

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



December 10, 2020

Happy Holidays

Sponsor Spotlight - Dream It Forward Foundation: *Serving the Young Dreamers of Georgia*

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsor **Dream It Forward Foundation, Inc.** is a youth services organization offering mentoring, educational support that promotes a foundation of knowledge and life skills to under-served and at-risk youth in Georgia.

Founder and Executive Director of Dream It Forward, **Yaminah Childress**, started out in 2015 operating as an Independent Center for the At-Risk Afterschool meals program, a component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). She transitioned to SFSP about five years ago. Her experience working with youth and identifying the needs in the community compelled her to become a sponsor. "Some of the youth were really only getting meals at school, so it made sense to supplement what we were already offering with our mentoring and education services," she explained. "We realized you can't really focus if you're hungry; It was just a natural progression."



Kids enjoying summer food and summer reading from Dream It Forward Foundation.

Currently, Dream It Forward is operating one SFSP meal site in Henry County and during the summer, they operate between three to five meal sites serving an average of 10,000 meals throughout Henry, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties.

COVID caused some challenges, but the team at Dream It Forward focused on ensuring they were meeting the needs of the youth in the community. They worked to maintain some normalcy in operations, while also following SFSP regulations. Another major challenge was

the difficulty in finding the required components to make a complete meal, which resulted in additional shopping trips to a variety of different stores to find specific items.



During SFSP 2020, safety precautions were taken with social distancing and face masks.

Yaminah's operational tips for fellow SFSP sponsors include: to plan ahead, to learn how to identify other vendor and supply sources, to have a plan B, and to keep both paper and electronic documents.

She recommends that organizations interested in participating in SFSP should be well-informed about the program and go into it knowing that you are helping others. She explains, "it can be hard work, but it is rewarding knowing that you've helped your community and it is appreciated."

Yaminah says the best part of participating in SFSP is "serving the kids, knowing they are fed and they're happy during the summer." She adds, "The kids love our meals, and the parents are positively surprised to learn that their children can't wait to eat the meals again the following week."

For more information on Dream It Forward Foundation, please visit their [website](#).

Extending SFSP Operations through June 30, 2021

Pursuant to recent USDA guidance, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are permitted to extend their operations until June 30, 2021. Sponsors that wish to continue serving meals after December 31, 2020, will be required to meet all traditional SFSP requirements.

Approved SFSP Sponsors Extending through June 30, 2021

Sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional FY 2020 SFSP that would like to continue serving meals until June 30, 2021, must complete the following actions to be considered eligible for reimbursable meals:

- Register and participate in the virtual FY2021 SFSP Experienced Sponsor training scheduled on **February 17, 2021** or **March 10, 2021**. Registration will open **January 11, 2021**. Approved sponsors may continue to serve meals until training sessions are made available. Failure to register and participate in a SFSP Experienced Sponsor training will result in meals no longer being eligible for reimbursement.
- Review and update the FY 2021 application in GA ATLAS, which may include:
 - Review of the entire application
 - Revision of the management plan
 - Submission of the annual budget
 - Review and revision of site applications (e.g., new operating dates, new mealtimes)
 - Submission of annual documents

All hard copy documents must be printed, completed (including signature), scanned and uploaded in GA ATLAS. Once all hard copy documents have been submitted and electronic application sections are completed, please notify your assigned Application Specialist via email of your submission.

Returning Sponsors Operating through June 30, 2021

Experienced Sponsors who did not operate SFSP in FY2020 but would like to serve meals

through June 30, 2021, must complete the following actions to be eligible for reimbursable meals:

- Complete an abbreviated viability screening process (Government entities, School Food Authorities and CACFP Sponsors are exempt). Please contact **Demetria Thornton** to request a viability assessment.
- Sponsors that meet the viability requirements, will be required to register and participate in the virtual FY 2021 Experienced SFSP Sponsor Training scheduled on **February 17, 2021** or **March 10, 2021**. Registration will open **January 11, 2021**.
 - Returning sponsors will be given access to start their applications and serve meals until training sessions are made available. Failure to register for and participate in a SFSP Experienced Sponsor training will result in meals no longer being eligible for reimbursement.
- Enroll in Program Year FY2021*
- Complete Annual Renewal Certification Statements*
- Review and update the FY2021 application in GA ATLAS, which may include:
 - Review of the entire application
 - Revision of the management plan
 - Submission of the annual budget
 - Review and revision of site applications
 - Submission of annual documents

All hard copy documents must be printed, completed (including signature), scanned and uploaded in GA ATLAS. Once all hard copy documents have been submitted and electronic applications sections are completed, please notify your assigned Application Specialist via email of your submission.

