



August 16, 2024

## **FY 2025 CACFP Annual Renewal Requirements Deadline Extended to October 15**

Participating CACFP Sponsors and Institutions are required to meet annual renewal requirements by October 15, 2024. The Nutrition Division opened registration for the required annual training on July 24, 2024, and opened enrollment for the application renewal on August 1, 2024.

### **Step 1: Complete Annual Training Requirements**

Registration for the CACFP Annual Training requirements opened on July 24.

These requirements include:

- Reviewing the CACFP 2025 Annual Training presentation in GA ATLAS
- Completing the CACFP 2025 Annual Training Test Assessment in GA ATLAS

Once the annual training assessment has been completed and submitted, you will receive access to the FY 2024-2025 CACFP application.

### **Step 2: Enroll in FY 2025**

Upon completion of the Annual Training and Assessment, the CACFP application for the associated program year will change the institution or sponsor's status to "Not Enrolled" and the "Enroll" button will be available.

- Enroll into FY 2025

### **Step 3: Submit your FY 2025 Application on or before October 15, 2024.**

Original or Annual Budgets and Budget Amendments must also be submitted on or before October 15, 2024.

*Failure to complete the annual requirements by the specified deadline date will impact continued participation in the CACFP, which includes submission of monthly claims for reimbursement.*

DATE	Task
July 24	Registration Opened for required 2024 CACFP Annual Training
August 1	Enrollment Opened for FY 2025 Upon completion of Annual Training and Assessment, Sponsors & Institutions may enroll in FY 2025
September 15	Deadline to submit any additional changes to the FY 2024 Application  Any FY 2024 changes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• updates to the application</li> <li>• management plan and budget</li> <li>• the addition/termination of centers/homes</li> </ul> <b>MUST be completed in GA ATLAS by September 15, 2024, to allow time for review and processing.</b>
October 15	Deadline to complete 2025 CACFP Annual Training and Assessment Deadline to submit 2025 CACFP Application Deadline to submit original or annual budget and budget amendments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Application Specialist:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Jerald Savage	o (zero)-G	<a href="mailto:Jerald.Savage@decal.ga.gov">Jerald.Savage@decal.ga.gov</a>	(770) 405-7916
Shericka Blount	H-P	<a href="mailto:Shericka.Blount@decal.ga.gov">Shericka.Blount@decal.ga.gov</a>	(404)656-6411
Vanessa Goodman	Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Vanessa.Goodman@decal.ga.gov">Vanessa.Goodman@decal.ga.gov</a>	(404)591-6027

61

## Is Your Institution Required To Submit An Annual Budget?

Original or Annual Budgets and Budget Amendments must be submitted on or before October 15, 2024. At a minimum, annual budgets are required when:

- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2024 intends to use FY 2025 reimbursement funds for new operating and/or administrative costs that require prior approval, specific prior written approval, or formal procurement.
- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2024 with approved costs and the same costs in FY 2025, but new supporting documentation must be submitted for review and approval (e.g., lease agreements for center space, equipment rental, etc.).
- All Administrative, Center and DCH sponsoring organizations must submit an annual budget.

Please follow links below for budget related tools and references:

[Budget Guidance Manual](#)  
[Budget Checklist](#)  
[Budget Allocation Worksheet](#)

For budget questions or concerns, please contact Gwendolyn Howard, Budget Compliance Supervisor, at 404.651.7191 or email [Nutritionbudget@decal.ga.gov](mailto:Nutritionbudget@decal.ga.gov)

## Updated Application Team Assignments

The Application Services team announces some recent staff changes that have resulted in new institution assignments for CACFP

## Sponsors and Institutions.



We are pleased to welcome our new team member, Joveta Watson (pictured top left). Joveta is joining our team as a Business Operations Specialist, and she brings a wealth of experience in customer service and determining program eligibility.



