



March 12, 2025

Greetings Child and Adult Food Care Program Operators,

We are excited to announce the launch of *The S Initiative for Local Procurement*, a new program by the Georgia Department of Early Learning and Care (DECAL) aimed at enhancing local procurement in Child Nutrition Programs. Our goal is to ensure that Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) participants have regular access to nutritious foods while supporting local producers.

About The S Initiative for Local Procurement:

This initiative will support new and expanding Farm to Early Care and Education (Farm to ECE) projects in Georgia through funding (if chosen), technical assistance, and the creation of a Professional Learning Community. This network will bring together ECE providers and community partners to learn and grow together.

Program Highlights:

- **Funding and Support:** We will select **five funded** and **ten non-funded** CACFP Operators to participate. These operators will receive extensive support through workshops, mentorship, and technical assistance in areas such as procurement, food production, and menu planning.
- **Local Producer Involvement:** Local producers will be recruited to join the process, helping to create a robust and sustainable local food system.
- **Two Tracks:**
 - 5 S Initiative for Local Procurement (without funding)
 - 6 S Initiative for Local Procurement (with funding)

Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for the Five S (non-funded) or Six S (funded) Initiative for Local Procurement from April 2025 through April 2026, the CACFP Operator must:

- Be one of the following CACFP operating organizations: Sponsors, Child Care Learning Center, Family Child Care Learning Homes, or Head Start.
- Must not receive a Serious Deficiency
- Complete all aspects of the S Initiative for Local Procurement including training sessions, documentation of goals, reporting of expenditures, saving of invoices and receipts.
- Comply with all relevant regulations.
- Attend virtual orientation on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 1:00-2:00 pm.
- Attend the Participatory Meetings and reporting sessions.

- Continue to provide local procurement sustainability feedback.

Application Process:

Applications open on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, and must be submitted by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 9, 2025**.

For assistance with the application or any questions, join our Technical Assistance session every Thursday from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm during the application submission period.

[Register here](#) to attend.

To begin your application, [click here](#)

We are committed to supporting Farm to ECE efforts in a wide variety of settings. We look forward to your participation in this exciting initiative!

Best regards,
Nutrition Services Division

Together, we can help feed Georgia's Children & Adults.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

[Nondiscrimination Statement: English](#)

[Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish](#)



Bright from the Start:GA Dept of Early Care & Learning | 2 MLK Jr. Drive | Atlanta, GA 30334
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!