

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



May 11, 2020

1.2 Million Meals Served to Georgia's Kids in March & April

When schools closed throughout Georgia in response to COVID-19, thousands of children who rely on free or reduced-price meals at school were at risk of going hungry. Fortunately, **40** of DECAL's Summer Food Service Program sponsors stepped in to provide **1.2 million free meals** at more than **453 locations** across the state, to date. This commitment ensures that kids 18 and under are getting the nutrition they need during the pandemic. Here are a few of the highlights from emergency feeding that were submitted by our sponsors:



Violas Gift Inc. served more than 1,400 free meals each day including breakfast and lunch at six different emergency feeding meal sites in Fulton, Cobb, and Fayette

Counties.

Motivated by People Community Foundation

served over 2,800 breakfast and lunch meals each day in Clayton and Fulton Counties.



"DECAL Nutrition Services sends a big "Thank You" to all of our Sponsors for helping to



Second Harvest of South GA

In only 11 days, **Second Harvest of South Georgia** served more than 51,000 meals and snacks to kids at 25 emergency feeding sites in 12 Georgia counties mostly by drive-through mobile pantries. Second Harvest also partnered with Valdosta City, Thomasville City, Thomas County, Berrien County, Baker County, Brooks County, Cook County, and Early County School Systems until they were able to self-sustain.



Second Harvest continues to partner with school systems that are delivering food to bus stops so they can reach children in rural areas of the state. At a bus stop in Valdosta, kids cheered when the bus

delivering free nutritious meals arrived. Notes of appreciation from the children were also presented to the volunteers who

increase access to nutritious food for Georgia's children!"

distributed the food.

COVID-19 Resources for Sponsors & Institutions

Emergency Feeding Sites

An up-to-date list of emergency feeding sites organized by county.

Meals for Kids Interactive Map

This resource directs people to local sites where kids can get free meals. It is available in both English and Spanish.

Nutrition Services Emergency Feeding Vendor Resource List

This resource provides a list of vendors that offer essential supplies including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), food service, disposable food items and more.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has released new Team Nutrition resources that address meal service flexibilities during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency:

Best Practices for Parent Pick Up of Meals and Snacks

Feeding Kids When Schools Are Closed Due to Coronavirus

Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease

FAQs: Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures

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

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.

CACFP

Activity Requirement in At-Risk Afterschool

The requirement that At-Risk afterschool care centers serve afterschool meals and snacks in a structured and supervised environment, with an educational or enrichment activity is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver remains in effect through June 30****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for State Agencies

For State agency only – FNS waives that CACFP monitoring requirements included at Section 17 of the NSLA as well as 7 CFR 226.6(b)(1) and 226.6(m)(6) be conducted onsite. ****Waiver extended through September 30****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsoring Organizations

For sponsors only – CACFP monitoring requirements are waived as follows: (1) sponsors may conduct two reviews of their CACFP facilities; (2) only one CACFP facility review is required to be unannounced; (3) FNS waives that at least one unannounced review must include observation of a meal service; (4) FNS waives the requirement that not more than six months may elapse between reviews; and (5) allows sponsors to review new CACFP facilities as a desk audit. ****Waiver in effect through June 30****

Waiver of Annual Review Requirements for State Agencies

For State agency only - This waives, for all State agencies, CACFP monitoring requirements included at Section 17(d)(2)(C) of the NSLA and regulations at 7 CFR 226.6(m)(6) and 226.6(m)(6)(i) through (ii). ****Waiver in effect until September 30****

SFSP

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 in effect through June 30****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for State agencies SFSP

For State agency only – FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.7(d)(2)(ii) be conducted onsite. ****Waiver in effect through June 30****

FSMC Contract Waiver During SFSP

For SFSP FSMCs only - Waiver allows Sponsors utilizing Food Service Management Companies to enter into a one-year noncompetitive procurement contract during SFSP FY20. ****Waiver is effective immediately until September 30.****

CACFP & SFSP

Meal Pattern Flexibilities

The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended until May 31****

Meal Times Waiver

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

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 remains in effect through June 30****

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 in effect through June 30****

(60) Day Reporting Requirements for January & February 2020 Claims

The requirement to submit claims for reimbursement no more than 60 days after the last day of the month has been waived for claims covering operations during the months of January and February 2020. ****Deadlines for these two claims months are extended for 30 calendar days from their original required date of submission.****

SFSP Applications Due July 1

Take Action Now to Prepare for the SFSP Summer Season

SFSP sponsors are permitted to operate under unanticipated school closures (i.e., emergency feeding) until June 30, 2020. Sponsors who wish to continue serving meals after June 30, 2020, must apply through traditional SFSP and will be required to meet all traditional SFSP requirements.

Please see the list of action items listed below to ensure your organization is prepared for the summer season:

- Complete Annual Certification Statements

- Review and update the FY2020 Application, which may include: Review of entire application Revision to Management Plan Submission of annual budget Review and revision of site applications
- Submission of annual documents

*Note: Dual sponsors who have already enrolled in FY2020 CACFP are not required to re-enroll and do not need to complete annual certification statements.

The application deadline for the traditional SFSP has been extended until **July 1, 2020**.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your applications specialist.

Budgeting Tips for Sponsors

SFSP Pre-Award Requests along with supporting documentation should be submitted to the Budget Compliance Supervisor, [Shonda Franklin](#) for approval.

SFSP Advance Requests should be submitted through the Advance Request Link on the Sponsor's homepage in ATLAS located under additional forms. Please note: The requested advance month must have ten (10) or more operational days.

Did you Miss a Training & TA Webinar? Watch the Recording!

Recordings of the latest webinars offered by the Training and Technical Assistance Unit are now available on decals.ga.gov.

