



May 15, 2025

CACFP Meal Service Summit Enhances Program Knowledge for Providers

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) proudly hosted the **CACFP Meal Service Summit** on May 2, 2025, in Peachtree City, Georgia—marking the program’s first in-person summit since 2019. This highly anticipated event brought together the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers from across the state for a day of learning, collaboration, and celebration.

The summit was designed to **motivate, support, and strengthen program knowledge** through expert-led breakout sessions that focused on real-world strategies and best practices. With a shared commitment to nourishing Georgia’s children and adults, the event underscored the vital impact of CACFP providers.

Participants explored a wide variety of topics including:

- CACFP Meal Patterns
- Procuring Local Foods
- Infant Feeding Practices
- Recordkeeping in CACFP
- Physical Activity in CACFP
- Taste Testing and Creative Snacks
- Mealtime Strategies for Toddlers
- Harvest of the Month and Food-Based Education
- Menu Planning with Cycle Menus & Standardized Recipes

Each session aimed to deliver practical insights and new ideas that attendees could immediately apply within their organizations.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our keynote speaker, **Dr. Caree J. Cotwright**, whose powerful and inspiring message set the tone for the day.

Thank you to all the incredible Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers who attended the CACFP Summit 2025! Your commitment to providing nutritious meals and fostering healthy development in children continues to make a profound difference. Together, we are making the CACFP stronger and more impactful across Georgia.



DECAL staff members pose with keynote speaker Dr. Caree J. Cotwright at the CACFP Meal Service Summit held on May 2, 2025, in Peachtree City, Georgia.



Attendees listen as Tamika Boone, Decal's Director of Nutrition Services, delivers opening remarks at the CACFP Meal Service Summit.



Attendees of the CACFP Meal Service Summit participate in one of the breakout sessions.



During the "Taste Testing and Creative Snacks" breakout session, attendees had the opportunity to sample a variety of foods and learn innovative ways to create snacks using fruits and vegetables.

Helpful Hints for Completing the CACFP 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

Institution Application

- CCR/SAMS Registration date should be updated annually.
- The Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is obtained from [SAM.gov](https://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 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 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	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

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	Lavesia.Ervin@dec.al.ga.gov	(404) 293-5258
Joveta Watson	D-G, Q-Z	Joveta.Watson@dec.al.ga.gov	(706) 434-6831

Upcoming Training Dates:

May 20, 2025

Tuesday Tip! The Connections Between Active Play and Social-Emotional Learning in Early Childhood

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Are you coaching children on connecting the dots with physical activity and social-emotional intelligence?

Please join this webinar to learn:

- four [4] social emotional skills,
- how active play can encourage skill development,
- practices and activities to incorporate into a child's environment.

Participants can earn one [0.50] state-approved hour(s) for attending this training in its entirety.

[\[Register Now\]](#)

June 3, 2025

Tuesday Tip! Let's Hydrate

1:30 - 2:00 pm

Are you frequently thinking about fun ways to increase fluid intake?

Join this webinar to learn:

- creditable milks and juices,
- fun ways to increase water intake, and
- the importance and benefits of water consumption.

Participants can earn one [0.50] 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 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

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 for assistance.

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 [Product Formulation Statement \(PFS\) & CN Labels webinar](#). It discusses how Product Formulation Statements & CN Labels provide a way for a manufacturer to demonstrate how a processed food product may contribute to the meal pattern requirements in child nutrition programs (CNPs).

Snack Attack *New Recipes!*

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

- Sugar snap peas and beef jerky
- Strawberries and cucumbers
- Muffin and kiwi
- Pear and mozzarella cheese
- Corn tortilla chips and salsa

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.

- [Tempeh](#) *New!*
- [Taking Food Offsite](#) *New!*
- [CACFP Funds for a Garden](#) *New!*
- [Medical Statements for Disability Reasons](#) *New!*
- [Zucchini Bread](#) *New!*

Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes

[USDA's Team Nutrition](#) has developed this important worksheet to help prevent the risk of choking when serving children at mealtimes. Available in English and Spanish.

[Read the Resource](#)

Food Facts: How to Cut Food Waste and Maintain Food Safety

The [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) has developed this food fact sheet that can help providers practice habits that are good for our health, wallet, and the environment!

[Find Food Facts](#)

Meal-O-Matic

The [Doctor Yum Project](#) has designed Meal-O-Matic to help you make a few basic recipes with the ingredients you love. Design your own personalized meals based on the ingredients you have on hand. No matter what your skill level is in the kitchen, using the Meal-O-Matic makes cooking easy and fun for the whole family!

[Meet Meal-O-Matic](#)

Berry Delicious!



Berries are the May Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight.

Berries are a powerhouse of nutrition, offering a wealth of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants in every bite. These antioxidants can help boost immune function, fight inflammation, and protect against cancer and heart disease. Additionally, berries are an excellent source of fiber, which helps you feel fuller longer and supports digestive health.

Among the many varieties of berries, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries reach their

peak during the summer months. This makes it the perfect time to incorporate them into your meals and snacks. Most berries are naturally sweet and require minimal preparation.

Enjoy berries in a bowl of whole grain cereal, low-fat yogurt, sprinkled on a salad, or blended with fat-free or low-fat milk or yogurt for a refreshing smoothie. Take advantage of the season and enjoy the delicious and nutritious benefits of berries!

