



March 17, 2025

## Celebrating National CACFP Week

March 16-22, 2025



This week we are celebrating National CACFP Week – a national education and information campaign designed to raise awareness of how the USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger.

During this special week, we especially want to **Thank You** - the CACFP providers for all the work you do every day to ensure Georgia’s children and adults have access to healthy meals and snacks!

The Nutrition Services Division will promote a different theme each day to raise awareness of how the CACFP works to combat hunger throughout Georgia.

- **Monday – C for Community & Food Access**
- **Tuesday – A for Adults**
- **Wednesday – C for Children & Families**
- **Thursday – F for Farm to CACFP**
- **Friday – P for Physical Activity**

A few of the week’s highlights include:

- Governor Brian Kemp recognized CACFP Week in Georgia with **aproclamation**.
- Providers are encouraged to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily resource shout outs, recognition, and activities.

- DECAL encourages recognizing CACFP Superheroes with a Certificate of Awesomeness: [Sesame Street](#) or [Non-Branded](#).

Check out Nutrition Services CACFP Week [webpage](#) for resources and events to celebrate CACFP Week in Georgia!

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## Statewide Initiative to Get Kids “Veggie Ready” Graduates 450 Georgia Child Care Students



Walking into a childcare classroom, you might expect to see students building with blocks or playing with a “pretend kitchen.” But what if, instead, you saw a group of 4-year-olds squeezing fresh lemons, picking the leaves off parsley, or excitedly counting down to taste a new vegetable? That’s exactly what was happening in 32 early childhood classrooms across Georgia, where more than 450 of the state’s youngest eaters are now “Veggie Ready.”

These children recently graduated from Small Bites Adventure Club’s Veggie Ready program, a hands-on food education initiative designed to help kids build lifelong healthy eating habits and self-efficacy—one small bite at a time. This initiative is part of a broader effort funded by a USDA Farm to School Grant awarded to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning’s Nutrition Services Division.

Launched in August 2024, Veggie Ready is a five-month, turn-key program that integrates high-quality, standards-based food education into early childhood classrooms. Hosted at selected CACFP-participating sites, including Head Start programs, Child Care Learning Centers, and Family Child Care Learning Homes, the program helps children discover a new vegetable each month while making their own veggie-based snacks. At the same time, teachers gain confidence in leading hands-on food education.

From the very first recipe, Rainbow Wraps with Peppers, students practice safe-knife techniques like the “bridge cut” while exploring the sweet crunch of bell peppers. Ms. Hiley, a teacher at Hahira Head Start, saw the impact firsthand: “The students love the experience and being able to do hands-on activities. In fact, some had never tried peppers before, but now they love them!”

Throughout the program, teachers lead students through engaging recipes like Sassy Slaw with Cabbage and Carrots, Super Power Kale Pesto, and Lovely Lettuce with Lemony Vinaigrette—all designed by Small Bites Adventure Club’s Chef Asata with little hands and developmental skills in mind.

For Ms. McIver, a Family Child Care Learning Home owner in Macon, the transformation was undeniable. Before Veggie Ready, she had never done hands-on food education with her students. By the end of the program, she noticed something remarkable: “Because the children were actively involved in making recipes, they were more likely to try new vegetables. Eventually, they even started trying new foods outside of the activities.”



*Photo credits: Photo 1 Leaping4Education Learning Academy. Photo 2: Hahira Head Start*

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# Registration Open for CACFP Meal Service Summit

## May 2, 2025



We are thrilled to announce that DECAL's Nutrition Service Division will host a CACFP Meal Service Summit on Friday, May 2, 2025, from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center (2443 Highway 54 West Peachtree City, GA 30269). Registration will open at 8:00 am and state-approved hours will be provided.

