



August 17, 2026

CACFP Annual Renewal for FY 2027

Deadline for Enrollment September 30, 2026

Participating CACFP Sponsors and Institutions must meet annual renewal requirements by September 30, 2026. Registration for the required annual training opened on July 15, 2026, and enrollment for the 2027 application renewal opened on August 1, 2026.

Step 1: Complete Annual Training Requirements

Registration for the CACFP Annual Training opened on July 15. Annual training includes:

- Reviewing the CACFP 2027 Annual Training presentation in GA ATLAS
- Completing the CACFP 2027 Annual Training Test Assessment in GA ATLAS

Once the annual training assessment has been completed and submitted, you will receive access to the FY 2027 CACFP application.

Step 2: Enroll in FY 2027

Upon completing 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 2027 on or after August 1, 2026

Step 3: Submit your FY 2027 Application on or before September 30

Original or Annual Budgets and Budget Amendments must also be submitted on or before September 30, 2026.

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 15	Registration opened for required 2027 CACFP Annual Training.
August 1	Enrollment opened for FY 2027. Upon completing Annual Training and Assessment, Sponsors & institutions may enroll for FY 2027.
September 15	Deadline for submitting any additional changes to the FY 2026 Application Any FY 2026 changes including: • Updates to the application • Management plan and budget • The additional/termination of centers/homes Must be completed in GA ATLAS by September 15, 2026, to allow time for review and processing.
September 30	Deadline to complete 2027 CACFP Annual Training and Assessment Deadline to submit 2027 CACFP Application Deadline to submit original or annual budget and budget amendments

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

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

FY 2026 Budget Revisions

Due September 15, 2026

As FY 2026 CACFP is winding down, please review your budget to ensure it aligns with your expenses. This is a great time to submit any revisions for the end of the year. Be sure to review your enrollment for all sites for changes as well. All budget revisions should be submitted by September 15, 2026.

- ☐ New or Emergency Costs
 - ☐ **Why do I need to submit a budget revision?**
 - ☐ Sponsor projects a new cost item will be incurred that requires prior or specific prior approval or special consideration; (i.e. formal procurement)
 - ☐ This item is not already approved in the budget
 - ☐ When an approved specific prior written approval item's actual cost is found to be more than the actual approved amount
 - ☐ **Notify Budget Specialist within 24 Hours**

- ☐ Capacity Increase/Decrease
 - ☐ **Why do I need to submit a budget revision?**
 - ☐ When an increase in budgeted costs requires formal procurement.
 - ☐ Sponsor projects an increase or decrease **by 20% or more** for costs previously approved
 - ☐ Sponsor has **25%** increase or decrease in sites
 - ☐ When allocation methodologies changes within organization resulting in an increase or decrease of **20% or more**
 - ☐ **Notify Budget Specialist within 3 Days**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Annual Budget Submission Requirements

Due September 30, 2026

Original or annual budgets and budget amendments must be submitted on or before September 30, 2026.

At a minimum, annual budgets are required when:

- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2026 intends to use FY 2027 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 2026 with approved costs and the same costs in FY 2027 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.

Follow links below for budget related tools and references:

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

For budget questions or concerns, contact Gwendolyn Howard, Budget Compliance Supervisor, at 404.651.7191 or email Nutritionbudget@dec.al.ga.gov.

Health Permit Verification Requirements

Because Department of Public Health (DPH) permits do not list a specific expiration date stating instead that they remain valid until "suspended, revoked, or expired," DECAL cannot continuously research individual permit statuses.

DPH guidance confirms that permits remain active and in good standing if the annual fees are paid, provided there is no change in ownership, location, or a formal revocation.

What is Changing

- New Applicants: Effective immediately, new institutions and sponsors applying to participate in CACFP must submit proof of payment for the current year's annual health permit fee invoice.
- Approved Participants: Approved CACFP institutions and sponsors must submit this proof when adding new sites or making updates.

This requirement applies to self-operating entities and Food Service Management Companies (FSMCs). Application reviewers will verify proof of payment during the application approval process.

Rules for Adult Day Care Centers

- Department of Community Health (DCH) Licensed (24+ capacity): Programs licensed for 24 or more participants per day require a local health department food service permit and must submit proof of payment.
- Department of Community Health (DCH) Licensed (<24 capacity): Programs serving fewer than 24 participants per day fall below the threshold, follow DCH minimum safety rules, and do not need this permit proof.
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Approved: All programs approved by DBHDD that hold a food permit must submit proof of payment for the current year's invoice.

Official Notice

It is the sole responsibility of the sponsor or institution to ensure continuous health permit validity. Any meal service operations conducted under an invalid permit may result in DECAL disallowing reimbursement for the associated meals.

