



January 31, 2022

Nutrition Services Resumes Pre-COVID Business Operations

Effective **January 10, 2022**, Nutrition Services began gradually resuming pre-COVID business operations, including onsite visits for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

This decision was determined with the careful consideration and data from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. This data is frequently monitored for ongoing guidance. Considering that, the increase of vaccinated individuals and the availability of vaccines to everyone, including children five [5] years of age and older provide a positive outlook for returning to our new normal.

As we return to our new normal, health and safety is a top priority. Nutrition Services will adhere to all DECAL protocols to ensure technical assistance and customer service is provided in a safe and comfortable environment for both our Program partners and Nutrition staff. Each staff member will have personal protection equipment (PPE) with them at each onsite visit, including face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Nutrition staff are encouraged but not required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and disclosure of vaccination status is optional.

During the transition to onsite visits, Nutrition Services staff will conduct no more than one [1] onsite visit per day, including Technical Assistance (TA) and/or Pre-approval (operational) Visits. As a result, some visits and training may continue to be offered and conducted virtually.

In addition, DECAL's Audits & Compliance Division will be transitioning to onsite visits and will adhere to all DECAL protocols and CACFP/SFSP regulations and policies. Therefore, reviews may be conducted virtually or onsite, the option of which lies within the sole discretion of DECAL.

If you have any questions, concerns or want more specific information about our transition to normal operations, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Leslie Truman at 404-657-1779 or via email at Leslie.Truman@decalfga.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation, consideration, and commitment to serving children and adults to eradicate hunger in Georgia, especially during these unprecedented times.

ATLAS Maintenance scheduled February 10

No access after 5 p.m.

In order to provide our systems with the highest level of security and compliance, it is necessary that GA ATLAS be shut down for scheduled maintenance.

Beginning Thursday, February 10, 2022, after 5 pm ET, GA ATLAS will be unavailable. We encourage you to make any necessary changes prior to February 10, 2022, or the changes must wait until the following week.

Access is expected to be fully restored by Monday, February 14, 2022. . Once access is restored, you may resume normal business functions, which includes completing application updates and completing and submitting claims.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding.



Nutrition Services welcomes Jerald Savage, Business Operations Representative

Jerald has over a decade of extensive experience working with the State of Georgia with the Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) and the private sector in customer service and determining eligibility for program participation. Additionally, Jerald has previous experience working with both the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP) in the role of Food Program Coordinator for two of DECAL's approved CACFP/SFSP sponsors.

Jerald earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Morris Brown College. He is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In his leisure time, Jerald loves cooking and spending time with his two adult children, ages 20 and 29. He is also an entertainer; he sings and acts. We are excited to have Jerald with DECAL! His dynamic experience and knowledge will be valuable to our team and division!

Updated Contact Information for Business Operations Representatives

Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Temika Moore	o (zero)-G,	Temika.Moore@decals.ga.gov	(404) 463-1494
Jerald Savage	H-P	Jerald.Savage@decals.ga.gov	(770)405-7916
Edith Pierre	Q-Z	Edith.Pierre@decals.ga.gov	(404) 463-8314

Nutrition Services welcomes Kristy Williams, Budget Compliance Specialist

Please join Nutrition Services in welcoming Kristy Williams to her new role as Budget Compliance Specialist.

Although new to DECAL, Kristy is not new to the State of Georgia. She brings with her 12 years of financial experience. Six of those years she worked for the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

Kristy is currently completing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Arizona State University. She is also set to wed in March 2022! We are excited to have Kristy with DECAL! Her dynamic experience and knowledge will be valuable to our team and division!



New Mailbox for Budget Department

Use for all budget related documents and requests

Effective immediately, sponsors & institutions are asked to use the Nutrition Budget Mailbox at nutritionbudget@decalfga.gov for all budget related documents and requests.