### Register for the Summit to:

- Cultivate Connections*: Meet DECAL staff and build your CACFP network
- Foster Creativity*: Unleash your innovative side with fresh ideas
- Learn About Resources*: Discover tools that will boost your program
- Gain Knowledge*: Master CACFP meal

patterns, mealtime settings, recordkeeping, menu planning, food-based education, and serving high-quality meals across the lifespan

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to elevate your CACFP meal service program and continue to make an impact! **Sign up today and join the fun!**

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## USDA Funding Update: Important Notice Regarding Local Food Programs

Previously, DECAL shared that the USDA announced a \$1.13 billion investment to support local and regional food systems including an allocation of up to \$188.6 million for use in child care facilities participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Please note the USDA recently announced the termination of these programs. DECAL is committed to keeping you informed and will share any future opportunities to support local food programs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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A graphic for the Adult Care CACFP Boot Camp. It features a photograph of an older man and woman sitting at a table, smiling and eating. The man is on the left, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a light blue shirt. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for the National CACFP Association. In the bottom right corner, there is a teal banner with the text 'Register today!'. Below the banner, the text reads 'ADULT CARE CACFP BOOT CAMP' in large, bold, teal letters. At the bottom, it says 'Wednesday, May 14 | 11:00 am - 4:45 pm Eastern' and 'cacfp.org/adult-care-boot-camp'.

# Adult Care CACFP Boot Camp

May 14, 2025

Join the National CACFP Association on Zoom from **11:00 am** to **4:45 pm** on **May 14** for the CACFP Boot Camp on Adult Care, so you can walk away with fresh ideas, practical solutions, and the confidence to elevate the care you provide to older adults. Discover simple ways to incorporate movement into daily routines, hands-on tips to enhance nutrition under CACFP guidelines, and bring your questions for industry experts.

Can't make it on May 14? Register and get access to on demand viewing through May 28!

Register [here](#).

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## Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts & High Protein Yogurt

*Deadline: March 26*

FNS seeks public comments on [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#), published December 26, 2024. The request for information was issued to obtain input to help inform future policymaking, guidance, and technical assistance related to grain-based desserts and high-protein yogurt crediting in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

**The public is invited to submit comments to <https://www.regulations.gov/> through March 26, 2025.**

FNS hosted an informational [Webinar for State Agencies, Local Operators, and the Public](#) on January 28 on the Zoom platform. You can view the [webinar recording](#) and [PDF](#) of slides.

Additional Resources:

- More information about the request for information can be found on the FNS website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>.
  - Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
  - For more information on submitting comments, please see Tips for Submitting Effective Comments here: [Tips-For-Submitting-Effective-Comments.pdf](#). (Please note this is a Federal Register resource and not an FNS resource.)
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## Updates to Child and Adult Care Food Program Procurement Documents

Nutrition Services recently updated the **Procurement Manual** and the **Procurement and Purchasing Policy Template**.

Changes include, but are not limited to:

- Added language on local foods and geographic preference
- Added clause regarding year-round Food Service Management Company (FSMC) contracts with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAs), Higher Education Institutions and Hospitals
- Updated sample small purchase document and FSMC agreements to reflect the most current versions

Documents can be accessed [here](#).

CACFP Sponsors and Institutions should refer to the updated documents moving forward.

For further details, please register for the upcoming March 25, 2025, Supporting Documentation Training.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

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## Helpful Hints for Completing the Child and Adult Care Food Program Application

Follow these tips to ensure that your Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Application is complete.

- To minimize confusion and delays, only the program contact and/or authorized representative should be contacting the application reviewer. Keep in mind that the program contact is responsible for entering the information in the online application in GA ATLAS.
- 15-day Review Contact- Your Specialist has 15 days to review and respond via email to your initial application (including the budget) once it has been submitted.
- Complete all forms in their entirety. This includes the full legal name of the institution without any abbreviations, complete signatures, dates, agreement numbers and all required notary information as requested.

### Password Reset

- If you have forgotten your password for GA ATLAS, please complete and submit the [CACFP Electronic Enrollment/Change Form](#) to [NutritionVMFandEFF@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:NutritionVMFandEFF@dec.al.ga.gov)

### Institution Application

- CCR/SAMS Registration date should be updated annually.
- The Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is obtained from [SAM.gov](#)
- If utilizing a food service management company (FSMC) or acting as FSMC, ensure that you respond correctly in the institution application.