Additionally, we are ecstatic to announce the promotion of Vanessa Goodman (pictured lower left) from Business Operations Specialist to Application Specialist. Her hard work and dedication as a Business Operations Specialist has prepared her for her new role.

Please see the updated application assignments below:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Jerald Savage	o (zero)-G	<a href="mailto:Jerald.Savage@dec.al.ga.gov">Jerald.Savage@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(770) 405-7916
Shericka Blount	H-P	<a href="mailto:Shericka.Blount@dec.al.ga.gov">Shericka.Blount@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404)656-6411
Vanessa Goodman	Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Vanessa.Goodman@dec.al.ga.gov">Vanessa.Goodman@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404)591-6027



Business Operations Representative	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Lavesia Ervin	o (zero)-C, H-P	<a href="mailto:Lavesia.Ervin@dec.al.ga.gov">Lavesia.Ervin@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404) 293-5258
Joveta Watson	D-G, Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Joveta.Watson@dec.al.ga.gov">Joveta.Watson@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(706)434-6831

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## At-Risk Afterschool Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closures

On August 5, 2024, DECAL was approved by USDA to grant CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meal Component facilities waivers for the following:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Meal Service Times
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up
- At-Risk Enrichment Activities

These waivers can only be utilized during unanticipated school closures resulting from natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes or when approved by DECAL for similar unanticipated causes.

DECAL cannot approve a waiver for more than 10 consecutive operating days without approval from Food Nutrition Services (FNS). You may access the USDA's approval [here](#).

CACFP institutions that are approved to operate the At-Risk Afterschool Meal Component and are interested in applying for these waivers during unanticipated school closures must submit waiver requests via the Waiver Module in GA ATLAS.

Once institutions have submitted waiver requests, institutions should email [Tammie](#)

## Get Informed: Upcoming Training Dates

### August 27, 2024 – CACFP Monitoring Forms Training (Sponsors Only) 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Are you having challenges completing the monitoring form? Do you need guidance on requirements and helpful completion tips? Join this webinar to learn:

- the purpose of monitoring,
- how to complete the five (5) day reconciliation process,
- accurate completion tips on the monitoring tool, and
- how to develop a corrective action plan for non-compliances identified during monitoring.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

### September 5, 2024 - Sabor y Cultura: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

**2:00-2:30 p.m.**

Hosted by the **National CACFP Sponsor Association**

National Hispanic Heritage Month, recognized September 15th - October 15th, is a wonderful time to learn more about the rich history and diversity of the Hispanic and Latino communities. Celebrate by discovering new recipes, learning the history behind beloved dishes, and engaging in fun, educational activities.

*Earn 0.5 CEU for attending the Zoom webinar.*

[\[Register Now\]](#)

### September 10, 2024 – Tuesday Tip! Choose Yogurts in the CACFP That Are Lower in Added Sugars

**1:30 - 2:00 pm**

Do you need a 30-minute meal pattern refresher on yogurt? Join this webinar to learn CACFP requirements for serving yogurt that contains no more than twenty-three [23] grams of sugar per six [6] ounces.

***Participants can earn one half [0.5] state-approved hour for attending this training in its entirety.***

[\[Register Now\]](#)

Registration for DECAL Nutrition Training is a two-step process:

**Step 1:** After registering in GA ATLAS, you will receive a Training Confirmation email immediately from Georgia DECAL Help Desk [helpdesk@cnpus.com](mailto:helpdesk@cnpus.com) with a registration link to attend the webinar. If you don't receive an email, please check your spam/junk folder.

**Step 2:** You must register for the link provided in the training confirmation email. If you should have an issue with registering, please contact Leslie Truman prior to the day of training.

Please note: Only the Program Contact (PC) can self register within GA ATLAS. If an additional person will be attending, please contact Leslie Truman at 404.657.1779.

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### In Case You Missed It: Webinar Recordings Now Available!

If you missed a webinar, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's training highlight is the **Tuesday Tip! Serving**



### Meal Pattern Minute **New!**

The **National CACFP Sponsor Association** has developed quick CACFP meal pattern tips, recipes, resources, and videos. View the videos of the following meal pattern minute tips below.

