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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia's Child and Adult Care Food Program Available to Eligible and Approved Facilities

Child Care, Adult Care, Head Start, Emergency Shelters among Participants

Atlanta, Ga., (December 2, 2014) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking eligible child and adult care facilities to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The CACFP is a federally-funded U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition program available to child care centers, adult day care centers, Head Start programs, emergency shelters and before- and after-school programs. Through the program, approved facilities are reimbursed for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults in care.

The CACFP uses federal income guidelines to determine each participant's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals in the program. Children who receive benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) units, 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 who receive Social Security Income (SSI) or are Medicaid participants are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

Approved or exempt institutions that offer a structured after school program may be eligible to participate in the At-Risk/Afterschool component of the CACFP. This component provides reimbursements to institutions that serve an after school snack and/or supper meal to children up to 18 years old in a structured environment after school hours. The after school program must be located in a low-income area where 50% or more of the children at the nearest school receive free or reduced-price meals.

Falita Flowers, DECAL's Director of Nutrition Services, stressed the need for more approved organizations to participate in the CACFP. "Nutritious meals are essential to the overall health

and wellness of Georgia’s children and seniors. DECAL is continuously looking for eligible & qualified institutions to provide more children and adults access to healthy meals.”

To learn more about participating in the CACFP, an organization should contact Shani Drake at shani.drake@decalfga.gov or 404-656-3221. To find a CACFP facility or sponsor, visit the DECAL website at <http://www.decalfga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Use the search function (zip code or county) to find a list of all local facilities and sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

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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 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.decalfga.gov.