### Board of Directors Section:

- Ensure that all sections are completed for each board member.
- Any changes made to the Board of Directors (BOD) need to be supported with board meeting minutes.
- Ensure that the "delegation of authority" form is completed and signed by an officer of the board (as defined on the form) and that the officer is currently listed in the board section of the online application.

### Management Plan Section

- As you work to complete the Management Plan section, please save your work periodically. The system may "time-out" while you are working, and you may lose any unsaved data. It is recommended that the management plan information be typed into a word document and saved. If the typed information is not saved in the system, it can easily be copied and pasted.
- Be sure to read each question carefully as your response may require you to address more than one area.

### Attachment List

- Supporting documents can be uploaded to the attachment list. To ensure that documents can be easily identified once uploaded in this section, please rename the document to include the Fiscal Year, Name of Program, i.e. CACFP, and the name of the document.
- Please keep documents that have multiple pages together in one attachment to be uploaded. Documents that support each other should be kept together as well. For example, the SAVE Affidavit and the form of ID used for verification should be uploaded together in one attachment.
- All documentation uploaded on behalf of the institution should be current and coincide

with all the information entered into the online application. Submitting inconsistent documentation causes significant delays in the timeliness of the application process being completed.

### Site Application

- All questions must be answered as they relate to your institution at the time of application submission.
- Driving Directions must be entered.

### Budget

- When entering cost in the budget, you must select close at the end of each line item for the data to save.

### Specific Prior Written Approval (SPWA) submission and approval process

- Sponsors with an emergency request, are required to email the [SPWA request form](#) with supporting documentation to [Gwendolyn.howard@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:Gwendolyn.howard@dec.al.ga.gov) within 24hrs of purchase and then submit a budget revision to include the cost.
- For all other requests, sponsors are required to submit a budget revision to include the cost, upload the [SPWA request form](#) and supporting documents to the attachments list section in GA ATLAS and notify the budget team via email at [Nutritionbudget@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:Nutritionbudget@dec.al.ga.gov) at least 3 days prior to making the purchase.
- DECAL will review the request and provide an approval or denial status in writing, including any special considerations or reasons. The SPWA will be signed and uploaded to the attachment list section in GA ATLAS.

Independent Centers who have questions or concerns regarding updates, please contact your assigned Application Specialist:

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

Sponsors who have questions or concerns regarding updates, please contact your assigned Business Operations Representative:

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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## Have You Thought About Feeding Kids This Summer?

*Consider participating in Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program*

Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program, ensures children 18 and under have access to nutritious meals and snacks during the summer when school is not in session.

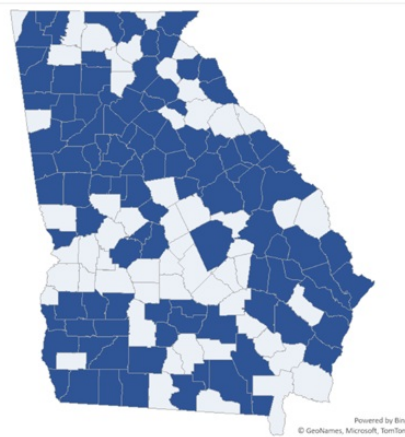
If your institution currently participates in at-risk afterschool meals, you are well-positioned to offer summer meals through Happy Helpings. If you would like to offer year-round feeding and are a CACFP Sponsor, we'd like to invite you to register for New Sponsor Training in GA ATLAS.

Training is offered on March 19 & 20 and April 9 & 10. There are 56 Georgia counties where children did not have access to a Happy Helpings' meal site during FY24. If you are able, please consider expanding your meal service to offer meals in any of the counties listed below.



