



December 16, 2024

QCC Partnered with Tallatoona CAP to Support Farm to ECE Implementation at Seven Head Start Locations



The question for so many is: how do Farm to ECE programs begin, and how are they sustained?

The collaboration between Tallatoona Community Action Partnership (CAP) and Quality Care for Children (QCC) exemplifies the importance of family and community engagement in establishing and sustaining Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) programs.

Tallatoona CAP introduced the “Gardening with Dads” initiative through their Tallatoona Dads program in Fall 2023.

More than 50 fathers participated, contributing their time and resources to build garden beds at each of their seven Head Start locations. The project was supported by \$12,000 in materials and cash donations from six corporate partners: Tractor Supply, Lowe’s, Scott’s, Super

Sod, Walmart, and UGA Extension.

John Gunnells, Fatherhood Coordinator, praised **UGA Extension** for their significant support, providing herbs, knowledge, and on-site assistance. The project required six months of planning and coordination, with gardens constructed at two sites each weekend in September 2023.

After completing the bed builds at all sites, Quality Care for Children (QCC) simultaneously received SNAP-Ed funding to support full Farm to ECE implementation at all seven of Tallatoona CAP Head Start sites, across six NW Georgia counties. Their partnership began in January 2024 with Shauna Payne, Tallatoona CAP Nutrition Manager, overseeing implementation across all sites. Monica Griffin, Assistant Director of Nutrition and Wellness Initiatives at QCC, shared that their implementation of Farm to ECE had significant policy, system and environmental (PSE) changes.

QCC played a crucial role in providing funding, technical assistance, and training to support garden improvements, expansion, maintenance, and the implementation of nutrition and agriculture education through the Harvest of the Month (HOTM) program.

To expand the reach of their programming, Tallatoona CAP has incorporated family engagement, menu quality improvements, and policy changes into their Farm to ECE programs. At Rockmart Head Start, QCC provided a four week nutrition education series for parents and caregivers of children attending the site.

This has helped the families become more engaged in the garden with their kids. Additionally, menu quality has improved through agriculture education through the HOTM item within meals and snacks along with educational information. Lastly, QCC worked with Tallatoona CAP to develop a Farm to ECE policy to promote program sustainability.

The highlights of the policy include: 1) appointing a Farm to ECE Coordinator at each site; 2) standards for the frequency of nutrition education and garden activities; 3) professional development requirements; and 4) family engagement.



Wolverine Packing Co. Ground Beef Products Recalled Due to Possible E. Coli

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced on November 20, 2024, that Wolverine Packing Co., a Detroit, Mich. establishment, is recalling approximately 167,277 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7. The announcement can be found [here](#).

The fresh products have a "use by" date of 11/14/2024 and the frozen products are labeled with production date 10 22 24.

- To view the full product list click [here](#).
- To view the product labels click [here](#).

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. 2574B" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to restaurant locations nationwide.

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause dehydration, bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps 2–8 days (3–4 days, on average) after exposure the organism. While most people recover within a week, some develop a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). This condition can occur among persons of any age but is most common in children under 5-years old and older adults. It is marked by easy bruising, pallor, and decreased urine output. Persons who experience these symptoms should seek emergency medical care immediately.

FSIS is concerned that some product may be in restaurant refrigerators or freezers. Restaurants are urged not to serve these products. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase. Nutrition Services encourages childcare and adult care providers to examine ground beef products, fresh or frozen, at their centers. If these recalled items are present, centers should discard them or return them to the place of purchase. These recalled items should not be served to children or adults in care.

FSIS advises all consumers to safely prepare their raw meat products, including fresh and frozen, and only consume ground beef that has been cooked to a temperature of 160 F. The only way to confirm that ground beef is cooked to a temperature high enough to kill harmful bacteria is to use a food thermometer that measures internal temperature. Click [here](#) to view the safe minimum internal temperature chart.

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or send a question via email to MPHotline@usda.gov.

For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, Click [here](#) to view the Electronic Consumer Complaint Reporting Form which can be accessed 24 hours a day.

