

Nutrition News



Happy
Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

March 1, 2023

Up to \$10k Grant offered to Expand Meal Access in Unserved Counties

Deadline to apply: May 15, 2023

Expanding access to nutritious meals and snacks in every Georgia county is an ongoing goal for Nutrition Services. Unfortunately, during fiscal year 2022, 73 counties did not have a Happy Helpings meal site. In an effort to increase meal access and feed more children this summer, **DECAL is pleased to offer start-up grants, up to \$10,000, to both new and experienced Happy Helpings' sponsors.**

To qualify, sponsors must submit an application by **Monday, May 15, 2023**. Click [here](#) to apply.

Interested but have questions?

Join us for a call on **March 9, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.**, to discuss the start-up grant requirements and application process.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 233 428 554 94

Passcode: xf6bmk

[Download Teams](#) |

Or call in (audio only)

+1 470-481-4462,,763988204# United States, Atlanta

Phone Conference ID: 763 988 204#

What we are looking for:

DECAL Nutrition is seeking partners to increase access to meals and snacks in underserved or unserved Georgia counties through Happy Helpings during summer 2023.

These counties include:

Areas of Need: 73 Counties

• Bacon	• Dade	• Haralson	• Miller	• Screven	• Wayne
• Baldwin	• Dawson	• Harris	• Montgomery	• Stewart	• Webster
• Banks	• Dodge	• Heard	• Murray	• Talbot	• Wheeler
• Ben Hill	• Dooly	• Irwin	• Oconee	• Taliaferro	• White
• Berrien	• Emanuel	• Jeff Davis	• Oglethorpe	• Taylor	• Wilcox
• Bleckley	• Evans	• Jenkins	• Peach	• Telfair	• Wilkes
• Brantley	• Forsyth	• Johnson	• Pickens	• Towns	• Wilkinson
• Camden	• Gilmer	• Jones	• Pierce	• Treutlen	• Worth
• Charlton	• Gordon	• Laurens	• Pike	• Troup	
• Chattahoochee	• Greene	• Long	• Pulaski	• Turner	
• Clinch	• Habersham	• Lumpkin	• Putman	• Twiggs	
• Cook	• Hall	• Marion	• Quitman	• Ware	
• Crawford	• Hancock	• Meriwether	• Schley	• Warren	

Requirements:

- Must be an approved experienced or new Happy Helpings sponsor in good standing prior to receiving funds. Payments will be made by June 30, 2023.
- Must sign a grant agreement amendment with DECAL.
- Must agree to operate a Happy Helpings meal site in one or more of the underserved or unserved counties. *Failure to serve meals in at least one of the designated counties during FY23 will result in returning the funds to DECAL.*
- Must use grant funds on allowable Happy Helpings' costs.
- Must submit meal claims within 30 days.
- Must submit the Happy Helpings start-up grant application by 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2023. Start-up grant applications will be evaluated using a point-scoring system. The higher number of points will result in a larger award amount.
- Must have the ability to share project outcomes, including how funds were used, by September 30, 2023.

Step of Faith Outreach recognized for providing High Quality Summer Meals

Kenneth and Patsy Watkins of Step of Faith Outreach were recognized by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) as a recipient of the Turnip the Beet Award for program year 2022. This award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. This award also recognizes sponsors that go above and beyond program requirements.

"We love feeding children who normally would not get nutritious meals without coming to our center," said Patsy. "It fills our hearts knowing we can provide so many children with a hearty meal, other than a sandwich or a bowl of cereal, while their parents are either getting ready to go to work or are already at work." she added.

Step of Faith Outreach was one of 98 summer meal sponsors who received the award. All summer meal sponsors in good standing may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award. Sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party. Nomination forms for FY23 will be available at the end of the summer season.



TURNIP THE BEET

with high quality summer meals!

Omnibus Spending Bill signed into Law

Summer Meal programs in rural areas will not be required to operate under the Congregate Model

The omnibus spending bill was signed into law on December 29, 2022, to ensure healthy food access for children during the summer months.

The provisions of the 2023 omnibus bill will ensure that food-insecure families have the money to buy food for their children during the summer, and summer meal programs in rural areas will no longer have to operate under the congregate model.

Nutrition Services will share further clarification and guidance on this bill as received from the USDA.