## FY25 Areas of Need: 56 Counties

1. Atkinson	13. Crisp	25. Jeff Davis	37. Oglethorpe	49. Twiggs
2. Bacon	14. Dade	26. Jenkins	38. Pierce	50. Upson
3. Banks	15. Dawson	27. Jones	39. Pulaski	51. Webster
4. Berrien	16. Dodge	28. Lincoln	40. Quitman	52. Wheeler
5. Bleckley	17. Dooley	29. Long	41. Schley	53. Wilcox
6. Brantley	18. Echols	30. Lumpkin	42. Screven	54. Wilkes
7. Brooks	19. Forsyth	31. Madison	43. Stewart	55. Wilkinson
8. Camden	20. Gilmer	32. Marion	44. Sumter	56. Worth
9. Charlton	21. Gordon	33. Miller	45. Taylor	
10. Chattahoochee	22. Grady	34. Montgomery	46. Telfair	
11. Cook	23. Haralson	35. Murray	47. Towns	
12. Crawford	24. Harris	36. Oconee	48. Treutlen	



Blue: HH meals were offered in these counties: White: Areas of Need

## Upcoming Training Dates:

**March 25, 2025**

**Supporting Procurement Documents and Resources**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Each year, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) operators should calculate their food costs for the fiscal year and select the appropriate procurement method(s) to support those costs.

Join this webinar to learn how to:

- Distinguish standard procurement methods based on procurement thresholds
- Develop or update a Procurement Policy
- Identify and submit the required procurement documents to support food costs

[\[Register Now\]](#)

**March 26, 2025**

**PALS Session 3: Best Practice for Physical Activity in ECE Settings: Types, Daily Activities, & the Provider's Role.**

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

Would you like an opportunity to examine different types of physical activity and ways to identify how they encourage health and child development? Please join this series where we will address how physical activity can be embedded throughout the daily schedule and can support early learning. Throughout this session participants will consider how they create environments and experiences that support physical activity.

Training Objectives:

- To develop skills to follow the best practices of physical activity in ECE settings, and
- To identify the role of ECE professionals in promoting physical activity for children birth to age 5.

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

[\[Register Now\]](#)

**March 27, 2025**

**The Hidden Gem of Child and Adult Care Food Program Success**

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

The [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) is hosting the following virtual event(s).

- The Hidden Gem of CACFP Success

Get inspired on how to implement the NCA's Nutrition Calendar & Training Program. Explore CACFP best practices, nutrition information, table crafts, physical activities, business tips, provider training modules, parent provider connection letters, child care curriculum, record keeping, and more!

[\[Register Now\]](#)

**April 22, 2025**

**Tuesday Tip! Active Play with Mixed Aged Groups**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

Are you wondering how to engage and maximize active play in mixed age groups? If so, please join this session where participants will review developmentally appropriate practice and recommendations for active play for young children and apply these recommendations to adapt and design active play opportunities according to the needs of each age group.

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

[\[Register Now\]](#)

**April 23, 2025**

**PALS Session 4: Best Practice for Physical Activity in ECE Settings: Families, Training, Resources, and Policies**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

Would you like to explore concrete strategies for family engagement around physical activity? During this session, participants will be able to explore developmental milestones and tools from CDC that support milestone tracking. In addition, free and low-cost resources that advance physical activities practices and how program policies support will be shared with participants.

Join this session where we cover the following objectives:

- How to recognize family engagement opportunities around physical activity,
- How to communicate with families about their children's physical activity, and
- Ways to identify policy statements that follow the best practices for physical activity in ECE settings.

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

[\[Register Now\]](#)

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](mailto: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@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:leslie.truman@dec.al.ga.gov) for assistance.

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## Career Opportunity with Nutrition Services *Business Operations Specialist*

If you are a child nutrition advocate and have talent with determining program eligibility, interpreting federal regulations and state policies and excellent customer service, join the Nutrition Services team!

Interested individuals may use the link below to apply online by Wednesday **March 19, 2025**. [Click here](#) to apply.