Recall on Multiple Sizes and Brands of Bagged Organic Whole and Baby Carrots

The FDA and CDC, in collaboration with state and local partners, are investigating illnesses in a multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O121:H9 infections linked to organic whole and baby carrots supplied by Grimmway Farms of Bakersfield, California.

Grimmway Farms initiated a **voluntary recall** of multiple sizes and brands of bagged organic whole and baby carrots. Please see below.

- Organic whole carrots were available for purchase at retail from August 14 through October 23, 2024 (Brands: 365, Bunny Luv, Cal-Organic, Compliments, Full Circle, Good & Gather, GreenWise, Marketside, Nature's Promise, O Organics, President's Choice, Simple Truth, Trader Joe's, Wegmans, Wholesome Pantry).
- Organic baby carrots include specific best-if-used-by dates printed on the bags ranging from September 11 to November 12, 2024 (Brands: 365, Bunny Luv, Cal-Organic, Compliments, Full Circle, Good & Gather, GreenWise, Grimmway Farms, Kroger, LIDL, Marketside, Nature's Promise, O Organics, President's Choice, Raley's, Simple Truth, Sprouts, Trader Joe's, Wegmans, Wholesome Pantry).

On November 21, 2024, the **recall expanded** to include additional bag sizes for organic whole carrots under the following labels:

- Bunny Luv: 50-lb
- Cal-Organic: 15-lb and 50-lb
- Good & Gather: 1-lb

For a full list of recalled products click [here](#). These products are likely no longer available for sale in stores but could be in people's homes.

Additional recalls are being conducted by companies that used or repackaged recalled carrots that may have been supplied by Grimmway Farms:

- **4Earth Farms – multiple brands** (added 11/29/2024)
- **Fabalish Inc. Kickin' Carrot Falafel Bites** (added 11/21/2024)
- **Whole Foods Market Organic Carrot Sticks and Organic Carrots & Celery Sticks** (added 11/21/2024)

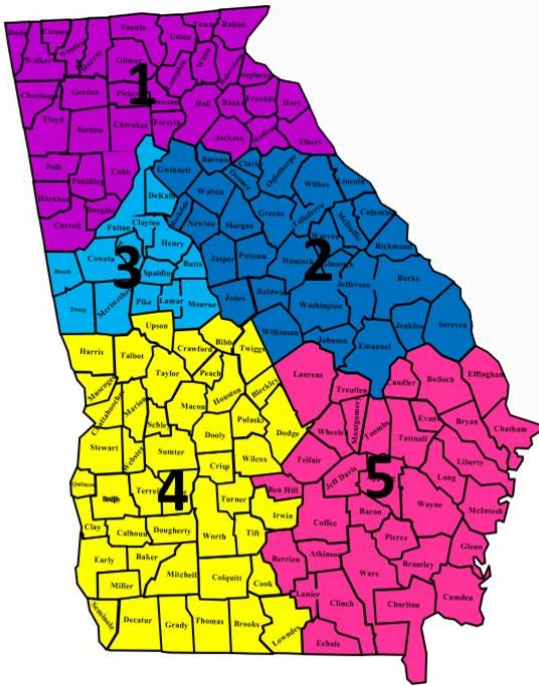
Symptoms of *E. coli* include severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, fever, nausea, and/or vomiting. Symptoms begin anywhere from a few days after consuming contaminated food or up to nine days later.

The severity or presence of certain symptoms may depend on the type of pathogenic *E. coli* that is causing the infection. Some infections can cause severe bloody diarrhea and lead to life-threatening conditions, such as a type of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), or the development of high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease, and neurologic problems.

Childcare centers, adult care centers, and all other consumers should check their refrigerators and freezers and should not eat recalled bagged organic whole or baby carrots. If you have these products in your home, do not eat or use them, throw them away, and clean and sanitize surfaces they touched.

If you purchased organic whole or baby carrots and stored them without the original packaging and don't know what brand they are, you should not eat them and should throw them away.

Technical Assistance Assignments



Please note: For sponsors operating in **Region 5**, there has been a temporary change to your assigned TA Coordinator.

Therefore, please contact our Nutrition TA mailbox at NutritionTA@dec.al.ga.gov with any needed technical assistance.

You may also visit our [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for a breakdown (via the regional map) of **Region 5 counties**, as well as Program resources and recorded webinars.