CACFP Inspire Awards Nominations Open

Deadline: February 15, 2022

Throughout the pandemic, everyone has had to learn to adapt and change in a time of uncertainty in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

The [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) would like to recognize those who overcame the challenges and went above and beyond expectations to provide for those they serve. The CACFP Inspire Awards will celebrate the incredible individuals who have reimaged and executed the CACFP during the pandemic.



If you know an individual or organization who has shown their commitment to the CACFP throughout this time, please nominate them. Self-nominations are welcomed. **Deadline to submit nominations is February 15, 2022.** [[Learn More and Nominate](#)]

Managing Virtual Monitoring and Supply Chain Disruptions Fact Sheet

Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has released a fact sheet to assist Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program operators with managing virtual monitoring and supply chain disruptions. The fact sheet clarifies existing flexibilities available to State agencies and local program operators in meeting the unique needs of their communities. Click [here](#) to view the fact sheet.

Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions

In October 2021, USDA issued guidance on current meal pattern flexibilities in the CACFP

and opportunities for State agencies and sponsoring organizations to use discretion while monitoring meal pattern compliance during COVID-19 supply chain disruptions. Available flexibilities include:

- **Emergency Procurement Flexibilities** - 2 CFR 200.320 allows for the noncompetitive procurement method to be utilized when a public exigency or emergency prevents competitive procurement.
- **Milk Flexibilities** - 7 CFR 226.20(e) allows State agencies to approve meal services without milk during a temporary emergency period if Program operators are unable to obtain milk or the required milk type (*Request use of this flexibility via the USDA waiver module in GA ATLAS*).
- **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CACFP for School Year 2021-2022** (Response #91) - Allows operators to serve meals that do not meet the following specified meal pattern requirements (*Request use of this flexibility via the USDA waiver module in GA ATLAS*):
 - The whole grain-rich requirement
 - The crediting of grains by ounce equivalents requirement
 - The requirement that low-fat milk must be unflavored
- **Flexibilities in issuing fiscal actions for violations of the meal pattern per 7 CFR 226.14(b)** – Guidance for State Agencies and Sponsoring Organizations.

To learn more and access USDA's guidance, go to:

- [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions](#)
- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #91 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for School Year 2021-2022](#)

For instructions on how to request and/or utilize each flexibility, go to:

- [Flexibility Guidance for COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions](#)
- [CACFP Guidance on the Milk Flexibility for COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions](#)

For current DECAL policy memoranda applicable to fluid milk requirements in the CACFP, go to:

- [Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers, October 1, 2021.](#)
- [Policy and Procedure for Reclaiming Meals due to a Milk Shortage, October 1, 2021.](#)

Reminder for Sponsors:

Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures Monitoring

On October 1, 2021, DECAL issued the policy memorandum, [Monitoring Requirements - Monitoring Sponsored Centers Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures \(October 1, 2021\)](#) which provided additional guidance for affiliated and unaffiliated sponsoring organizations on the monitoring of their sponsored centers. This memo is not applicable to day care home sponsors.

Specifically, sponsoring organizations must effectively monitor the following:

- Their sponsored centers' **non-profit food service**, and
- Their sponsored centers' **procurement procedures and procurement practices**

Please refer to the [policy memorandum](#) for further details and instruction on these requirements.

The following chart illustrates the number of centers sponsors are required to review:

Number of Centers	Non-profit Review	Procurement Procedures	Procurement Review
50 or less centers	100% of centers once per year	100%	100% of centers once per year
51 or more centers	50 centers plus 25% of remaining centers	100%	50 centers plus 25% of remaining centers

The timeline below illustrates the deadlines sponsors must follow for implementing the memo's requirements:

Action	Deadline
Start developing a plan to incorporate monitoring center non-profit food service and procurement for all centers.	October 1, 2021
Train all sponsor and center staff and finalize the monitoring plan.	June 1, 2022
Centers required to meet non-profit food service and procurement requirements.	October 1, 2022
Begin monitoring all centers based on guidelines set forth effective this date.	October 1, 2022 (during FY 2023)
Effective date to begin imposing findings/adverse actions.	October 1, 2023 (during FY 2024)

For additional information, please contact [Robyn Parham](#), Policy Administrator at (404) 651-8193.