***Note:** Dual sponsors who have already enrolled in FY2021 CACFP are not required to re-enroll and do not need to complete annual certification statements.

New Organizations Interested in Participating in SFSP

New organizations interested in participating in the SFSP will be 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 on **March 24-25, April 7-8, or April 28-29, 2021**. Registration will open **January 11, 2021**.

***Note:** School Food Authorities (SFAs) and government entities are exempt from the Viability, Capability, and Accountability (VCA) Checklist requirement. These organizations can contact **Leslie Truman** at **404-657-1779** to register for new sponsor training.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Specialist:

Application Specialists or Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (Zero) – G	Paula.Lawrence@dec.al.ga.gov	404-463-2111
Kenya Taylor	H – P	Kenya.Taylor@dec.al.ga.gov	404-463-4040
Temika Moore	Q – Z	Temika.Moore@dec.al.ga.gov	404-463-1494

Annual Year End Reconciliation Notice

Emergency Feeding & Traditional SFSP or Traditional SFSP Only (end date September 30, 2020):

Institutions operating Emergency Feeding and Traditional SFSP or only Traditional SFSP must complete an Annual Year End Reconciliation Form. The form should include all operating months from March-September. The combined Emergency Feeding and Traditional SFSP or Traditional SFSP reconciliation form and final bank statement/general ledger must be submitted to DECAL no later than **December 18, 2020**.



For the Annual Year End Reconciliation Form, [click here](#). Submit the form via email to [Gwendolyn Howard](#), as well as any questions about the budget process.

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

December 14, 2020 - Memo Monday!

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will discuss the following policy memos during our December *Memo Monday*.

- [Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit](#) dated 4.17.19
- [Food Service Permit Inquiry Form](#) (revised November 2020)

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Orientation and Program Training

Do you plan to serve summer meals during the FY 2020-2021 program year? If so, please plan to participate in **one (1)** of the upcoming *SFSP Orientation and Program Training* sessions. All sessions will be offered virtually.

SFSP Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)

- **February 17, 2021**
- **March 10, 2021**

SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)

- **March 24-25, 2021**
- **April 7-8, 2021**
- **April 28-29, 2021**

REGISTRATION
OPENING SOON!

It's Never too Early to Start Planning for Summer 2021

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! Click [here](#) for more information on proactive planning for sponsors.

January

- Sign up for mandatory sponsor training classes.
 - Begin to determine which sites are returning, explore new site options, and meet with community partners.
 - Plan site staff training, meal production and delivery, and programs and activities.
 - Begin exploring the potential for serving mobile meals.
 - Continue developing a marketing and outreach campaign.
-

Spread the Word: SFSP Virtual Summit

February 16, 2021

Non-profit organizations that are interested in learning more about the Summer Food Service Program are invited to attend the FREE virtual SFSP Summit on Tuesday, February 16.

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fee: FREE

For more information, contact [Cindy Kicklighter](#).



COVID-19 Resources for Sponsors

FAQs: Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding serving meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SFSP: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time for Children During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Nationwide Waivers:

SFSP

For full details on the SFSP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo.

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers Due to COVID-19

For full details, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo, or [click here](#) for a complete list of the Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19.

Nationwide Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the SFSP

FNS waives the requirement that reimbursement shall not be paid for meals served at a site before the sponsor has received written notification of approval for participation in the Program. ****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2021****

Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP & SSO Operations through June 2021

This waiver allows the SFSP & SSO to continue to operate through June 2021.

****Waiver is effective until June 30, 2021****

Area Eligibility

Allows Program operators to locate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021****

Closed Enrolled Eligibility

Under this waiver, for all States, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021****

First Week Site Visits

FNS waives, for all States, the requirement that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. (2) This waiver applies to State agencies administering and local organizations that have operated the SFSP successfully in the previous year, and SFSP sponsors in good standing that have successfully participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021****

Meal Pattern Flexibilities

The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021****

Meal Times Waiver

This waiver allows program operators the flexibility to adjust the times meals and snacks are provided in order to streamline operations. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2021****

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 until June 30, 2021****

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 until June 30, 2021****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsors

For sponsors only - FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.15(d) be conducted on site. ****Waiver extended until September 30, 2021****

Important Reminders:

If you were previously approved for a SFSP only waiver, but would like to continue utilizing the waiver in your CACFP operations, please submit a request to utilize the waiver for the CACFP. Similarly, if you were previously approved for a CACFP only waiver but wish to utilize the waiver in your SFSP operations, a SFSP waiver request is required.