Stay Informed: Revised CACFP Memoranda

The following revised memoranda were recently issued by USDA's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS):

- [**Offer Versus Serve and Family Style Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program**](#) - The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the use of Offer Versus Serve (OVS) in the adult day care and at-risk afterschool settings, as well as the use of family style meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- [**Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers**](#) - This memorandum details the nutrition requirements for fluid milk and fluid milk substitutes in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and includes a series of frequently asked questions and answers.
- [**Substituting Vegetables for Grains in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Tribal Communities**](#) - This memorandum clarifies longstanding Program regulations and provides updated guidance on the use of vegetables as a substitution for grains, including whole grain-rich products, in eligible areas, as described in Program regulations.
- [**Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirements**](#) - The purpose of this memorandum is to provide State agencies and program operators of the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP), including the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program, with additional information and clarification on the State agency monitoring process regarding the: 1) Child Nutrition (CN) label, 2) Watermarked CN label, and 3) manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement (PFS).

For questions, please contact Robyn Parham at Robyn.Parham@dec.al.ga.gov

Stay Informed: At-Risk Afterschool Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closure

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
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up

- Meal Service Times
- At-Risk Enrichment Activities

The waivers listed above are available through **June 30, 2025**.

The following waivers are available during unanticipated school closures when meal service operations are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency 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 Baldwin](#) advising of the submittal. For questions, please contact [Robyn Parham](#).

Need To Update Your Banking Information?

Anytime changes are made to your banking account information, please notify DECAL by completing the [Supplier Change Request Form](#) (SCR) and submitting it to your organization's assigned Application Specialist.

The State Accounting Office (SAO) Vendor Management Group has an extensive process for verifying the bank accounts of any individual or organization for which payments are made. This is to prevent fraudulent banking and payments. Therefore, any updates made to your existing banking information may take up to four to five weeks to process. Please note that this process has been longer than usual due to limited staff at the SAO.

Please see updates to the vendor management process below:

- Supplier Change Request (SCR) forms must have a recent date by the vendor's signature. Electronic signatures will not be accepted on the SCR form. It must be a wet signature or digital signature with date. Recent date means less than **60 days**.
- The VMG (vendor management group) **will no longer** accept voided checks or official bank letter for bank verification.
- W9's must be submitted using the March 2024 version. The version date is both in the top left and bottom right of the form. W9's must have an IRS specified recent date of 365 days or less. (If today is November 18, 2024, the earliest valid date is November 18, 2023.) Digital signatures are **NOT** acceptable on the W9. It must be a wet signature or electronic signature with date.
- W9's for businesses must be completed exactly as the IRS has the company name listed on their tax returns. Both DECAL and SAO verify Tax ID and Name combinations using IRS software. DECAL will not honor requests to setup new vendors where the Tax ID and Name combination does not match IRS records.

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

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

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New Contacts for Budget Inquiries

Please note the new contacts for budget inquiries through March 2025

Budget Representative	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Kristy Lanier	o (zero)- M Including Combo Sponsors	Kristy.Lanier@decal.ga.gov	(770) 359-4401
Lashaunda King	N-Z Excluding Combo Sponsors	Lashaunda.King@decal.ga.gov	(678) 831-1044

For all general budget inquiries contact NutritionBudget@decal.ga.gov

Upcoming Training Dates:

December 16, 2024 – Memo Monday

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Have you heard about the new meal pattern updates for the next fiscal year? Do you have questions about what changes will be made that are associated with CACFP? Would you like to serve credible smoothies in your CACFP and Happy Helpings Program?