FY 2027 CACFP Reimbursement Rates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 reimbursement rates for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The updated FY 2027 reimbursement rates are now available for sponsors to review.

To view the reimbursement rates, visit the [FY2027 CACFP Reimbursement Rates](#).

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)							
Per Meal Rates in Whole or Fractions of U.S. Dollars							
Effective from: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027							
CENTERS		BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER		SUPPLEMENT	
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.42		0.45		0.12	
	REDUCED PRICE	2.24		4.36		0.65	
	FREE	2.54		4.76		1.30	
ALASKA	PAID	0.64		0.74		0.19	
	REDUCED PRICE	3.79		7.32		1.06	
	FREE	4.09		7.72		2.12	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.52		0.59		0.15	
	REDUCED PRICE	2.99		5.79		0.85	
	FREE	3.29		6.19		1.70	
DAY CARE HOMES		BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER		SUPPLEMENT	
		TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II
CONTIGUOUS STATES		1.74	0.62	3.31	1.99	0.98	0.27
ALASKA		2.79	0.98	5.36	3.23	1.59	0.44
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, and VIRGIN ISLANDS		2.25	0.79	4.30	2.59	1.28	0.35
ADMINISTRATIVE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS OF DAY CARE HOMES				Initial 50	Next 150	Next 800	Each Additional
PER HOME/PER MONTH RATES IN U.S. DOLLARS							
CONTIGUOUS STATES				157	119	93	82
ALASKA				254	193	151	133
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, and VIRGIN ISLANDS				204	155	121	107

Family Style Meal Service in the CACFP

Family Style Meal Service (FSMS) is an approved meal service option in the CACFP where children and adults sit together, share conversations, and pass food from common serving dishes. Children are

encouraged to serve themselves and decide how much they would like to eat, helping make mealtimes interactive and engaging.

Benefits of Family Style Meal Service

- Helps children build independence, confidence, and decision-making skills
- Gives children practice pouring, scooping, and serving foods
- Encourages healthy eating habits
- Supports social skills through conversation and shared meals
- Creates positive mealtime experiences with peers and teachers



Getting Started

- Start with a family style snack before offering full meals
- Give children time to practice self-serving skills
- Gradually serve more meal components family style as children become comfortable

CACFP Requirements

- Place enough food on each table for all children to receive the required serving size
- Coordinate with food service staff to ensure the correct amount of food is available based on classroom size and age groups

Explore USDA's [Family Style Meal Service With Children in the CACFP](#) resources for additional guidance and best practices.

Move of the Month

Beat the Heat with Sponge Ball Toss



**The Nutrition Education and
Physical Activity Team
Presents
August's Move of the Month**



Beat the heat with Nutrition Services' August Move of the Month: Sponge Ball Toss. Sponge balls provide a soft and safe way for children to practice throwing, catching, and other manipulative skills, whether indoors or outdoors. For even more fun on hot summer days, soak the sponge balls in water before playing.

Watch this month's video to learn how to make sponge balls. Share your photos and ideas by sending them to Tina.McLaren@dec.al.gov or use #DECALPhysicalActivity when you post on social media.

[Click](#) on the graphic to watch this month's video.

Physical Activity Corner

August is National Back-to-School Month



Ready, Set, MOVE into Back-to-School season. As children return to classrooms and learn routines, physical activity helps build healthy bodies, supports brain development, encourages social-emotional learning and social skills, and prepares children to stay engaged and ready to learn.

Here are simple ways to keep infants, toddlers, and preschoolers healthy, active, and ready to grow this school year.

Infants

- Practice tummy time and reaching activities.
- Encourage rolling, crawling, and exploring safe spaces.
- Sing songs with gentle movements and hand motions.

Toddlers

- Create simple movement pathways by walking, marching, and jumping.
- Turn clean-up time into a "move and groove" dance or challenge.
- Use action songs that promote listening and following directions.

Preschoolers

- Incorporate active brain breaks between learning activities in the classroom.
- Create school readiness obstacle courses where children jump to shape or letter spot, or carry a soft colored ball as they run, skip, or hop to place it in the matching bin.
- Turn everyday transitions into opportunities for movement like marching to the sink to wash hands and tiptoeing quietly to rest time.



Looking for More Ideas?

- [Get Kids Moving](#)
- [Georgia Early Learning and Developmental Standards](#)
- [30 Days Physical Activity Calendar](#)

We'd love to feature your class in our next newsletter or on social media.

Share your stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren at tina.mclaren@dec.al.gov.