Waiver requests can be submitted to [Leslie Truman](#). Waiver request forms that were previously approved for both CACFP and SFSP do not need to be re-submitted.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact [Kate Alexander](#).

Updated SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19

New Guidance and Fact Sheets regarding Off-Site Monitoring in Child Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic (*new*)

On November 13, 2020, USDA issued guidance and fact sheets regarding Program monitoring in the CACFP, SFSP and the National School Lunch Programs. Each correspondence reiterates monitoring requirements as well as flexibilities for State agencies and Program operators as a result of the pandemic. The flexibilities mentioned in the guidance are extended through September 30, 2021. To review copies of the guidance, click [here](#) and see *Nationwide Waivers – Policy Guidance*.

A **Sponsor Monitoring Guide** was created to provide guidance on monitoring during

COVID-19, monitoring waiver options, and conducting virtual/desk reviews. Due to the continuation of the Summer Food Service Program operations in FY2021, this guidance has been developed to ensure sponsors are in compliance with SFSP monitoring requirements per 7 CFR 225.15 (d)(2)(3) and to provide additional guidance regarding on-going site monitoring after the first and fourth week visit/review.

Effective January 4, 2021, DECAL recommends that, in addition to the first and fourth week visit/review, all sponsoring organizations conduct on-going quarterly monitoring reviews for all sites in operation in FY2021. Refer to the guidance below:

- [SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [Record Request Checklist Template](#)

The documents can also be found at DECAL's website under *COVID-19 Resources*>*Resources*.

Procurement News

Procurement Update

As of January 1, 2021, formal procurement procedures will be required for sponsors who will be participating in SFSP FY21 through June 30, 2021. Please take this time to review your anticipated food costs. If your food costs will exceed the small purchase threshold of \$250,000, formal procurement procedures will need to be executed.

Current noncompetitive agreements are only effective through December 31, 2020.

Local Sourcing Spotlight: *Citrus of South and Coastal Georgia*

Native to Japan, Satsuma Mandarins are a sweet treat widely available in Georgia with the added benefit of being easy to peel like a tangerine. Due to its ability to withstand cold temperatures, Satsumas can easily be grown and harvested with little protection needed in order to yield a promising crop selection. This citrus treat is considered to be the sweetest of all orange varieties while still having a semi-tart taste.



Franklin's Citrus Farm in Statesboro is known for the wide variety of Satsuma's available during harvest season. Place an order online for delivery or purchased from a local farmer's market where available.

For more information, read the [UGA extension](#) research article on citrus grown in Georgia.

Lettuce eat more veggies!

According to [Georgia Grown](#), people consume more than 285 million pounds of lettuce per year with average American's consuming 30lbs per person per year. Planted in early fall or early spring, lettuce is one of many leafy greens with the ability to withstand cool Georgia weather. **Bibb, Loose Leaf and Romaine varieties** are easily grown in a home garden or available from one of many farmers, farmer's market or local grocery



stores throughout Georgia

Purchase your favorite variety of lettuce and combine with other local sourcing spotlight produce selections to create your favorite salad to add to your lunch menu.

For questions regarding procurement, please contact [LaMonika Jones](#), Procurement Compliance Office.

Nutrition Ed Nook: Lettuce Learn More!

Planted in early spring or late fall, lettuce enjoys cool temperatures and can endure a light frost. With Georgia's temperatures being what they are, we have now arrived at lettuce season as December's Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) produce item.

Lettuce comes in an assortment of varieties ranging from greens to purples with the most common types being Romaine, Loose Leaf, and Bibb.



The beauty of lettuce is that you do not have to wait for the full head to grow; you can start harvesting lettuce leaves as soon as they are big enough to eat and enjoy. As an excellent source of fiber, iron, folate, and vitamin C, "lettuce see it" on your menu today for added nutritional value!

Integration:

- [Tropical Bean Salad](#)
- [Chicken Caesar Salad](#)
- [Chicken or Turkey Tacos](#)

Education:

- *Grow* lettuce – not only is lettuce a great first item to test out your gardening growing practices, but it also serves as a delicious taste test item for children.
- *Make* several vinaigrette recipes to pair with the harvested or purchased lettuce varieties. Tally up which recipe is the favorite and include it on your next menu cycle! To make a simple vinaigrette dressing, pair one-part vinegar to two-parts oil and add seasonings such as salt, pepper, garlic, or oregano. Test out using various vinegar varieties and consider adding Dijon mustard or lemon juice for an additional flavor.
- *Talk* with families about how children can help with meal preparation including tearing up lettuce leaves for a salad. **Bonus:** send lettuce recipes home for families to try together!

