



Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Media Contact: Reg Griffin
404-656-0239
reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov

**GA DECAL Celebrates Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week in Georgia
March 10-16, 2024**

More than 64 million meals and snacks served to Georgia's children and adults through CACFP

ATLANTA, GA (March 12, 2024) The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) joins the [National CACFP Sponsors Association](#) and other partners in celebration of National Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week, March 10-16, 2024. This week is dedicated to raising awareness about the important role this program plays in combatting hunger and bringing healthy foods to children in child care homes, centers and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care programs throughout Georgia.

“The CACFP helps improve and to maintain the health and nutritional status of participants, while promoting the development of good-eating habits,” said Tamika Boone, director of Nutrition Services. “Last year, more than 64 million meals and snacks were served to children and adults enrolled at 3,296 facilities across the state.”

During CACFP Week, DECAL recognized a different theme each day to help spread awareness in classrooms and throughout the community:

- **March 11: Monday's CACFP Week theme is C for Community & Food Access** The CACFP Community ensures that children and senior adults have access to healthy foods and nutrition education.
- **March 12: Tuesday's CACFP Week theme is A for Adults** CACFP meals give adults the nutrition they need as a routine part of their day care program. CACFP reimbursements help to lower the cost of serving meals at centers that provide adult day care services to meet the needs of functionally impaired adults.
- **March 13: Wednesday's CACFP Week theme is C for Children** The CACFP provides children with healthy and nutritious meals. Fun activities and resources were offered to help educate children and parents about the CACFP.
- **March 14: Thursday's CACFP Week theme is F for Farm to Early Care and Education** Farm to Early Care & Education encourages healthy choices through hands-on cooking and gardening education, while improving access to healthy food at home and in the community. The USDA encourages incorporating seasonal and locally produced foods into CACFP meals.

- **March 15: Friday's CACFP Week theme is P for Physical Activity**
CACFP providers are encouraged to integrate physical activity into their organization. Physical activity contributes to both children and adults' development, ability to focus, and physical and mental health.
- Other highlights of the week included Governor Brian Kemp recognizing CACFP Week in Georgia with a [proclamation](#), and a center site visit that included a book reading and Very Berry Taste Test with children enrolled at White Oak Learning Academy in Cumming.

What CACFP Does

- The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides federal reimbursements to organizations that provide nutritious meals and snacks for children at child care centers, family day care homes and afterschool programs as well as to adults enrolled in non-residential day care centers.
- The healthy food provided by CACFP makes a substantial contribution towards meeting the nutritional needs of children in child care, particularly children from households with low incomes as well as adults who are functionally impaired or aged 60 and older.
- By paying for nutritious meals and snacks for eligible children enrolled at participating child care centers, family child care homes, and afterschool programs, CACFP plays an important role in improving the quality of child care programs and in making them more affordable for parents with low incomes.

Eligible child and adult care facilities include Licensed child care centers, Head Start programs, Public and Non-public schools, Afterschool care programs, Emergency shelters providing residential and food services to homeless children, Family child care homes and adult day care service programs.

For more information about CACFP in Georgia, contact Cindy Kicklighter at Cindy.Kicklighter@decalf.ga.gov

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), disability, age, 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 responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or 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, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, 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 USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

###

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 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.state.ga.us.
