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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Federal Cash Reimbursement available to Organizations serving Healthy
Meals & Snacks through the Child & Adult Care Food Program**

Eligible Organizations are encouraged to apply to participate in CACFP.

ATLANTA (October 2023) -- The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) today announced the agency is seeking applications from eligible facilities who are interested in participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Funded by the USDA and administered by DECAL's Nutrition Services Division, the CACFP provides **cash reimbursement** to eligible institutions for serving healthy, affordable meals to children and Adults over 60 years old who are enrolled for care. Approved organizations receive a monthly reimbursement, as determined annually by the USDA, to help cover expenses for meals and snacks.

Organizations that may qualify to participate in CACFP include:

- Child care centers serving meals and snacks to children who are enrolled for care.
- Licensed Family Child Care Learning Centers participating under a sponsoring organization.
- Head Start Programs serving meals and snacks to enrolled children.
- After school care sites providing programming and snacks for low-income school age children and youth.
- Emergency shelters providing temporary residence and food service to children.
- Adult day care centers providing structured, comprehensive services to nonresident adults who are functionally impaired and/or 60 years of age or older.

DECAL's Director of Nutrition Services, Tamika Boone encourages eligible organizations to apply to participate in the nutrition assistance program that helps Georgian's thrive. "CACFP ensures children and older adults have access to foods that support good health and well-being." She added, "CACFP also plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care as well as making it more affordable for many low-income families."

Federal income guidelines determine a participant's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals through the CACFP. Children who receive benefits through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are automatically eligible to receive free meals through the CACFP.

Adults who receive SNAP benefits, FDPIR benefits, or Social Security Income (SSI) or are Medicaid participants are categorically eligible for free meals.

To learn more about participating in the CACFP, contact Cindy Kicklighter at cindy.kicklighter@decalf.ga.gov or call 678-841-3170. To find a CACFP facility or sponsor, visit the DECAL website at <http://www.decalf.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Use the search function (zip code or county) for a list of all local facilities and sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (833) 620-1071, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to:

1. **mail:**
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
1320 Braddock Place, Room 334
Alexandria, VA 22314; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
FNCSIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) 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 and federal nutrition programs, and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system.

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.dec.al.gov.