



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

**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Federal Cash Reimbursement available to Organizations serving Healthy Meals & Snacks through the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

*Child Care Centers, Day Care Homes, Head Start Programs, At-Risk Afterschool Programs, Emergency Shelters and Adult Day Care Programs may qualify for CACFP*

**ATLANTA** (January 2025) -- 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 and adults over 60 years old who are enrolled for care. Approved organizations receive a monthly reimbursement, as determined annually by the USDA, to help cover expenses for meals and snacks.

Organizations that may qualify to participate in CACFP include:

- Licensed child care centers for enrolled children
- Licensed family child care homes for enrolled children
- Head Start Programs for enrolled children
- After school care sites for low-income school age children and youth.
- Emergency shelters providing temporary residence for children
- Adult day care centers serving adults who are functionally impaired and/or 60 years of age or older.

DECAL's Director of Nutrition Services, Tamika Boone encourages eligible organizations to apply to participate in the nutrition assistance program that helps Georgian's thrive. "CACFP ensures children and older adults have access to foods that support good health and well-being." She added, "CACFP also plays a vital role in improving the quality of child and adult care as well as making 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.

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

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (833) 620-1071, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to:

1. **mail:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA 1320 Braddock Place, Room 334 Alexandria, VA 22314; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [FNCSIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov](mailto:FNCSIVILRIGHTSCOMPLAINTS@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### **About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) 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 and federal nutrition programs, and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system.

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.dec.ga.gov](http://www.dec.ga.gov) .