Capacity Builder Tool helps Sponsors Identify Locations for New Meal Sites

The Capacity Builder is a powerful tool for sponsors to visualize “layers” of information, such as underserved areas, and identify locations for new sites. It also allows sponsors to evaluate the previous summer’s performance as well plan for the next year.

Users can also find their nearest potential community partners such as multi-family housing units, libraries, faith-based institutions, military bases, schools and more. summer.

Click [here](#) to access the Capacity Builder.

FY23 Reimbursement Rates Released

The nationwide rates for 2023 are available [here](#).



Locate Happy Helpings' Meal Sites on FoodFinder

For anyone who works to combat food insecurity, FoodFinder is an online resource that can help. FoodFinder’s nonprofit [website](#) and [mobile app](#) act as food pantry locators that help families in need find when and where to get help from food pantries and hot meal sites nearby.

Happy Helpings meal sites may also be located on Food Finder this summer. Be sure to let your clients and colleagues know about FoodFinder or message their team directly at info@foodfinder.us with questions or to request free shipments of printed info cards & flyers.

USDA re-names Farm to School Program

The Farm to School Program, administered by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), has been officially re-named to the [Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program](#).

Congress directed the renaming of the program in the recently passed 2023 government funding bill ([P.L. 117-328](#)). The Farm to School Grant Program has also been renamed to the [Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program](#).

The new program name honors the longtime farm to school leadership of former U.S. Senator from Vermont, Patrick Leahy. Sen. Leahy served in the U.S. Senate from 1975 (94th Congress) to 2023 (117th Congress), through a total of 24 U.S. Congresses.



In 2010, Sen. Leahy authored the language that established the USDA Farm to School Program through the [Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#). This legislation modeled the USDA Farm to School Program after [Vermont's Farm to School program](#), which was established in 2006. Sen. Leahy also sponsored various bills to expand USDA Farm to School programming, including the [Farm to School Act of 2021](#).

Summer 2023 Will Be Here Soon

Start Planning Now

Providing summer meals is a year-round effort. At any point throughout the year, there are things you can do to prepare for next summer!

March/April

- Review sites and ensure you are aware of their locations, operational hours, staff, and dates for monitoring.
- Think about how meals will be delivered to the sites and how many will be served.
- Complete pre-operational site visits.
- Ensure administrative staff are trained. Finish application and renewal forms.
- Contract with a food service management company, if necessary.
- Check with DECAL to determine if there are any potential sites lacking sponsors or areas lacking sites and sponsors and consider extending service to those areas.

New Organizations Interested in Happy Helpings

All Participants Required to Complete a Viability Screening Assessment

A complete and accurate viability screening packet must be submitted at least seven business days prior to the last new sponsor training to allow time for review of the submitted information.

Organizations that meet all viability requirements will be registered to attend one of the required two-day trainings for new sponsors scheduled in March or April 2023.

***Note:** School Food Authorities (SFAs) and government entities are exempt from the Viability, Capability, and Accountability (VCA) Checklist requirement. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Kicklighter, Marketing and Outreach Manager, at 678-841-3170.

Keep Informed on Food Recalls to prevent Serious Illness

If you procure foods from a local producer, store, food vendor, or food service management company, the following information is very important. According to the Food and Drug Administration, food recalls are removals of foods from the market that violate the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations. In short, FDA regulates all foods except meat, poultry, and processed egg products, which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **(1)**.

As an Institution or Sponsor, it's essential to know the food recalled because it could cause serious illness. Food recalls are classified into three classes. The following describes the three classes of food recalls **(2)**:

- **Class I** is a health hazard situation with a reasonable probability that eating the food will cause serious, adverse health consequences or death. E. coli O157:H7 in bagged spinach; Salmonella in tomatoes
- **Class II** is a health hazard situation with a remote probability of adverse health consequences from eating the food. Example: A product containing a foreign material
- **Class III** is a situation where eating the food will not cause adverse health consequences. Example: Food products not labeled correctly.

Food recalls are usually voluntarily initiated by the manufacturer or distributor of the food, and the FDA may request or mandate a recall. To safeguard the institution and the participants, rely on updated data rather than solely the news, vendors, or stores for information. Periodically search the recalls and more on the [FDA Recalls](#), [Food Safety and Inspection Service-USDA](#), and [FoodSafety.gov](#) websites and develop a traceability log.