Please join this webinar for a deeper dive into the following memos:

- [Meal Pattern Updates due to 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans- June 28, 2024](#)
- [Geographic Preference Expansion Related to the Final Rule titled, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans- May 22, 2024](#)
- [Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs with Questions and Answers- June 28, 2024](#)

[\[Register Now\]](#)

January 13, 2025 – Memo Monday

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Are you aware of the revisions for infant feeding as it relates to the final rule? Please join this webinar for a deeper dive into the following memo:

- [Feeding Infants and Meal Pattern Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers \(Revised September 2023\)](#)

[\[Register Now\]](#)

January 14, 2025 – Tuesday Tip! Physical Activity in Small Spaces! Fun Games to Promote Movement in Limited Spaces

1:30 - 2:00 pm

Is limited space a barrier when implementing physical activity into your program? Join this micro session where we will discuss four physically active games you can play with young children (2-6 years old) in small spaces that promote early childhood development. Additional bonus topics of discussion will include family engagement and the provider's role. **Participants can earn one half [0.5] state-approved hour for attending this training in its entirety.**

[\[Register Now\]](#)

January 29, 2025- Physical Activity is Important in Early Childhood

1:00-2:00 pm

Would you like to be introduced to the concepts of physical literacy and the fundamental movement skills of infants, toddlers, and pre-schooled aged children. Please join this session to recognize the importance of physical activity and how it supports child development, to include your personal physical activity practices.

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

Notes: This 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 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 on the Training confirmation e-mail. If you should have an issue with registering, please contact Leslie Truman prior to the day of training.

Click [here](#) if you need a refresher on how to register for training in GA ATLAS.

Please note: Only the Program Contact (PC) can self-register within GA ATLAS. If an additional person will be attending, please contact Leslie Truman, Administrative Assistant, at (404) 657-1779 or email leslie.truman@decal.ga.gov for assistance.

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 **FY 2025 Renewal Readiness** webinar that discusses step-by-step instructions on how to complete Annual Renewal requirements.

Snack Attack *New Recipes!*

The [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) has shared snack options for program operators that are #CACFPCreditable.

- Pumpkin muffin and milk
- Tortilla and refried beans
- Grape halves and pecans
- Raisins and cereal
- Graham crackers and berry yogurt

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.

- [Sourcing Local Foods](#)
- [Product Formulation Statements](#)
- [Pumpkin Pie *New!*](#)
- [CACFP Funds for Garden *New!*](#)
- [Vegetables for Grains in Tribal Communities *New!*](#)

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Worksheets *Updated!*

[Team Nutrition](#) has released an updated training worksheet for CACFP operators. All worksheets are available in English and Spanish. To see Team Nutrition's collection of CACFP training tools, visit the [CACFP Training Tools](#) page.

- [Choose Yogurt That is Lower in Added Sugars in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods

The [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) has developed a worksheet to provide tips on how to serve and credit traditional Indigenous foods in CACFP and tips to experiment with new cooking methods while keeping a colorful plate on the menu. Check out more traditional Indigenous foods added to the [Food Buying Guide](#).



Lettuce Eat!

Lettuce is the December's Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight.

Lettuce is a leafy green vegetable that can grow as loose leaves or in a tightly packed head. There are many varieties of lettuce including romaine, butterhead, crisphead, and looseleaf. They provide vitamins K, C & A, potassium, calcium, folate, and iron. Typically, the

darker varieties of lettuce provide more nutrients.

Lettuce is a cool-season vegetable, grown in spring or fall. Lettuce is in season in Georgia from around October through May but needs protection from extreme heat and cold. Lettuce is an easy item to plant in child care program gardens that can be harvested all season long.

For a flavorful salad, toss lettuce with oil, vinegar and fresh or dry herbs. Adding nuts and other vegetables adds flavor and texture. Besides salads, lettuce can also be added to sandwiches and tacos.

Fun Fact: The spine and ribs of lettuce provide dietary fiber, while vitamins and minerals are concentrated in the delicate leaf portion.

Integration:

- [Tofu Taco](#)
- [Mini-Burgers](#)
- [Turkey Tostadas](#)
- [Hummus and Veggie Wraps](#)
- [Fruity Fun Chicken Salad Cups](#)
- [Ground Chicken Lettuce Wraps](#)

Education:

- **Watch** a short video on the [Harvest with Holly](#), which 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.
- **Do a lettuce exploration** with different varieties of lettuce (i.e., romaine, green leaf, red leaf, spring mix). Create an observation chart for participants to complete together. Have the participants describe how the lettuce varieties feel, look, taste and smell. Make sure your observation chart is in a centralized area where all participants can see it and participate in the discussion.
- **Read** "[How Groundhog's Garden Grew](#)," by Lynne Cherry with your program participants. Little Groundhog learns how to plant and tend to his own food garden through every season in this beautifully-illustrated, thoroughly researched picture book by naturalist Lynne Cherry.
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation such as tearing lettuce for salads and sandwiches.
- **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate lettuce into their meals! Check [Pinterest](#) for recipe inspiration.
- **Want ECE lettuce-themed resources?** Check out Quality Care for Children's [Harvest of the Month toolkit](#) for more ways to engage ECE students.