- **Fruit & Milk Smoothie at Breakfast**
- **Ounce Equivalency for Meat **New!****
- **Almond Milk as a Milk Substitute **New!****
- **Serving Nuts & Seeds **New!****
- **Home-Canned Fruits and Vegetables **New!****

### Snack Attack **New Recipes!**

The **National CACFP Sponsor Association** has shared snack options for program operators that are #CACFPCreditable.

- Banana bread and apple juice
- Fish-shaped crackers and blackberries
- Cherry tomatoes and mozzarella
- Soft pretzel and cantaloupe
- Corn salsa and wheat crackers

### Nutrition Courses in ECE

**Nemours Children's Health** has developed interactive courses for ECE professionals to explore the role of nutrition in early childhood development.

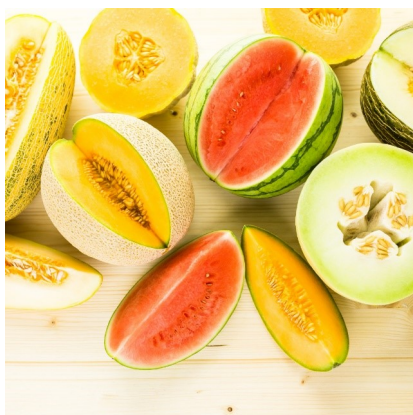
- **Nourishing Health Eaters**
- **Nourishing Preschoolers**

### Healthy Snack Ideas

The **Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)** has developed Mealtimes Memos and the June issue explores practices to incorporate nutritious, fun, and creative snacks into menus. [[June Mealtimes Memo](#)]

### Recipe Standardization Guide for the CACFP

The **Institute of Child Nutrition** has developed a “how-to” guide that describes recipe standardization techniques and includes examples, practice exercises, and reference materials for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators. [[Get the Guide](#)]



## Nutrition Ed Nook

### *Juicy, Sweet Melons*

Melons are August's Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight! Melons are a summertime delight - sweet and juicy fruits - whether freshly picked or cooled in the refrigerator.

There are different varieties of melons that grow around the world, including the gourd-like bitter melon from India and the sweet canary melon grown in Asia and Africa. Watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew are the most

eaten melon varieties in the U.S. Examples of other melons include Canary, Charentais, Crenshaw and Galia.

Melons are among the most hydrating fruits around, with varieties like cantaloupe and watermelon containing 90% water. Melons are also a great source of antioxidants, such as beta-carotene in cantaloupe and lycopene in watermelon. In addition, melons support immune and skin health with high vitamin C and water content. Melons are versatile as an

ingredient in salads, salsas, side dishes, entrees, and drinks.

Melon season in Georgia is between May and October. The peak harvest season, when these fruits have the best flavor and are usually more affordable, is from late May through mid-July.

**Fun Fact:** The University of Georgia's 2024 Ag Snapshot lists Georgia as second in the nation for both cantaloupe production and watermelon production.

### Integration:

- **Melon and Mint**
- **Melon Salsa**
- **Cantaloupe Cooler**
- **Fruit Slush**
- **Cantaloupe Melon Kabobs**
- **Watermelon Cooler**

### Education:

- **Watch** the **Harvest with Holly** video that explores the Harvest of the Month spotlight, how these items grow, where they grow in Georgia, and how they get from the farms to school meals all across the state of Georgia.
- **Compare & Contrast:** Make a list of similarities and a list of differences between two different melons. Are there more similarities or differences?
- **Read 'The Watermelon Seed' by Greg Pizzoli Koller.** In this award-winning book for kids, the crocodile has a problem: he loves watermelon, but he's afraid of what will happen if he eats one of the seeds—there's only one way to find out!
- **Talk** with families about how children can help with meal preparation such as using a plastic knife or cookie cutter to cut melons into cubes or fun shapes.
- **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate melons into their meals!