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

March 16, 2022 – School Food Authority Training

Are you a school food authority (SFA) serving snack and supper meals? Do you need a refresher on the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component? Join this webinar session to learn:

- revised regulations,
- required records,
- operation oversight, and
- offer versus serve options.



**Registration
Coming Soon**

March 21, 2022 - Memo Monday!

Regulations are constantly changing and tracking all State policies and memorandums can be challenging. Therefore, Nutrition Services is implementing PolicyStat! An online policy management system that will allow CACFP and Happy Helpings organizations and DECAL staff to navigate, locate, and access policy documents more quickly. The March Memo Monday webinar will provide instructions on how to use this new policy resource. Please also be on the lookout for additional information later this month on how to access the system.

Training Resources

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 highlight recording is the **January Memo Monday** webinar. It discussed new features in the GA ATLAS, updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waivers module, procurement, milk, and meal pattern flexibilities during a supply chain disruption.

Team Nutrition Web Quizzes *New Quiz Added!*

USDA's Team Nutrition has developed interactive ten-question web quizzes as a fun way to introduce a variety of nutrition topics. The quizzes can be used during staff training and other nutrition events. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion. These web quizzes are also available as a widget. Please see a list of available quizzes below.

- [Infant Nutrition Quiz \[Spanish\]](#)
- [Toddler Nutrition Quiz \[Spanish\]](#)
- [Meal Components Quiz](#)
- [Milk in the CACFP Quiz *New!*](#)

New Year and New Recipes

USDA's Team Nutrition has developed ten [10] new USDA lunch and supper recipes for the CACFP, available in yields of 6, 25, and 50 servings. These quick-and-easy recipes are standardized to meet the minimum serving amount of at least one [1] meal component for children ages 3 through 5 and 6 through 18 years and showcase a variety of foods and flavors. Titles of new recipes below are available through the Institute of Child Nutrition's [Child Nutrition Recipe Box](#) (CNRB):

- Baked Tilapia Fish Fillets
- Baked Tofu Bites
- Barbecue Beef Sliders
- Crabby Sandwich
- Fish and Veggie Packets
- Meatballs and Marinara Sauce
- Shredded Zucchini and Pasta
- Spinach Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing Teriyaki Chicken and Cabbage
- Zucchini Boats

[[6 Servings](#)] [[25-50 Servings](#)] Children ages 3-5

[[6 Servings](#)] [[25-50 Servings](#)] Children ages 6-18

Serving Vegetables in the CACFP Slides

USDA's Team Nutrition has developed and released this slide deck from Thirty on Thursday webinar: Serving Vegetables in the CACFP. The slides will provide details on the types of vegetables that may be credited as meat alternates in the CACFP

[[Download Slides in English and Spanish](#)]

Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool *New feature!*

USDA's Team Nutrition has released a new feature on the Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool. Users can now view the meal pattern requirements per meal component for a selected program and age/grade group while using the FBG calculator. This feature allows for easy access to helpful meal pattern guidance to assist in creating shopping lists.

Explore the [Food Buying Guide](#) today!

Safe Kitchen Checklist

The Home Baking Association has developed safety guidelines when cooking and baking. Please feel free to use in the home and share with children.

Milk: Part of a Healthy Eating Pattern

The [National CACFP Sponsors Association Learning Center](#) has developed an educational resource to help operators and children learn why milk is important for development and what types of milk may be served in the CACFP. [[Download PDF in English and Spanish](#)]

Who Makes the Milk ? Dot-to-Dot Activity

The [National CACFP Sponsors Association Learning Center](#) has developed this free activity for members to help children learn more where milk in the CACFP comes from. [Free Download](#)

Available Nationwide Waivers During COVID-19

In light of the exceptional circumstances of the current public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has extended Nationwide Waivers to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact [Robyn Parham](#).

NATIONWIDE WAIVERS

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19

For full details on the CACFP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo or [click here](#) for more information on DECAL's website.

