).

- [Agreement to Furnish Food Items \(SFSP\)](#)
- [FSMC Agreement to Furnish Meals \(SFSP\)](#)
- [FSMC Contracted Labor Agreement to Furnish Meals \(SFSP\)-Pay per Meal](#)
- [FSMC Contracted Labor Agreement to Furnish Meals \(SFSP\)-Pay per Staff](#)
- [Procurement and Purchasing Policy Template](#)

Save the Date!

Virtual Vendor Summit

On Thursday, March 25, we will be hosting the first of several Virtual Vendor Summits. This will be an opportunity for program providers to meet and greet with vendors and suppliers servicing both CACFP and SFSP. There will be an opportunity to learn about how they are working to better address program provider's challenges in the midst of COVID-19.

Formal invitations will be sent out soon.

Local Sourcing Spotlight

Beaming about Broccoli

While not a produce item native to or grown here in Georgia, broccoli is often transplanted to Georgia during late winter to spring ensuring harvest prior to summer heat. This winter veggie can also be planted for harvest in late fall.

According to [LocalHarvest.org](#), fall broccoli tends to be sweeter than summer broccoli because cool weather

sweetens its taste. It is also a vegetable that freezes well.

Widely available in Georgia, broccoli can be purchased at your preferred grocery store. If you are in south Georgia, try purchasing from [White Oak Pastures](#) or in the Metro Atlanta area visit and order for local pick up from [Rogers Greens and Roots](#).

For questions regarding procurement, please contact [LaMonika Jones](#), Procurement Compliance Officer.



Nutrition Ed Nook

A Bounty of Broccoli

Broccoli is bountiful this month as our February Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight! Broccoli is a member of the Brassicaceae family, which also includes cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, and radishes. It is a cool season crop that does not fare well in Georgia's summertime heat. Enjoy it prepared in a variety of ways now while it is at its peak nutritional value and in season!

Integration

- [Broccoli Salad](#)
- [Crunchy Hawaiian Chicken Wrap](#)
- [Noodles with Peanut Butter Sauce](#)
- [Chinese Style Vegetables with Tofu](#)

Education

- *Grow* broccoli. Looking to plant broccoli in your garden? We recommend growing broccoli from transplants versus direct seeding for an easier growing practice.
- *Make* a variety of cultural dishes that include broccoli to share various meals from across the world with your participants. Try some of the recipes above in your program!
- *Read* different books themed around broccoli. Examples include *The Boy Who Loved Broccoli* by Sarah A. Creighton and *Monsters Don't Eat Broccoli* by Barbara Jean Hicks. Find more book recommendations [here!](#)



Conversation

- What other green vegetables do your participants enjoy eating?
- Have your participants eaten broccoli before? How do they like it prepared?
- Did you know that broccoli is a flower? Do your participants know the plant parts?

Harvest of the Month Bonus Item: Milk!

Milk is an essential part of Child Nutrition Programs and is the

Harvest of the Month Bonus Item in February! Milk can be locally sourced throughout Georgia. Packed with calcium, vitamin D, potassium, and phosphorous, milk is also a great source of protein. Serve local milk in your meal program to enhance the nutritional benefits of every meal!

Share your winter Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of broccoli and milk with Nutrition Health Educator, [Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD!](#)



Nutrition Division Employee Spotlight

Grushan Blake - Nutrition Training Manager

Meet **Grushan Blake**, Nutrition Training Manager for DECAL's Nutrition Services Division. With over 10 years' experience, Grushan has worked with several different Child Nutrition Programs including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); National School Lunch Program (NSLP); School Breakfast Program (SBP) and The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Born in Enid, Oklahoma, and raised in a small town in South Carolina, Grushan earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Mercer University in Atlanta. After working at the Virginia Department of Health as a Compliance Review Liaison, Grushan re-located to Atlanta to serve in the Technical Assistance Coordinator role at DECAL and then took on the role of Nutrition Training Manager.



In this role, Grushan manages and oversees the activities of the Training and Technical Assistance Unit. The team provides program and specialized training, as well as technical assistance to CACFP/SFSP partners. She says, "I love Child Nutrition Programs. I am a teacher 'at heart,' so I enjoy working with my team to discover and design new ways to provide engaging, user-friendly training material that will help our Child Nutrition partners be successful with program operation."

A fun fact about Grushan is that she loves to travel and she has lived in several states. While in college, she studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina!

Here to Help

Get to know the Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Unit

The goal of the **Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Unit** is to improve performance and better equip new and participating institutions and sponsors by providing practical, user-friendly resources and guidance materials that strengthen internal controls and result in successful, sustainable Program administration and operation.