### Conversation:

- What varieties of melons have your program children eaten before?
- What is their favorite type of melon to eat?
- What new melon would your program children like to try?

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of melons with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCHc at [morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov](mailto:morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov)

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## Physical Activity Corner

### *Family Engagement Through Physical Activity*

Family engagement during the earliest years of a child's life is one of the most powerful factors of a child's growth development.

The positive outcomes of engaging parents, staff, and caregivers increases the support for children's learning at home, empowers parents, and improves family well-being. According to the CDC, family engagement in relation to physical activity in childcare settings and schools work together to increase physical activity opportunities outside of a child's learning environment.

Family engagement improves cognitive development and academic performance, better social-emotional development, and improved health. Their families are children's first teachers, and it is the quality of parent-child relationship and interactions that create the foundational skills that children need at home, in school and their community.

## Family Engagement & Physical Activity Ideas & Tips for Families:

- Have a Family Picnic. Social interactions boost children's cognitive and communication abilities. Have a family picnic in the backyard of your home, outside on the lawn, or at a nearby park. Consider bringing a blanket, basket, toss and catch, kickball, running, etc. to get active!
- Plan a day outdoors. As a family, schedule a time each day for an outdoor activity with your children. Hike a local nature trail/park or ride a bicycle path.
- Choose toys appropriately and wisely. Give children toys that encourage physical activity, such as balls, hopscotch, hula hoops, and jump ropes. Choose the Do it Yourself (DIY) materials on active play indoors and outdoors.
- Limit Screen Time. As per the CDC, one to two hours of screen time a day should be the limit for children. As a family, set boundaries, keep the television and electronics out of the child's bedroom and limit computer usage to school projects.
- Gardening. Caring for the plants gives the children a reason to get outside each day. Learning how to grow a garden teaches us about the origins of our food and encourages healthy eating and active living habits.



Engaging families as partners early in the physical activity space allows parents to establish strong home-school and community connections that support their children's growth and development in the long-term. It is an essential component of high-quality early care and education. Let Us Keep Family Engagement Moving!

## Integration:

- [Bright From the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning – Family Engagement and Resources](#)
- [CDC – Involve Families in Physical Activities in Schools](#)
- [Strengthening Families Georgia](#)
- [CDC – Parent Engagement \(Strategies for Involving Parents in School Health](#)
- [Strong4Life – Outdoor Activities for Children](#)

## Education:

- **Read aloud, ‘We’re Better Together’ by Eileen Spinelli.**
1. **Watch** the video on Watch the video on Family Engagement: “Molly Wright: How Every Child Can Thrive By Five” by TED Talk.
    - 
    - Family Engagement: “Molly Wright: How Every Child Can Thrive By Five.”| by TED Talk.
    - **Talk** with families about ways to bring family together and to promote physical activity on family engagement all year round, whether at home, outside, in their local community, at your childcare site, or at their local community recreational areas.
    - **Bonus:** Share #FamilyEngagement, #InstaFitness, #MoveYourWay #OutdoorFamilyActivities, #ActiveIndoors pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

## Conversation:

- What physical activities are good for family engagement?
- How do you encourage families to engage in physical activity (indoor/outdoor)?
- Why is family engagement important in children?
- How does family impact physical activity?

Share your #FamilyEngagement, #InstaFitness, #OutdoorFamilyActivities, #MoveYourWay #ActiveIndoor, stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren, MPH at [tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov](mailto:tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov).

## Are You Ready to ParSLAY the Day?

*Get Kids Eating, Growing & Learning about Parsley*



Each year, Georgia Organics coordinates a statewide campaign to get kids eating, growing, and learning about a locally grown fruit or vegetable during October Farm to School Month. This year's campaign will be celebrating **ParSLAY the Day!**

To participate in *ParSLAY the Day* at your school, home, early care center, or in your community, visit [bit.ly/parslaythedaysignup](http://bit.ly/parslaythedaysignup) to register. Participants will receive access to a free electronic toolkit filled with parsley-themed activities, standards-based lesson plans, fact sheets, recipes,

school nutrition resources, and more!

