



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia's Child and Adult Care Food Program Available to Eligible and Approved Facilities

The nutrition program reimburses approved facilities for providing nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults in care.

*Child Care, Adult Care, Head Start, Emergency Shelters
across the State among Needed Participants*

Atlanta, Ga., (October 7, 2019) –The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) today announced it is seeking applications from eligible child and adult care facilities who are interested in participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); a federally funded U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program that provides healthy, affordable meals to both children and adults.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reimburses eligible institutions for serving nutritious meals and snacks for children and elderly or disabled adults who are enrolled at participating childcare centers, family childcare homes, afterschool programs, Head Start programs, adult care centers, and homeless shelters.

Tamika Boone, director of Nutrition Services for DECAL, stressed the importance of recruiting more institutions and facilities across the state to participate in the program. “The Child and Adult Care Food Program makes sure that participating programs provide meals according to the nutrition standards set by USDA. This ensures that children and adults in care receive balanced, nutritional meals and snacks.” She added, “the program also plays a vital role in improving the quality of childcare and makes it more affordable for many low-income families.”

Federal income guidelines determine a participant's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals through the CACFP. Children who receive benefits through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are automatically eligible to receive free meals through the CACFP. Adults who receive SNAP benefits, FDPIR benefits, or Social Security Income (SSI) or are Medicaid participants are categorically eligible for free meals.

Approved or exempt institutions that offer a structured after-school programs with educational or enrichment activities may be eligible to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool component of the CACFP. This program reimburses institutions that serve nutritious after-school snacks and/or a supper meal to children up to 18 years old in a structured environment after school hours. The after-school program must be in a low-income area where 50% or more of the children at the nearest school receive free or reduced-price meals. Qualifying eligibility data can be found on DECAL's website at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/Nutrition/EligibilityData.aspx>.

To learn more about participating in the CACFP, contact Cindy Kicklighter at cindy.kicklighter@dec.al.ga.gov or 404-656-3221. To find a CACFP facility or sponsor, visit the DECAL website at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Use the search function (zip code or county) for a list of all local facilities and sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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