



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Approved Organizations serving Healthy Meals and Snacks to children and adults qualify for cash reimbursement through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

*Child Care, Adult Daycare, Head Start, At-Risk Afterschool programs, Emergency Shelters across Georgia may be eligible.*

**Atlanta, Ga., (March 9, 2023)** –The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) today announced the agency is seeking applications from eligible facilities who are interested in participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Funded by the USDA and administered by DECAL’s Nutrition Services Division, the CACFP provides cash reimbursement to eligible institutions for serving healthy, affordable meals to children who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers and day care homes or residing in emergency shelters. CACFP also provides reimbursement for meals served to adults who are over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in a day care facility.

Approved or exempt institutions that offer structured after-school programs with educational or enrichment activities may also 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 meals program must be in a low-income area where 50 percent or more of the children at the nearest school receive free or reduced-price meals.

DECAL's Director of Nutrition Services, Tamika Boone encourages eligible organizations to apply to participate in the CACFP. “The program not only ensures children and adults receive balanced, nutritional meals and snacks, but it also plays a vital role in improving the quality of care received by making it more affordable for many 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.

To learn more about participating in the CACFP, contact Cindy Kicklighter at [cindy.kicklighter@decalf.ga.gov](mailto:cindy.kicklighter@decalf.ga.gov) or 678-841-3170. To find a CACFP facility or sponsor, visit the DECAL website at <http://www.decalf.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.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages the voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.decalf.ga.gov](http://www.decalf.ga.gov).