Conversation:

- Have the children you serve tasted lettuce before?
- If you try various vinaigrettes in a taste test, which one do the children you serve like the best?
- What is their favorite way to eat lettuce? Do they eat it as a salad base, shredded on tacos, or topped on sandwiches?

December's Harvest of the Month Bonus Item: Satsumas

Have you ever tried or served satsuma mandarins? Chances are you may have served their related siblings in the



mandarin family such as tangerines or clementines. Satsumas taste like nature's candy! They are juicy, sweet, nearly seedless, and easy to peel.

According to University of Florida researchers, they may have originated in China, but were first reported in Japan over 700 years ago. They were first grown in the U.S. by settlers in Louisiana in the early 1800s.

As a fruit that is low in calories and high in fiber and vitamin C, satsumas

serve as a nutritional option for your menus. Serve them as a fruit side with whole-grain pancakes and milk for breakfast or topped on a romaine lettuce salad with a turkey wrap and milk for lunch.

Share your winter Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of lettuce and satsumas with Nutrition Health Educator, [Diana Myers](#), MS, RD, LD!

Nutrition Division Employee Spotlight: *Welcome Gwen Howard, Budget Compliance Specialist*

Please join DECAL in welcoming **Gwen Howard**, Budget Compliance Specialist, to the Nutrition Division.

In her role, Gwen analyzes budgets for the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensuring that annual cost estimates and revenue projections are compliant with state and federal regulations.

Her favorite part of the job is digging into the “why” helping her understand how things work and how items are priced. She also enjoys helping sponsors with the budgeting process as it can be complicated to understand.



Although Gwen is an Atlanta native, she was raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. Gwen 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.

A fun fact about Gwen is that she loves to travel! Although her planned vacations were cancelled this year because of COVID, she hopes to safely continue her passion soon.

We are very fortunate to have Gwen on the Nutrition team!

SFSP Meal Sites throughout Georgia



The holidays are here and Georgia's children still have access to free, nutritious meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Click [here](#) to find a meal site location near you.



SFSP DATES TO REMEMBER



DECEMBER 14, 2020	Memo Monday
DECEMBER 18, 2020	Deadline to submit emergency feeding & traditional SFSP Reconciliation Form and final bank statement/general ledger
JANUARY 11, 2021	Registration begins for SFSP Orientation and Program Training
FEBRUARY 16, 2021	2021 SFSP Virtual Summit
FEBRUARY 17 / MARCH 10, 2021	SFSP Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)
MARCH 24 - 25, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)
APRIL 7 - 8, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)
APRIL 28 - 29, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)

NEW DECAL Download

Special Holiday Episode

The holiday season is upon us, with Thanksgiving in the rearview and Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza right around the corner. It is a great time for a special holiday episode of DECAL Download to celebrate those age-old traditions from the cookies and lights to just spending time with family and fellowship. These things

keep our spirits merry and bright, no matter what the circumstances.

As is our tradition, we are going to be featuring comments from several members of our DECAL team asking them what is your favorite holiday tradition and what's your New Year's Resolution for 2021? We're also joined by DECAL Nutrition Health Educator **Diana Meyers** who is going to help us survive all the holiday parties and office treats that seem to be coming at us constantly this time of year. Also we have **LaToya Longshore**, CCS NW Region Consultant, and **Jennifer McCreary**, Regional Manager for Georgia's Pre-K Program join us to talk about great gift ideas for children birth to five since that's our specialty.

Stay tuned for this week's water cooler question and the DECAL Download Quiz for your chance to win a nice prize!

Have an idea for a future topic? [E-mail us](#).

You can find DECAL Download [here](#) or on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Overcast, and more!

On the next ...

DECAL
Download 
New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Guests



Diana Myers
DECAL Nutrition Health
Educator



LaToya Longshore
CCS NW Region Consultant



Jennifer McCreary
Regional Manager
Georgia's Pre-K Program



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Nutrition Division Marketing & Outreach Team

**Cindy Kicklighter
Gaby Garza**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Nondiscrimination Statement: English
Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

FOLLOW US