For upcoming CACFP and SFSP training dates, see the [Training Calendar](#).

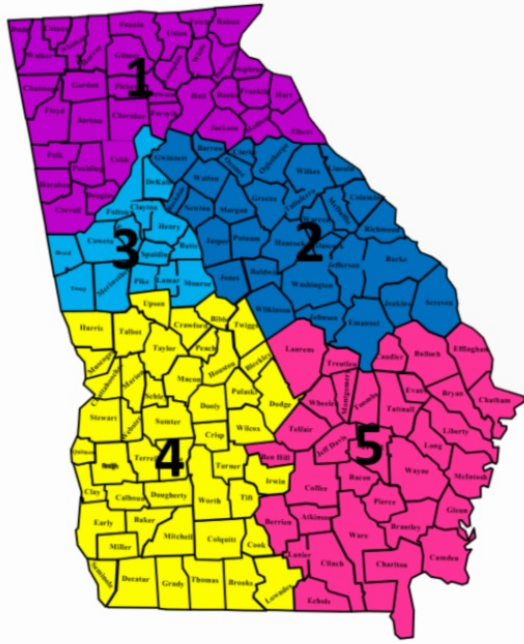
Need Assistance?

Each Technical Assistance Coordinator is responsible for various counties throughout Georgia as shown in the regional map below.

If you are a SFSP Sponsor who needs assistance, the TTA Unit can help with any questions or concerns regarding the overall SFSP program and training. To contact the TTA Unit, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below. You may also email the [NutritionTA Mailbox](mailto:NutritionTA@decals.ga.gov).

For previously recorded webinars or more information about training and other resources, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#).

Regional Map for Technical Assistance (TA) Coordinators



- Region 1 – Nkem Ijeh
- Region 2 – Deidrea Thompson
- Region 3 – Tanya Coleman
- Region 4 – Victoria Thomas
- Region 5 – LaKisha Robinson

Contact Information for Training & TA

Name	Title	Phone	Region
LaKisha Robinson	TA Coordinator	(478) 314 -2806	Southeast
Deidrea Thompson	TA Coordinator	(866) 370 -3203	East
Victoria Thomas	TA Coordinator	(470) 532 -0873	Southwest
Nkem Ijeh	TA Coordinator	(404) 973 -4099	North/NW
Tanya Coleman	TA Coordinator	(470) 373 -7826	Metro West
Sylvia Boykin	Trainer	(404) 463 -2317	
Grushan Blake	Training Manager	(404) 651 -7426	

Contact the TA Team individually or the TA mailbox at NutritionTA@decals.ga.gov

All email addresses are firstname.lastname@decals.ga.gov



SFSP Meal Sites throughout Georgia



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

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



SFSP DATES TO REMEMBER



FEBRUARY 15, 2021	Memo Monday
FEBRUARY 16, 2021	2021 SFSP Virtual Summit
FEBRUARY 17, 2021 / MARCH 10, 2021	SFSP Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)
MARCH 24 - 25, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)
MARCH 25, 2021	Virtual Vendor Spotlight
APRIL 7 - 8, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)
APRIL 28 - 29, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)

NEW DECAL Download *Inclusive Early Learning Week 2021*

Every year in February we celebrate Inclusive Early Learning Week here at DECAL. When child care providers offer inclusive child care, they're supporting not only children with disabilities but also their parents who can work, go back to school, or just

take a break. The research is clear, regardless of their abilities, children in high quality child care programs develop healthy social and emotional skills.

Joining us in this weeks episode to talk about the importance of inclusion in early child care and Inclusive Early Learning week are **Lindsey Urry**, Regional Supervisor of Inclusion and Behavior Support, and Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialists **Roseanne Hamrick** and **Megan McGraw**.

Stay tuned for this week's water cooler question and the DECAL Download Quiz for your chance to win a nice prize!

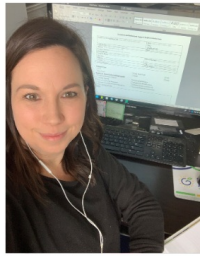
Have an idea for a future topic? [E-mail us](#).

You can find DECAL Download [here](#) or on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Overcast, and more!

On the next ...

DECAL
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This Week's Guests



Lindsey Urry
Regional Supervisor of
Inclusion and Behavior
Support



Megan McGraw
Inclusion and Behavior
Support Specialists



Roseanne Hamrick
Inclusion and Behavior
Support Specialists

This Week's Topic:
**Inclusive Early
Learning Week 2021**



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

Nutrition Division Marketing & Outreach Team

**Cindy Kicklighter
Gaby Garza**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Nondiscrimination Statement: English
Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

FOLLOW US