Upcoming Training Dates:

September 1, 2026

Tuesday Tip! Family Style Meal Service with Children in the CACFP

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Are you interested in serving family style meals? Family style dining gives children the opportunity to develop independence, social skills, and healthy habits during mealtimes.

Join this webinar to learn how to prepare for family style meal service, follow CACFP requirements, support children during mealtime, and practice strategies that build staff confidence.

Participants can earn one [1.0] state-approved hour for attending this training in its entirety.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

September 2, 2026

CACFP Budget Readiness 2

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This training will answer common questions, address common challenges, and provide guidance on developing a compliant budget. Participants will gain a better understanding of budget regulations,

requirements, and the overall budget submission process.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

September 15, 2026

Tuesday Tip! Cooking with Herbs & Spices

1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Curious about how to add more flavor without extra salt or sugar?

Join this webinar to learn the basics of cooking with herbs and spices! We will explore the difference between herbs and spices, how to use blends, and which seasonings can help reduce sodium or add natural sweetness.

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

Notes:

Registering for training is a two-step process:

- **Step 1:** After registering in GAATLAS, you will receive a Training Confirmation email *immediately* from Georgia DECAL Help Desk - helpdesk@cnpus.com with a registration link to attend the webinar (**check your spam/junk folder**).
- **Step 2:** You must then register for the training using the link provided in the Training Confirmation email.
- If you have an issue with registering, contact [Leslie Truman](#) before the day of the training.
- [Click here](#) if you need a refresher on how to register for training in GA ATLAS.

NOTE: Only the Program Contact (PC) can self-register in GA ATLAS. If an additional person will be attending, contact [Leslie Truman](#), Administrative Assistant, at (404) 657-1779 for assistance.

In Case You Missed It:

Webinar Recordings Now Available

If you missed a webinar, visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars.

Follow DECAL on Pinterest

Do you need ideas to incorporate nutrition education and physical activity at your site?

To check out DECAL's Pinterest for CACFP, Happy Helpings & Harvest of the Month recipes, physical activity ideas, healthy holiday celebrations, and more click [here](#).

Nutrition and Physical Activity pins are saved and added weekly.

Submit questions or suggestions to

morgan.chapman@decalfga.gov or tina.mclaren@decalfga.gov.



Eat, Learn, and Grow

Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 2026-2027 Calendar



The Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month is a collaborative campaign sponsored by Quality Care for Children, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Department of Human Services, and Georgia Organics. The campaign encourages healthy eating habits by promoting a different local, seasonal fruit or vegetable each month.

Visit [EatLearnGrowGA](https://www.EatLearnGrowGA.org) to access classroom activities aligned with the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS), recipes, book lists, family newsletters, and more to help you incorporate a new vegetable or fruit each month in the classroom, kitchen, and home.

For school-age children resources, visit the Georgia Department of Education's Harvest of the Month [webpage](https://www.doe.ga.gov/harvest-of-the-month).

CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [CACFP Crediting Handbook Revised](#)
- [CACFP Area Eligibility Interactive Map Updated for FY26](#)
- [USDA Final Rule Expands Milk Options](#)
- [A Resource Hub for Food Industry Partners](#)
- [Recordkeeping Requirements in the CACFP](#)
- [Revised Product Formulation Statement \(PFS\) Templates and Samples](#)
- [Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closures](#)
- [FNS Issues Guidance on Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods](#)
- [At-Risk Afterschool Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closures](#)
- [Reimbursement Rates for CACFP Providers](#)
- [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 28	CACFP Summit - In Person
September 1	Tuesday Tip! Family Style Meal Service with Children in the CACFP - Webinar
September 2	CACFP Budget Readiness 2 - Webinar
September 7	State Holiday - Labor Day
September 15	Deadline for submitting any additional changes to the FY 2026 Application
	Tuesday Tip! Cooking with Herbs & Spices - Webinar
September 30	Deadline to complete 2027 CACFP Annual Training and Assessment
	Deadline to submit 2027 CACFP Application
	Deadline to submit original or annual budget and budget amendments

DECAL Download

Family Access to Services and Tools



This week we're talking about an exciting new resource from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning: DECAL FAST, which stands for Family Access to Services & Tools.

For families looking for high-quality child care or early education, DECAL FAST will make the search easier, faster, and more user-friendly.

Joining us to talk about DECAL FAST and how you can use it for your next child care search is Sushma Sanisetty, Developer; Shravanthi Korada, IT Business Analyst; Sonja Steptoe, Assistant Director of Business Supports & Operations; and Bridget Ratajczak, Child & Family Development Manager.

Listen to the episode [here](#).

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.



Nutrition Services Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter
Joann Kilpatrick

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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