Conversation:

- Have your program participants eaten lettuce before?
- What is their favorite meal that includes lettuce?
- What other green vegetables do they like to eat?

Citrus is December's Harvest of the Month Bonus Spotlight

Citrus refers to juicy fruits that grow on trees and have a bitter outer skin that must be peeled before eating the juicy inner fruit.



Most citrus fruits are very high in vitamin C, which helps heal cuts and gives you healthy skin.

In Georgia, citrus plants are in season from November through December. There are 70 plus citrus farming operations in Georgia and an estimated 300 acres committed to citrus year-round, mostly in the southern portion of the state where the most citrus is produced.

Fun Fact: After citrus flowering shrubs or trees are planted, it takes around four years before a tree will start producing significant amounts of citrus.

Integration:

- **Fresh Salsa**
- **Wild Water**
- **Fruit Smoothie (with yogurt)**
- **Fruit Salad With Citrus Sauce**
- **Herry's Blueberry Lemon Parfait**

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of lettuce and citrus with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCHc at morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov.

Physical Activity Corner

Energize Your Health

New Month, New You - Energize Your Health!!! It is that time of the year when loved ones, co-workers, and friends gather during the holiday seasons and New Year. Make it exciting, entertaining and stress free for you and your loved ones.

Here are some simple active ways to stay active and stress-free. Reduce screen time, add exercise, and move it. You and your loved ones can create calendars of fun and easy fitness activities for the month of December.

This can include indoor and outdoor activities, such as yoga, walking/jogging, gardening, dancing (Zumba), doing sit-ups, walking/jogging, jumping rope, biking, playing basketball and soccer. Post and write small, specific, measurable exercise goals in a visible area, such as on the refrigerator, holiday calendar, and white board. Encourage each other to set active habits. Furthermore, do some stretches hours before bedtime to help with relaxation and sleep. Make physical activity a part of the joyous and fun holiday season.



Integration:

- **Twelve (12) Days of Fitness on the holidays**
- **Move Your Way: Tips for Getting Motivated**
- **Outdoor Holiday Activities for Children**
- **Healthier Holidays in 1-2-3**
- **What Exercise is Right for Me?**

Education:

- **Read** aloud the book, **"Grow Strong! A Book About Healthy Habits,"** by Cheri J. Meiners.
- **Watch the video on "The Importance of Being Physically Active"**
- **Talk** with families about ways to integrate fitness into the holiday winter season.

- **Bonus:** Send #HolidayWorkout, #HolidayFitnessGoal pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Conversation:

- What is your favorite fitness activity to do during the holiday winter season?
- How do you stay physically active during the holidays?
- Why is it important to exercise during the holidays?
- What is stress free and easy exercise to do in the holidays?

Share your #HolidayFitnessChallenge, #HolidayFitnessGoals, #HolidayWorkout stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren, MPH at tina.mclaren@dec.al.ga.gov

Scholarships Available for the 2025 National Child Nutrition Conference

Apply by January 10

The National CACFP Association is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2025 National Child Nutrition Conference (NCNC) which is being held April 14-18, 2025 in Dallas, Texas.

The scholarship application is available at cacf.org/scholarships.



Fifteen scholarships will be awarded: Seven to attend the conference in-person, and eight to attend virtually. In-person scholarships will include conference registration, four (4) nights' lodging at the conference hotel, and up to \$450.00 toward transportation costs.

Applications close on January 10, 2025 at 11:59 pm Eastern.

For questions, please email conference@cacf.org.



Follow DECAL on Pinterest

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

Check out DECAL's Pinterest for CACFP, Happy Helpings& Harvest of the Month recipes, physical activity ideas, healthy holiday celebrations, and more click [here](https://bit.ly/DECALpins).