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

### 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! Creditable or Not in CACFP** webinar. It discussed food items that are creditable and an allowable cost in CACFP.

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

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

- Grapefruit and cheddar cheese
- Avocado and English muffin
- Banana and fish-shaped crackers
- Rice cake and sunflower seed butter
- Kale and cranberry salad

### 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.

- **Tortilla Chips New!**
- **Serving Nuts and Seeds New!**
- **Serving a Second Vegetable in Lieu of Fruit for Lunch and/or Supper New!**
- **Brown Rice Noodles New!**

### Five Hacks for Building Fruit & Vegetable Habits

The [Foundation for Fresh Produce](#) has developed a simple infographic to share with parents/guardians to help ensure children receive a balanced diet at home like meals and snacks provided through the CACFP.

[Share with Parents](#)

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# Nutrition Ed Nook

## Rooting For You!

Root vegetables are the March Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight. These vegetables, which grow underground at the base of a plant, bring vitamins, minerals, starches, and sugars to help supply the body's needs. Edible roots come in many sizes, shapes and colors. They are a great way to add color to your plate.

In Georgia, radishes and beets are harvested in the spring while carrots are harvested from December through June.

**Carrots** come in many colors like red, purple, white, or yellow, however, orange carrots are the most recognized. Enjoy fresh carrots in a variety of forms - sliced into sticks, chopped, or shredded.

**Beets** come in a variety of colors, including white, red, Chioggia, and golden. Smaller to medium size beets tend to have better flavor. Try beets in a smoothie for a cool, refreshing treat.

**Radishes** are crisp, crunchy, and come in different colors such as red, pink, white, and purple, shapes, and sizes. Enjoy radishes shredded into salads, stews, soups, pastas, or slaws.

**Fun Fact:** Many people claim these root vegetables are sweeter when grown in Georgia because of our weather.

### Integration:

- **Curtido**
- **Fresh Carrot Salad**
- **Vegetarian Borscht**
- **Un-beet-able Berry Smoothie**
- **Roasted Radishes**
- **Crunchy Vegetable Wraps**
- **Delicious Dunking Dip**

### 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.
- **Taste** test with carrots, beets, radishes, or another root vegetable to see how children enjoy them and add it as a side item on your menu.
- **Read**, **Carrot Soup** by John Segal. Take one rabbit, patiently growing carrots. Add his friends -- Mole, Dog, Cat, Duck, and Pig. Mix all ingredients together for a super-delicious surprise!
- **Talk** with families about how children can help with meal preparation such as rinsing and drying root vegetables to be cooked in a dish.
- **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate root vegetables into their meals!
- **Want ECE root vegetable-themed resources?** Check out Quality Care for Children's **Harvest of the Month toolkit** for more ways to engage ECE students.

### Conversation:

- Have the children you serve ever tasted carrots, beets, or radishes before?
- Which root vegetable do they prefer: carrots, beets, or radishes?
- What other root vegetables do they like to eat?

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of root vegetables with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCHc at

## Physical Activity Corner

### *Spring Into Health with Gardening!*

As spring approaches, now is the perfect time to venture outdoors and get in some physical activity while smelling the fragrance of bright, beautiful flowers blossoming in the morning.

“Spring Into Health” with gardening this season, a great form of physical activity! Gardening improves fitness and overall health and mental wellbeing.

In addition, gardening is a way to integrate family engagement through Farm to Early Care & Education (ECE) in your program.



Farm to ECE has become increasingly popular in our communities in Georgia for many good reasons! When children are gardening with the assistance of parents or providers, they tend to eat more fruits and vegetables, have a better understanding of nutrition, improve their physical and mental development, increase social & emotional skills, and connect with nature.

Gardening can provide farmers, providers, parents, and children with a sense of purpose in life and nature; this may include the feeling of the soil slipping through their fingers for strength and the awe in harvesting fruits and vegetables after planting, caring, and harvesting them. Gardening helps to enhance body movement, coordination, and fine & gross motor skills. Gardening is a great way to bring the family together while planting, caring, and harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables, preparing and cooking meals with the produce from your garden, and engaging in the outdoors in a meaningful way. Time to get outdoors, experiment, and explore!