CACFP

Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs & for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022

This waiver allows schools and at-risk afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to claim all National School Lunch Program, Afterschool Snack Service and Child and Adult Care Food program At-Risk Afterschool meals and snacks at the free rate. This waiver also allows day care homes participating in the CACFP to claim all meals served to enrolled children at the Tier 1 rate, regardless of their location. ****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Reimbursement for Meals & Snacks served to Young Adults in the CACFP

This waiver allows emergency shelters to claim reimbursement for meals and snacks served to individuals under the age of 25. ****Waiver in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.**

Parent Pick-Up:

Under this waiver, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. ****Waiver extended to June 30, 2022****

Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility

This waiver allows program operators to serve meals that do not meet specified meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency. FNS is establishing a waiver for all States of the following CACFP requirements:

- That at least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich.
- That the crediting of grains by ounce equivalents must be fully implemented by October 1, 2021.
- That low-fat milk (1 percent) must be unflavored

****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Meal Times Waiver:

The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public

health emergency. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2022****

Non-Congregate Feeding:

The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended to June 30, 2022****

Onsite Monitoring Requirements

FNS waives, for all CACFP sponsoring organizations, that CACFP monitoring requirements included at 226.16(d)(4)(iii) be conducted onsite. To ensure Program integrity during this time, sponsoring organizations should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). ****Waiver remains in effect until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.****

Nutrition Ed Nook

Greens, Greens & More Greens!



Turnip greens, Collard greens, and Mustard greens are our Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight this January!

Typically planted eight to ten weeks before the first frost, these green varieties are available to be purchased locally in Georgia at this time of the year and will continue growing well throughout the winter. Collard greens have a slightly bitter flavor, while mustard and turnip greens have a slightly spicy, peppery one. Collard greens are a popular vegetable in southern cuisine but can also be found in meals elsewhere around the world, such as Brazil, Kashmir,

Kenya, Portugal, and Tanzania. These leafy green vegetables are often cooked together. Share cultural traditions from across the world with your participants!

Integration:

- [Winter Greens](#)*
- [Collard Greens](#)*
- [Greens & Beans Soup](#)* (Sopa de garbanzo y hojas verdes)

**You may substitute any of the HOTM greens for this recipe or include a combination of all of them.*

Education:

- *Grow* turnip, mustard, and collard greens – growing greens begins in fall time and early spring and are an exciting item to harvest as the leaves get bigger.
- *Make* a variety of cultural dishes that include greens to share various meals from across the world with your participants.
- *Talk* with families about how children can help with meal preparation including tearing up greens to be cooked into a dish. **Bonus:** send greens recipes home for families to try together!

Conversation:

- Have your children tried greens before?
- What is their favorite type of green to try? Each type has a unique flavor!
- Do your children have a certain type of green that they cook at home?

Share your winter Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of collard, mustard, and turnip greens with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Gwen Howard, Budget Compliance Supervisor*

Please join us in congratulating **Gwendolyn Howard** on her recent promotion to Budget Compliance Supervisor. She has been with Decal's Nutrition Division for the past 14 months and contributed greatly to her role as Budget Compliance Specialist.

In her new role, Gwendolyn analyzes budgets for the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program ensuring that annual cost estimates and revenue projections are compliant with state and federal regulations.

Gwendolyn has more than nine years of professional experience working with multifaceted organizations to include executive administration, accounting, compliance and customer service.

Although Gwendolyn is an Atlanta native, she was raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. Gwendolyn moved to Alabama to pursue her education earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Alabama State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Troy University. In her leisure time, Gwendolyn loves traveling, shopping and most importantly spending time with her family and friends including her two dogs.

CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

Planning Update: Emergency Operating Costs Funding for CACFP Providers

Updating your Banking Information

Stay Informed: CACFP Policy Updates

Claim Deadlines FY22

Healthy Cooking in CACFP with Chef Asata Reid: 5 Part Video Series

Annual Renewal Requirements must be completed to participate in CACFP

How to Handle FDCH Carry Over

CACFP Meals for Young People Experiencing Homelessness

How to Request Continued Use of USDA Waivers for FY 2021 – 2022

Happy Helpings Announced

Procurement Tips for CACFP

CACFP Budget Submission Required for FY2022

USDA Webinar: Meal Service Flexibilities for the FY 2021-2022 School Year

Guidance for Serving School-Age Children in the CACFP during COVID-19

Oct 1: Deadline to Implement Grain Ounce Equivalents in Menu Planning

Expiring Soon: Updated CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibilities

Reminder: Review Your Online CACFP Applications for Accuracy

Celebrating Breastfeeding as the Best Source of Nutrition

CACFP Reimbursement Rates: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Strategic Plan for Growing Farm to School and Early Care and Education in Georgia

Beech-Nut to stop selling a specific baby rice cereal because of arsenic levels found in some test samples

What to do if you have Lost or Destroyed Records

Monitoring Sponsored Centers Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures

[Income Eligibility Guidelines](#) for FY 2022

[CACFP Training Resources](#)

[Farmers Resource List](#)

[Questions and Answers](#) for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 21-22

[How](#) to file a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement

[How](#) to update your banking information

[How](#) to Exclude Cash-In-Lieu (CIL) When Calculating for CACFP Administrative Cost

[How](#) to Calculate Allowable Administrative Costs Each Month

[Guidance](#) on Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP

[Guidance](#) on P-EBT for Schools and Childcare

[FAQs](#) Child Nutrition Program: Emergency Operational Costs Program

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



Mark your calendar for March 15-17 for the 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

The 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference is once again virtual to allow thousands of anti-hunger advocates from all across the country to safely and conveniently attend without having to travel. The conference plenaries and content-rich workshops will take place on March 15 and 16 and then on March 17, head (virtually) to Capitol Hill to advocate for bold policy solutions for ending hunger in America.

The conference will offer a number of workshops featuring presenters from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences and content that explores one of the following conference themes:

- Building on Lessons Learned on the Critical Role of the Federal Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic
 - Addressing the Inequities and Root Causes that Fuel Who Experiences Hunger in America
 - Creating a Movement to End Hunger in America
-



**CHILD NUTRITION
CONFERENCE**
CACFP · AFTERSCHOOL MEALS · SUMMER FOOD



The National Child Nutrition Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 18-22, 2022. For 35 years, this conference for CACFP, Afterschool, and Summer Food programs has offered unparalleled training, education and networking opportunities to the child nutrition community.

Register to attend the five-day professional education event offering over 75 hours of presentations, featuring topics including nutrition, program operations, administration and financial management of CACFP and SFSP, resources and technology, case studies, train-the-trainer sessions, and management solutions.

[Register for the conference here.](#)

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
February 2	• Serving Milk in CACFP with The Dairy Alliance
February 10	• ATLAS Maintenance scheduled
February 15	• Inspire Awards Deadline
March 15-17	• National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference
March 16	• School Food Authority Training
March 21	• Memo Monday: Policy Stat
April 18-22	• National Child Nutrition Conference

How was my Customer Service? *Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team*



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

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download! *Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health*

Mental health is just as important as physical health, and that not only goes for adults but children as well. The School of Public Health at Georgia State University here in Atlanta is getting a new addition. The research center known as the Mark Chaffin Center for Healthy Development has been chosen as the future home for the Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health. This is a major step in advancing infant and early childhood mental health throughout the state of Georgia.

Joining us on the latest episode of the DECAL Download to talk about plans for the Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health is Laura Lucas, the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Director here at DECAL and Callan Wells who is the Health Policy Manager for GEEARS. We are also joined by Dr. Kathleen Baggett who serves on the leadership team for the Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health at Georgia State University, Kathy Bragg and Dr. Trasia Topple who both serve as Board Co-Presidents for the Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health.



[Listen Here](#)



Nutrition Division
Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Nondiscrimination Statement: English

Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

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