Click on the links below for instant access:

- [April Memo Monday Webinar Recording](#)
 1. Simplified SFSP and Bright from the Start's Annual Year-End Reconciliation Process – Revised (v.3)
 2. Offer Versus Serve Guidance for SFAs Participating in the CACFP and the SFSP
 3. Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Summer Meal Sites Experiencing Excessive Heat, with Questions and Answers.
 - [SFSP Budget Readiness Webinar Recording](#)
 - [SFSP Procurement Readiness Webinar Recording](#)
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Expanding Meal Sites to Feed More Children

There are more than 500,000 low-income children in Georgia, who do not have access to summer meals, even though, they depend on lunch and breakfast served at school, during most of the year.

If your organization has the capacity to expand the number of meal sites this summer, focus on areas where you see the greatest potential impact on childhood hunger. A data-driven approach to expansion can help to ensure your summer meal programs reach the right populations and that your resources are placed where they are needed most.

Expanding in areas open to productive collaboration and new partnerships can strengthen your impact and enhance program sustainability. Always work to maintain the integrity of your program when expanding.

Please let us know if your organization has an interest in expanding the number of meal sites this summer. Please email [Cindy Kicklighter](#).

Procurement

Register today for the Virtual Vendor Summit set for Tuesday, May 12

Learn how Local Vendors and Suppliers can help with meal purchase challenges.

2020 Virtual Vendor Summit: Tuesday, May 12 from 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m .

The Virtual Vendor Summit is an opportunity for CACFP and SFSP providers to hear from vendors and suppliers about how they can assist with mitigating challenges faced when purchasing meals. This is also an opportunity for both providers and vendors to learn about USDA meal waivers and flexibilities as well as healthy and creative ways to incorporate local foods into meal options.

[Click here](#) to register today!

Procurement Masterclass: Understanding the Competitive Bid Process

Have you been seeking an in-depth understanding the Competitive Bid Process? The latest Procurement Masterclass – “How to master the Competitive Bidding Process” is now available. Please visit the [DECAL Nutrition Services Procurement Page](#) for more details.

Bid Templates

As you prepare for the Summer Food Service Program, please be sure to utilize the updated State Agency approved Invitation for Bid templates for both Food Service Management Companies and Food Item Vendors. Links to both documents have been posted below.

[SFSP - Invitation for Bid \(FSMC\)](#)

[SFSP – Invitation for Bid \(Food Vendor Company\)](#)

Procurement Tips and Hints:

Is it safe to purchase local foods during the current public emergency?

Many people are asking whether it's safe to visit farmer's markets, purchase produce or buy local foods from your favorite farmer, grower, etc. during these unprecedented times. While there is no known transmission of the novel coronavirus to food and/or food packaging, farmers and farmers markets are taking the proper precautions to prevent transmission by allowing program providers to place orders online for pick up.

The current opportunity makes for the perfect time to try supporting your local community supported agriculture (CSA) organization. This subscription-based program will deliver Georgia grown and harvested produce to your location each month. To locate CSA opportunities in your area, you can visit www.localharvest.org.

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

Local Sourcing Spotlight: Strawberries are IN!

Springtime in Georgia means one thing... STRAWBERRY SEASON! One of the first fruits ready to be harvested in spring, strawberries are high in Vitamin C and manganese. Strawberries are often readily available at small family farms with many



“pick your own” opportunities available.

Where to buy?

Strawberry season makes for the perfect time to order from your favorite local farmer. **Jaemor Farms** in Alto, GA is one of the most recognized strawberry growers in Georgia. Consider purchasing fresh strawberries from either one of Jaemor Farms' Markets in Alto or Commerce, Georgia.

Nutrition Nook: It's Strawberry Season

Strawberries are sweet and ripe for the eating as we enter strawberry season. These uncertain times come with an importance to **support** local communities while social distancing – and that includes **local farmers**. Consider supporting your local farmer today by purchasing strawberries for your meal service. Enjoy!



Nutritional Benefits

- High in fiber
- High in vitamin C and folate
- Fat, sodium, and cholesterol free

Selecting & Storing

- Look for bright green caps
- Choose firm, bright red strawberries
- Avoid shriveled, soft, or slimy strawberries

Menu Inclusion

- Include strawberries in a smoothie
- Top a green salad with sliced strawberries
- Serve strawberries on top of yogurt and granola
- Serve a snack of strawberries and whole-grain crackers

Recipes

- [Fruit Salsa](#)
- [Fun Fruit Breakfast Pizza](#)
- [Strawberry Cucumber Salad](#)

NEW Episode of DECAL Download

Georgia's STABLE Payments & CAPS Essential Services Workforce Priority Group

Last Friday was a big day in our efforts to help Georgia child care providers and families respond to the impact of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Beginning May 1, all licensed

On the next ...

DECAL
Download 
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Guests



Elisabetta Kasfir



Woody Dover

This Week's Topic:
Georgia's STABLE payments and
the expansion of CAPS Essential Services Workforce
Priority Group.

Georgia child care providers are invited to apply for STABLE payments. These payments represent the first phase of administering \$144 million Georgia received under the federal CARES Act. Also on Friday, we opened up Tier Two of the CAPS Essential Services Workforce to include those who work within the food supply chain like grocery stores, farming, and food delivery and pick-up.

Joining us on the next DECAL Download to talk about STABLE payments and the CAPS Essential Services Workforce is **Elisabetta Kasfir**, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's CAPS Program, and **Woody Dover**, Enterprise Project Management Director here at DECAL.

Have an idea for a future topic? E-mail us at decaldownload@decalf.ga.gov.

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

Nutrition Division **Marketing & Outreach Team**

Cindy Kicklighter
Molly Heinlein

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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