Fun Fact: The strawberry is the world's most popular berry – used in smoothies, shortcakes, ice cream and pie. But they're super-sensitive to cold weather. That's why March through July in Georgia is strawberry weather.

Integration:

- [Any Berry Sauce](#)
- [Crunchy Berry Parfait](#)
- [Cranberry Applesauce](#)
- [Raspberry Fruit Dip](#)
- [Whole-Wheat Blueberry Muffins](#)
- [Strawberry and Banana Fruit Smoothie](#)

Education:

- **Watch** the [Harvest with Holly](#) video that explores the Harvest of the Month spotlight, how these items grow, where they grow in Georgia, and how they get from the farms to school meals all across the state of Georgia.
- **Compare and contrast** different types of berries. Explore differences in colors, textures, shapes, smells, and tastes for each berry. Create an observation chart for your children to complete together. Make sure your observation chart is in a centralized area where all children can see it and share in the discussion.
- **Read** [Blueberries for Sal](#), by Robert McCloskey with the children in your care. Kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk! Sal and her mother are picking blueberries to can for the winter. But when Sal wanders to the other side of Blueberry Hill, she discovers a mama bear preparing for her own long winter. Meanwhile Sal's mother is being followed by a small bear with a big appetite for berries! Will each mother go home with the right little one?
- **Talk** with families about how children can help with meal preparation such as rinsing berries under cool running water to be served with a meal.
- **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate berries into their meals!
- **Want ECE berry-themed resources?** Check out Quality Care for Children's [Harvest of the Month toolkit](#) for more ways to engage ECE students.

Conversation:

- What are children's favorite berries to eat and why?
- Have the children you serve ever picked berries themselves? If so, what was it like?
- If children could create a new berry flavor, what would it taste like?

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

Physical Activity Corner

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month – a campaign to provide an opportunity to celebrate and promote physical activity, sports, and all its many health benefits to all ages, communities, schools, and workplaces.

Move in May is about enjoying physical activity, exercise, and sports. There are lots of ways to be more physically active, and to find a form of physical activity that each person can enjoy.

Physical activity is key to maintaining health and well-being. Being active can improve fitness, reduce stress and risk for many chronic diseases, and support good mental health. Youth sports can help kids and teens get active and develop leadership, time management, and relationship-building skills.



According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition (ODPHP), here are the recommendation on all ages:

- Children ages 3 through 5 years need to be active throughout the day.
- Children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 need to be active for 60 minutes every day.
- Adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity, or an equivalent combination each week.
- Adults aged 65 and older need:
 - At least 150 minutes a week (for example, 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week) of **moderate-intensity activity** such as brisk walking. Or they need 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activities such as hiking, jogging, or running.
- Adults with chronic health conditions or disabilities who are able should:
 - Get at least 150 minutes (for example, 30 minutes 5 days a week) of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity a week.

How To Observe Physical Activity:

- At home: Break away from sitting less and **MOVE** more. Take a 15-minute walk early in the morning or during a lunch break. End a long day of work with a few stretches or a yoga session for quietness, tranquility, and peace of mind.
- To school (children/parents): As a family, go together with your children early in the morning to walk to and from school or after school in the afternoon.
- With the family: Walk in with your neighborhood or community – to the park, local mall, local farmer's market, or a grocery store in the day or on a weekend. Be safe!!!
- At work (colleagues): Invite a colleague to take a 10-minute walk (break) from the computer/office. Take the stairs, instead of the elevators.

Enjoy the outdoors this summer season and Let's Move It!

Integration:

- **Physical Activity Fast Facts**
- **National Senior Health & Fitness Day (May 28, 2025)**
- **Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition**
- **Physical Activity Calendar for Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers**
- **National Sports Youth Strategy**
- **Move Your Way® Fact Sheets for Parents**

Education:

- **Read** out loud, *Move Your Body! My Exercise Tips*, by Gina Bellisario.
- **Watch** the video on [Introducing the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition](#).
- **Talk** with families about ways to move more at home, in their community, at childcare and at adult care centers.
- **Bonus:** Share #MayFitness, #MoveInMay, #NationalPhysicalActivity&Sports #MoveYourWay pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Conversation:

- What is your favorite physical fitness activity every day?
- Why is physical fitness important in sports?
- How do you stay motivated to exercise daily?
- What are the benefits of staying physically active?

Share your #DECALPhysicalActivity #NationalPhysicalActivityFitness&Sports #MayFitness, #MoveInMay, #BeActive, #MoveYourWay stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren, MPH at tina.mclaren@decalfga.gov



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 or 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:

- [Updates to Child and Adult Care Food Program Procurement Documents](#)
- [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](#)
- [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
May	Harvest of the Month: Berries
May 20	Tuesday Tip! The Connections Between Active Play and Social-Emotional Learning in Early Childhood- Webinar
June 3	Tuesday Tip! Let's Hydrate- Webinar

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

Atlanta History Center



Physical Activity Learning Sessions also known as PALS is an impactful program designed for early care and education professionals. This training initiative is centered on enhancing the knowledge of physical activity and best practices for children from birth to five years old. The goal of PALS is promoting healthier, more active lifestyles for our youngest learners. Joining us on

this week's episode of DECAL Download to talk about PALS and its impact is Diana Myers, the Nutrition and Physical Activity Supervisor here at DECAL.

Listen to the episode [here](#).

How was my Customer Service?

Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



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



Nutrition Services Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter
Joann Kilpatrick

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
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Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

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