For further information on procurement, please contact Tempest Harris at tempest.harris@dec.al.gov

References:

1. *Food Recalls: What You Need to Know. Resources for You (Food) at Food and Drug Administration, 2022, listed [here](#). Accessed 14 Feb. 2023.*
2. *Responding to a Food Recall Procedures for Recalls of USDA Foods. Guidance and Handbook at USDA Food and Nutrition Services, 2014, listed [here](#). Accessed 14 Feb. 2023.*

Happy Helping Waivers available during Unanticipated School Closures

On May 18, 2022, DECAL received approval from the USDA for the following statewide waivers which are available during unanticipated school closures. These waivers are in effect October 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023. The waiver approval letter can be found [here](#).

Please note: For the purposes of these waivers, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.

- **Waiver 16: Non-Congregate Meal Service during Unanticipated School Closures** waives the requirements that meals must be served in a congregate setting and be consumed by participants on site.
- **Waiver 17: Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up during Unanticipated School Closures** waives the requirement that meals be served directly to eligible participants.
- **Waiver 18: Meal Service Times for Unanticipated School Closures** waives meal service time requirements.
- **Waiver 19: Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures** waives the requirement that State agencies are to only approve meal service operations at non-school sites.

These waivers are only applicable when the congregate meal service is limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the following criteria is required for these waivers to be approved and used by Happy Helpings sponsors during unanticipated school closures. Waiver requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria:

Criteria 1:

The site must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding COVID-19 community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

- CDC, [listed here](#) – Under the "Data Type" pull down menu (located mid-page), the user would select "Community Transmission" to access a county's designation.

Criteria 2:

Sponsors can provide official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by the following:

- A public state, local, or county official
- A school superintendent or principal
- An SFSP Sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 at an SFSP Site.
Documentation to support the documented case of COVID-19 could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.

These waivers will be effective for **30 days** upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted.

Happy Helpings sponsors interested in applying for these waivers during unanticipated school closures must submit waiver requests via the Waiver Module within GA ATLAS.

*Documentation to support the criteria chosen must be uploaded with the waiver request in GA Atlas. Additionally, waiver requests for sponsored sites will be reviewed and approved upon the site's approval to operate the Program.

More Information on Requesting a Waiver: For information on requesting a waiver, please access the following resources:

- [USDA Waiver User Guide](#) - Provides step by step instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas (applies to both CACFP and SFSP).
- [Important Reminders when using USDA Approved Waivers](#) - Discusses key recordkeeping requirements.
- [USDA Waiver Addendum](#) - Required when using the Parent Pick-up waiver or when conducting home delivery under the Non-Congregate waiver.

For general questions on requesting a USDA approved waiver, please contact Tammie.Baldwin@decal.ga.gov.

For specific policy questions pertaining to waivers, please contact Robyn.Parham@decal.ga.gov.

Additional Statewide Unanticipated School Closure Waivers have been Requested

Very recently, Nutrition Services requested additional statewide waivers for Happy Helpings sponsors to utilize during unanticipated school closures. Prior, the below waivers could only be utilized by Happy Helpings sponsors during unanticipated school closures when COVID-19 affected meal service operations.

Based upon information recently provided by the USDA, the following waivers are available during unanticipated school closures resulting from 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. The requested waivers are as follows:

- **Non-Congregate Meal Service**
- **Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up**

- **Meal Service Times**
- **Service of Meals at School Sites**

If and when these waivers are approved by the USDA, Nutrition Services will notify sponsors. The public notice advising of Nutrition Services' request for these waivers can be found [here](#).

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Dates

Happy Helpings GA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Training

Do you plan to serve summer meals during the FY 2022-2023 program year? If so, please plan to participate in **one (1)** of the upcoming *SFSP Orientation and Program Training* sessions. Registration is now open.

Happy Helpings Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)

- April 13, 2023 (Hilton Garden Inn: Albany)

Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training (2 Days)

- March 22-23, 2023 (Hilton Garden Inn: Albany)
- April 26-27, 2023 (Atlanta Metro State College)

March 20, 2023 – Memo Monday!

