



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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Governor

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Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GA DECAL seeks Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Homes, Head Start, After School Sites, Emergency Shelters and Adult Day Care Centers to participate in the Child and Family Care Food Program (CACFP). Federal Cash Reimbursement available to Organizations serving Healthy Meals & Snacks through the CACFP

ATLANTA (March 2026) – The 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 (USDA) nutrition program available to child care centers, family child care homes, adult day care centers, Head Start programs, emergency shelters and afterschool programs. The program reimburses approved facilities for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults in care.

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.

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. "For many child and adult care providers, the rising costs of fresh ingredients can be a significant barrier in providing high-quality meals. The CACFP provides federal reimbursement and professional training needed to serve nutritious meals and snacks without compromising the organization's budget. It allows providers to focus on what they do best—caring for their participants—while knowing their food program is financially supported and nutritionally sound."

The Nutrition Services Division is committed to ensuring eligible children and adults have access to nutritious meals and snacks through the CACFP. Child Care Aware of America's CACFP Participation in Georgia interactive map illustrates participation in CACFP across the state and highlights communities that could be considered for CACFP recruitment and expansion. Click [here](#) to view the Georgia map.

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, email CACFP.Nutrition@dec.al.ga.gov or call 404.657.1779. To find a CACFP facility or sponsor, visit the DECAL website at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>.

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, audiotape, 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:** FNSCIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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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.ga.gov.