Nutrition and Physical Activity pins are saved and added weekly.

Questions or suggestions, submit to morgan.chapman@dec.al.ga.gov or tina.mclaren@dec.al.ga.gov.

DECAL to Award up to \$1,650,000 in Community Impact Grants

Deadline to Apply: December 20

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) announced funding

opportunities aimed at closing opportunity gaps and creating long-term positive outcomes for Georgia children from birth to 8 and their families. 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, school systems, and government entities that are in good standing with DECAL are invited to apply by **Friday December 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

All grants will be for a term of 24 months, from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027. The Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the three grants are available below.

RFP for 2Gen Innovation Grants for Student Parent Success (up to \$75,000 each): 2025 - 2027 2Gen Innovation Grants for Student Parent Success - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. This funding opportunity will launch or expand innovative strategies that bridge early learning with secondary, postsecondary, and workforce systems at the local level. These grants are designed to support the implementation of two-generation (2Gen) strategies that enhance children's access to high-quality early education while also improving parents' ability to secure family-supporting jobs, thereby fostering greater economic security.

RFP for 2Gen Community Literacy Grants (up to \$75,000 each) : 2025 - 2027 2Gen Community Literacy Grants - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. This funding will enhance literacy by supporting programs that benefit both children and their parents or caregivers using a two-generation (2Gen) approach to address educational needs within families. These grants fund initiatives that focus on improving literacy skills across generations, often incorporating adult education, early childhood education, and family engagement strategies to create a supportive learning environment.

RFP for Community Transformation Grants (up to \$125,000 each): 2025 - 2027 Community Transformation Grants - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. This funding opportunity will support projects that increase access to early childhood services and resources. This grant program is designed to address the unique needs of local populations by building partnerships that will create and implement innovative, responsive projects that address specific early childhood gaps and challenges faced by families in their areas.

Questions regarding these funding opportunities may be submitted to communityimpactgrants@decal.ga.gov until 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2024. When submitting your question(s), please include the type of Community Impact Grant you are inquiring about.

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

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

Visit Quality Care for Children's Farm to ECE [webpage](#) to access a variety of classroom resources, ideas, a book list, and family newsletter to help you promote a new vegetable or fruit each month.

For school-age children resources, visit the Georgia Department of Education's Harvest of the month [webpage](#).

CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [A Message for CAPS and Quality Rated Providers](#)
- [CACFP Policy 41 – State Agency Monitoring Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)
- [Reimbursement Rates for CACFP Providers](#)
- [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
December	Harvest of the Month: Lettuce and Citrus
December 16	Memo Monday: Meal Patterns Update
December 20	Deadline to Apply for Community Impact Grants
December 25	Holiday: Christmas Day
January 10	Scholarship application deadline for the 2025 National Child Nutrition Conference.
January 13	Memo Monday: Feeding Infants & Meal Patterns
January 14	Tuesday Tip! Physical Activity in Small Spaces! Fun Games to Promote Movement in Limited Spaces
January 29	Physical Activity is Important in Early Childhood

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

The Board of Early Care and Learning

On the next ...
DECAL Download 
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Topic:
Board of Early Care and Learning



Dr. Sylvia Washington
Pediatrician
Rome, Congressional District 14

Maria Franklin
Board Certified Behavior Analyst
Adairsville, Congressional District 11

Joyce Ann Freeman
Early Childhood Care and Education Program Chair
Bowden, Congressional District 3



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START



The Board of Early Care and Learning is DECAL's 14-member advisory board that meets quarterly to help support the agency's mission and vision throughout the year. The members are appointed by Governor Brian Kemp. Their selection is based on the congressional districts where they live. In this episode of DECAL Download, we talk with the newly appointed members

of The Board of Early Care and Learning. Joining us to talk about their new roles is Maria Franklin from Adairsville, a board-certified behavior analyst at the North Georgia Autism Center who serves the 11th Congressional District; Joyce Ann Freeman from Bowden, who is the early childhood care and education program chair and a full-time early education instructor at West Georgia Technical College serving the 3rd Congressional District; and Dr. Sylvia Washington from Rome, who is a pediatrician with a background in clinical practice, academia, and community service, serving the 14th Congressional District.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement: English

Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

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