10:00 am until 12:00 pm

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will discuss the following policy memo(s) during our March Memo Monday.

- *Ensuring Sponsors Implement Adequate Oversight and Internal Controls of SFSP Operations dated December 9, 2022*
- Happy Helpings Most Common Findings at the Sponsor and Site Level
- Happy Helpings Best Practices
- [[Register Now](#)]

March 22, 2023 – Menu Planning in CACFP and Happy Helpings

10:00 am until 12:00 pm

Are you ready to retire your routine recipes? Join this webinar to learn tips, tools, and tangible resources for planning creative meals for your monthly menus.

- *Participants can earn two [2] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.*
- [[Register Now](#)]

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 training highlight is the **January Memo Monday** webinar. It discussed new guidance on collecting racial and ethnicity data for enrolled and non-enrolled participants.

Training and Technical Assistance Webpage *New Section!*

The TTA Team has published a new section on our [TTA webpage](#) titled, "Test Your Knowledge." This section includes Team Nutrition quizzes on Child Nutrition Programs. A new Whole Grain quiz was recently released. Please ensure to check out the new section on our [TTA webpage](#).

Training & Technical Assistance

The goal of the Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Unit is to improve performance and better

equip new and participating institutions and sponsors by providing practical, user-friendly resources and guidance materials that strengthen internal controls and result in successful, sustainable Program administration and operation. We want to ensure that we continue to meet this goal during any transitions and/or position changes.

Therefore, sponsors that reside in **region 2** listed in the map above, 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 Program resources and recorded webinars.



Apply for a No Kid Hungry Grant Today

A key part of No Kid Hungry's strategy is building partnerships and supporting child nutrition efforts through grantmaking. Their grants provide schools and community-based organizations with the financial

support they need to ensure kids have access to the nutritious food needed to live, learn and play.

Please complete the following form [here](#), where the No Kid Hungry team will reach out if grant funding is available for your program.



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. Root vegetables include beets, carrots and radishes.

Beets are packed with nutrients like antioxidants, fiber, folate, iron and potassium. They come in a variety of colors including Chioggia, golden, red, and white. Smaller

to medium size beets tend to have better flavor. In Georgia, beets are in season April through June. Sauté them with chopped onion and garlic for a healthy side dish.

Carrots are high in vitamin A, which supports good eyesight. They also provide vitamin K and biotin. Orange carrots are the most recognized, however, they can also be purple, red, white, or yellow in color. In Georgia, carrots are in season January through June and October through December. Add this popular root vegetable to salads and soups for a crunchy, sweet flavor.

Radishes are a good source of vitamin C, which is good for a healthy immune system and skin. They are also a good source of fiber and potassium. Radishes are crisp, crunchy, and come in different colors such as red, pink, purple, and white. Their shapes and sizes also vary. In Georgia, this root vegetable is in season March through June. Enjoy radishes raw or added to main dishes such as pastas, salads, sandwiches, soups, and stews.

Integration:

- **Carrot Pancakes**
- **Mashed Carrots**
- **Beet Dip**
- **Un-beet-able Berry Smoothie**
- **Crunchy Vegetable Wraps**
- **Spring Vegetable Sauté**

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 participants enjoy them and add it as a side item in your menu.
- **Talk** with families about how participants 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!

Conversation:

- Have your participants tried carrots, beets, and/or radishes before?
- Which of the three, carrots, beets or radishes, is their favorite to eat?
- 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, MCH at morgan.chapman@dec.al.gov.



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. This 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. This activity helps enhance body movement, coordination, and fine & gross motor skills. It is also 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 Webpage**
- **UGA Extension's Community and School Gardens**

Education:

- Read out loud, "**The Garden Project**," by **Margaret McNamara**.
- **Watch** the video on "**Farm to ECE – 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** and **#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 to grow gardens in your communities?