Share your *ParSLAY the Day* pictures and activities on social media with #parslaytheday. Each week during October, anyone who has used this hashtag will be entered to win a prize and at the end of the month there will be a grand prize winner.

Questions? Visit the [October Farm to School Month FAQ page](#) or email [yaza@georgiaorganics.org](mailto:yaza@georgiaorganics.org).

## Nourishing Healthy Eaters

*Interactive, Online Courses by Nemours Children's Health*

As a child care professional, you work to ensure healthy development for those in your care. Making sure they eat nutritious foods and build healthy habits is a crucial part of their development. Nemours Children's Health have an interactive course to help you learn how to nourish healthy eaters – they even have a course focused on preschool-aged children.



**Nourishing Healthy Eaters** and **Nourishing Preschoolers** are interactive, online courses for child care professionals (Head Start and Early Head Start teachers, family child care providers, child care providers) to explore the role of nutrition in early childhood development and deepen their understanding of how children learn to become healthy eaters.





## Eat Healthy and Live Active

### Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 24-25 Calendar

Harvest of the Month (HOTM) is the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program's farm to school initiative that highlights an item each month that can be sourced locally and served in Georgia's school meals.

DECAL's Harvest of the Month calendar aligns with the Georgia Department of Education's Harvest of the Month initiative and was created in partnership with Quality Care for Children, Georgia Organics, Georgia SNAP-Ed, and the Farm to Early Care & Education (ECE) Coalition for ECE settings.

Visit the Georgia Department of Education's HOTM [webpage](#) and Quality Care for Children [webpage](#). Upon viewing, you can find tips and tricks for preparing produce items, curriculum connections, activity lists and book alignment for your early care classrooms.

## CACFP Resources:

*The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:*

- [CACFP Learning Collaborative Launches FARMWISE](#)
- [Updated Procurement Forms to include Civil Rights Assurance Statement](#)
- [New CACFP Memo on State Agency Monitoring](#)
- [Updated Agreement for DCH Sponsors](#)
- [Thriving Child Care Business Academy](#)
- [Claim Deadlines Updated](#)
- [Get the Lead Out of Water Where Children Learn and Play](#)
- [Updated Agreements for DCH and Administrative Sponsors](#)
- [Updated Suspension & Disbarment Certification Information](#)
- [How to File a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement](#)

You can find archived CACFP Newsletters [here](#).

## Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
August	Harvest of the Month: Melons
August 27	CACFP Monitoring Forms Training (Sponsors Only)
September 5	Sabor y Cultura: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month Webinar
September 10	<i>Tuesday Tip!</i> Choose Yogurts in the CACFP That Are Lower in Added Sugars
September 15	Deadline to submit additional changes to FY2024 Application
October 15	Deadline to complete FY 2025 CACFP Annual Training & Assessment Deadline to submit FY2025 CACFP Application Deadline to submit original or annual budget and budget amendments

## How was my Customer Service?

*Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team*



Click on the icon on the right to participate in the customer service survey. Responses are anonymous.

## Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

*Preparing for Georgia's Pre-K Program*



School bells are ringing, and Georgia's Pre-K programs have thousands of children across the state taking their first steps into the world of structured learning in Georgia's nationally recognized Pre-K Program.

It's a fun and exciting time, but it can also be overwhelming for both parents and children. In this

episode of DECAL Download, we discuss how to best prepare for this transition, what you can expect from Georgia's pre-K, and tips to ensure your child has a smooth and successful start. Joining us to talk about preparing for Georgia's Pre-K Program are two Georgia's Pre-K Program Specialists Margie Cook and Anne Honerbaum.

Listen to the episode [here](#).

**Nutrition Services Marketing & Outreach Team**

Cindy Kicklighter



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