#### **Integration:**

- **Getting Started: Georgia Farm to ECE Guide**
- **Georgia Master Gardeners: Gardens of Georgia**
- **Quality Care for Children’s Farm to ECE**
- **UGA Extension’s Community and School Gardens**
- **Join a Community Garden – Food Well Alliance**

#### **Education:**

- **Read** out loud, *The Garden Project* by Margaret McNamara.
- **Watch** the video on **Introduction to Gardening with Children** by Georgia Organics in Georgia.
- **Talk** with families about ways to start a small garden, whether at home, in their local community, at your childcare site, or at their local school.
- **Bonus:** Share #LoveGardening, #SpringIntoHealth #GardenLife, #Instagarden, #CommunityGarden pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

#### **Conversation:**

- How do you feel after gardening?
- What would you like to plant in your garden?
- How does gardening help you with physical activity?
- Why is it important to build and how to grow gardens in your communities?

Share your #LoveGardening, #SpringIntoHealth, #MyGarden, #GardenLife, #Instagarden stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren, MPH at [tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov](mailto:tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov)

# Attend the National Child Nutrition Conference



The National Child Nutrition Conference is the premier annual event held by the National CACFP Association, bringing together professionals from child care centers, home providers, sponsoring organizations, school districts, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, Food Banks, tribal nations and State Agencies.

The 2025 Conference will be held at the Hilton Anatole from Tuesday-Thursday, April 15-17, 2025, but we have additional training opportunities available on Monday and Friday as well.

Get ready to join us for a jam-packed schedule of training, networking and fun!

Register [here](#)



## 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](#).

Nutrition and Physical Activity pins are saved and added weekly.

Questions or suggestions, submit to [morgan.chapman@decalfga.gov](mailto:morgan.chapman@decalfga.gov) or [tina.mclaren@decalfga.gov](mailto:tina.mclaren@decalfga.gov).

## 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:*

- **Stay Informed: At-Risk Afterschool Waivers Available during Unanticipated School Closure**
- **Non-Congregate Meal Service Waivers during Ramadan**
- **Check your Email Messages & Update Your Email Address in ATLAS**
- **Educator and Staff Wellness Resources**
- **A Message for CAPS and Quality Rated Providers**
- **USDA Announces Availability of \$1.13 Billion for Local Food Programs**
- **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
March	Harvest of the Month: Cruciferous Vegetables
March 16-22	National CACFP Week
March 19	Deadline to apply for Business Ops Specialist
March 25	Supporting Procurement Documents & Resources Webinar
March 26	PALS Session 3: Best Practice for Physical Activity in ECE Settings Training
March 27	The Hidden Gem of CACFP Success Webinar
April 22	Tuesday Tip! Active Play with Mixed Aged Groups
April 23	PALS Session 4: Best Practice for Physical Activity in ECE Settings Training
May 2	CACFP Meal Service Summit
May 14	Adult Care CACFP Boot Camp

## Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

*Atlanta History Center*

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

*This Week's Topic:*  
**Preventing Choking in Child Care**

**Pam Stevens**  
 Deputy Commissioner of Child Care Services

**April Rogers**  
 CCS Director of Enforcement Operations

**Diana Myers**  
 Nutrition and Physical Activity Supervisor

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning  
 BRIGHT FROM THE START

Choking is a leading cause of injury and even death in young children. However, this type of incident is preventable with the right knowledge and practices.

Joining us on this episode of DECAL Download to talk about the prevention of choking in child care is Pam Stevens, the Deputy Commissioner of Child Care Services, and April Rogers, the CCS Director of

Enforcement Operations. We are also joined by Nutrition and Physical Activity Supervisor, Diana Myers.

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.



## Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter  
Joann Kilpatrick

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