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USDA Food and Nutrition Administration Awards Grant to DECAL

Nutrition Division will use funds to develop strategies that strengthen child nutrition programs in schools and child care facilities across the state

ATLANTA, Ga., (October 11, 2026) – ATLANTA, GA — The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is excited to announce that its Nutrition Division was awarded a Team Nutrition Training Grant from the USDA Food and Nutrition Administration. This funding empowers state agencies to develop innovative strategies that strengthen child nutrition programs in school and child care settings.

Georgia DECAL was among five states selected to utilize this funding for its Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Specifically, this grant supports a project, Georgia Child Care REFRESH: Real Education, Foods, Recipes and Environments Supporting Health. DECAL is partnering with the University of Georgia to strengthen the capacity of CACFP-participating early learning facilities across Georgia to implement high-quality, evidence-informed nutrition practices that align with CACFP requirements and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Through an integrated three-year approach, the project will include statewide in-person training and technical assistance, the development and distribution of engaging classroom and family nutrition education resources, and an assessment-to-action pilot program to help improve mealtime environments.

“This program supports CACFP operators in providing nutritious meals and quality nutrition education at a time when children are establishing lifelong eating habits,” said Tamika Boone, Director of Nutrition Services.

Read more about the grant and awardees on USDA’s [Team Nutrition Training Grant webpage](#). Visit DECAL’s [Nutrition Services webpage](#) for more information about the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Division’s nutrition education resources.

About DECAL

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is the state agency supporting Georgia’s children and families by overseeing and promoting access to high-quality early care and education programs. These programs include Georgia’s Pre-K, child care licensing, CAPS, Quality Rated, nutrition programs, Head Start collaboration, and statewide quality improvement efforts. Get more information at www.decal.ga.gov.

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