



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Reg Griffin  
404-656-0239  
[reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:reg.griffin@dec.al.ga.gov)



**Georgia's Child and Adult Care Food Program is available to Approved Facilities**

*Child Care Centers, Adult Day Care, Head Start, Emergency Shelters Among Participants*

**Atlanta, Ga., (April 22, 2014)** -Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning announces the availability of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) at approved facilities throughout the state. Childcare centers, adult day care centers, Head start programs, emergency shelters, before- and after school programs and family day care homes are eligible to participate.

Organizations can participate as either pricing or non-pricing programs. In pricing programs, meals will be available at a free or reduced price to all enrolled participants who meet the approved eligibility criteria listed in the chart on Page 2. In non-pricing programs, meals will be available to all enrolled participants at no separate charge to qualifying centers, emergency shelters, and all family day care homes.

The CACFP utilizes Income Eligibility Guidelines\*\* for Free and Reduced-Price Meals to determine each participant's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals in the program. Child participants who are members of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) units, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits. Adult participants who are members of SNAP, FDPIR households, who receive Social Security Income (SSI), or are Medicaid participants, are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

Falita Flowers, DECAL's Interim Director of Nutrition Services stressed the importance and benefits of the CACFP. "Providing nutritious meals to children and adults in day care environments is critically important. Bright from the Start is always looking for new sponsors that will provide even more children and adults access to these nutritious meals that will contribute to their overall health and wellness."

To find a CACFP facility or sponsor, please visit the Bright from the Start website at <http://www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Use the search function (zip code or county) to find a list of all local facilities and sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

## Income Eligibility Guidelines

(Effective from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)

Household size	Free Meals					Reduced Price Meals				
	Annually	Monthly	Twice A Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Twice A Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1 .....	14,937	1,245	623	575	288	21,257	1,772	886	818	409
2 .....	20,163	1,681	841	776	388	28,694	2,392	1,196	1,104	552
3 .....	25,389	2,116	1,058	977	489	36,131	3,011	1,506	1,390	695
4 .....	30,615	2,552	1,276	1,178	589	43,568	3,631	1,816	1,676	838
5 .....	35,841	2,987	1,494	1,379	690	51,005	4,251	2,126	1,962	981
6 .....	41,067	3,423	1,712	1,580	790	58,442	4,871	2,436	2,248	1,124
7 .....	46,293	3,858	1,929	1,781	891	65,879	5,490	2,745	2,534	1,267
8 .....	51,519	4,294	2,147	1,982	991	73,316	6,110	3,055	2,820	1,410
For each additional family member add	5,226	+ 436	+ 218	+ 218	+ 101	+ 7,437	+ 620	+ 310	+ 287	+ 144

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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 federal nutrition programs, and manages the voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start 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.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).