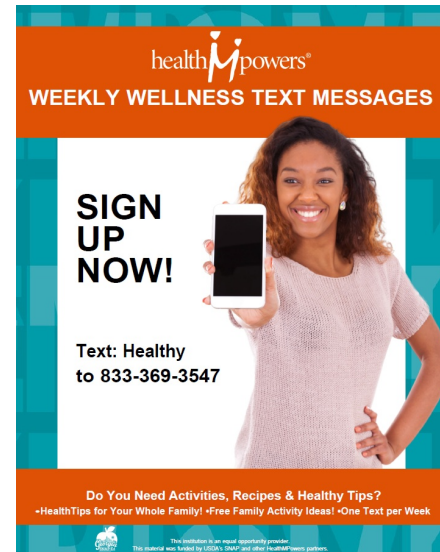
Share your **#LoveGardening**, **#SpringIntoHealth**, **#MyGarden**, **#GardenLife** and **#Instagarden** stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren at tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov.

Be a Health Hero – *Health Empowers You*

HealthMPowers, a partner organization with the Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning, promotes healthy habits to build a better future for all children in Georgia.

To connect with their work, text 'HEALTHY' to 833-369-3547 to receive one text message per week on healthy tips, recipes, and activities for your whole family.

What are you waiting for? Sign-up now! Information is also available in **Spanish**.



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Sonja Adams, Senior Manager of Provider Services*

Meet Sonja Adams, Senior Manager of Provider Services for the Nutrition Services Division. In this role, Sonja manages a team of 13 who offer comprehensive services to program operators of both the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program. The departments Sonja oversees include policy, training and technical assistance, nutrition health education, physical activity and procurement.

Sonja's team works to help sponsors and institutions stay abreast of regulatory requirements, as well as to provide guidance on operating a seamless and compliant child nutrition program. Collectively, the team is responsible for ensuring sponsors and institutions are trained on USDA regulations and best practices, informed about important events and activities, and retained to help maintain a successful meal service operation.

"It's an honor to be working alongside a talented, result-oriented team that is passionate about serving the community," said Sonja. "That combination is essential to the work we do," she added.

Prior to joining DECAL, Sonja worked in the Georgia Secretary of State Press Office. Aside from State government, she served in the nonprofit sector in the areas of public policy, grassroots organizing and economic development.

In her spare time, Sonja enjoys music, writing, and spending time with her husband and two children.

Eat Healthy and Live Active

Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 22-23 Calendar

Harvest of the Month (HOTM) is the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program's farm to school initiative that highlights an item each month that can be sourced locally and served in Georgia's school meals.

DECAL's Harvest of the Month calendar aligns with the Georgia Department of Education's Harvest of the Month initiative and was created in partnership with Quality Care for Children, Georgia Organics, and the Farm to Early Care & Education (ECE) Coalition for ECE settings.

Visit the Georgia Department of Education's HOTM [webpage](#) and Quality Care for Children [webpage](#). Upon viewing, you can find tips and tricks for preparing produce items, curriculum connections, activity lists and book alignment for your early care classrooms.



Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
March	Harvest of the Month: Root Vegetables Start planning for Summer 2023
March 9	Start-up Grant Information Call for Sponsors
March 20	Memo Monday!
March 22	Menu Planning in CACFP & Happy Helpings Webinar
March 22 & 23	Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training
April 13	Happy Helpings Experienced Sponsor Training
April 26 & 27	Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training
May 15	Start-up Grant Application Deadline

Happy Helpings Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- Annual Sponsor Survey Feedback
- Guidance on Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data
- Updated HH Forms and Policies
- Reminder: PolicyStat is available on the Nutrition Services' Webpage
- Thank You Happy Helpings Sponsors
- After School Programs Required to Apply for License or Exemption to Participate in At-Risk
- Transitioning from Happy Helpings to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals
- Check your Email Messages in GA ATLAS

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.

NEW DECAL Download

Update on POWER and DECAL Scholars

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

Melissa Ross
Program Manager for
Care Solutions

Abby Mozo
Professional Learning
Operations Analyst

This Week's Topic:
**Update on POWER and
DECAL Scholars**

Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Since 2021, we have paid out three installments of close to \$115 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in POWER payments. That's individual payments of \$1,000 to some 35,000 early learning professionals here in Georgia.

Now, we are repurposing POWER payments going forward and making some

changes to DECAL Scholars as a result. Joining us on this week's episode to talk about the updates to POWER and DECAL Scholars are Abby Mozo, our Professional Learning Operations Analyst here at DECAL and Melissa Ross from Care Solutions.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter
Carl Glover

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Nondiscrimination Statement: English

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