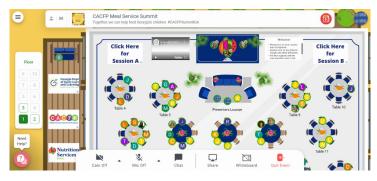


March 24, 2021

CACFP Meal Service Summit enhances Meal Programs for Providers

Thank you to everyone who attended the CACFP Meal Service Summit this past Saturday, March 20 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

We welcomed over 100 attendees to the virtual platform as they gained further knowledge to enhance their meal program and continue to provide nourishing meals to



children and adults across the state of Georgia. Thank you to all of our expert speakers including Victoria Thomas Carden, Deidrea Thompson, Tanya Coleman, Diana Myers, LaMonika Jones, Abbie Chaddick, Monica Griffin, and Chef Asata Reid!

In total, we provided seven presentations on the topics of Updated CACFP Meal Patterns; Creative Meals, Menu Planning and Accommodations for Special Diets; Nourishing Meals in Adult Day Care Centers; Farm to Early Care & Education; Navigating the Food Buying Guide and How to Purchase Fresh Fruits and Vegetables; Feeding Infants: What, When, and How; and a Live Cooking Demonstration of a CACFP Meal & Snack.

Note: The resources and recordings from each presentation will be available in on the Nutrition page of the DECAL website in the next few weeks.

DECAL Nutrition looks forward to the continuation of providing guidance to enhance your CACFP programs and support you in your learning journey.

CACFP Mini Grants awarded for Training Resources

During the CACFP Summit, the Nutrition Division awarded competitive mini-grants in the amount of \$750.00 to twenty-five CACFP organizations.

The grants will help supply much-needed training resources for Program staff on the CACFP updated meal patterns and to support the serving of healthy meals that meet USDA requirements.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- A Kid's World of Peace, LLC (Eatonton)
- Action Pact (Waycross)
- Adventures in Education, Inc. dba The Learning Tree Academy (Toccoa)
- Coastal Plain Area EOA, Inc. (Valdosta)
- Paulding Preparatory Academy (Dallas)
- Savannah Banbury, LLC dba Chunks Learning Center
- Second Harvest of South Georgia, Inc. (Valdosta)

- Community Parents Organization (Augusta)
- ECLC Community Learning Center, LLC (Stockbridge)
- Family Resource Agency of North Georgia (Rossville)
- Georgia Nutritional Services, LLC (Conyers)
- Lighthouse Early Start Academy, Inc. (Vidalia)
- Miller Plaza Learning Center, Inc. (Milledgeville)
- Mustardseed Development, Inc. dba Grace Academy (Ludowici)
- Mountain Academy for Kids (Ellijay)
- Pineland Area Community Service Board (Baxley)
- Precious Little Ones Child Care Center (Dallas)

- Supportive Nutritional Aid Program, Inc. (Fayetteville)
- Teachers Too Early Childcare & Learning Center, Inc. (Douglas)
- The Chestnut Treehouse II (Ellenwood)
- TKT Family Resources, Inc. (Lawrenceville)
- Universal Child Care and Learning Center LLC (Augusta)
- Volunteers of America dba First Steps Child Development (Cuthbert)
- Wingain, Inc. dba Paulding Preparatory Academy (Dallas)
- Youth Educational Services, Inc. (Tucker)

In Case You Missed It: National CACFP Week

During National CACFP Week, March 14 - 20, DECAL's Nutrition Services recognized more than 600 sponsors and institutions for their efforts in serving over 66 million meals to children and adults in Georgia during FY20.

This week was dedicated to raising awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger.

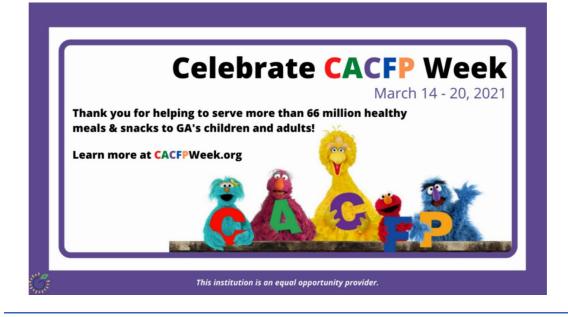
Click on the links at the right to watch an appreciation video from the Nutrition team, read profiles highlighting a few of our CACFP providers and access nutrition resources including a coloring sheet, recipes, nutrition education and more. **Special Video Message from DECAL**

Profiles on CACFP Providers

- Bellbrook Partners, LLC.
- Community Childcare Food Supplement, Inc. (Small Steps)
- Family Resource Agency, Inc.
- Ms. Georgee's Play-Kare, Inc.
- Senior Citizens, Inc.
- Washington County Chapter Negro Business & Professional Women's Club

Resources for providers

- DECAL CACFP Coloring Sheet
- CACFP Fact Sheet



How to File a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement

Follow these instructions to file a claim

Institutions must submit claims for reimbursement in the **GA ATLAS** web-based system to receive reimbursement for meals served during the claiming month. A complete and substantially accurate original claim must be submitted within 30 calendar days following the end of the claiming month. After an Institution has submitted an original claim for reimbursement within 30 calendar days following the end of the claiming month, it will have up to two opportunities to revise the original claim within the 30/60-day timeframe. The revision(s) to the original claim must be submitted through the GA ATLAS web-based system within 60 calendar days following the end of the claiming month.

Click here to view instructions for Filing a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement.

Process for Submitting New Waiver Requests Announced

To better streamline the process for receiving waiver requests, a module was incorporated into GA ATLAS that allows CACFP and SFSP organizations to electronically request, track, and monitor each waiver request within their Program application.

Beginning **March 15, 2021**, any **new** requests for waivers must be completed through an online Waiver Participation Form in the new **USDA Waivers Module** in GA ATLAS. Operators will still be required to complete the applicable Waiver Request Form located on DECAL's website under **COVID-19 Resources**; however, these forms must now be uploaded to the USDA Waivers Module as part of the new process.

A Memo Monday recording on how to use this new feature can be found at the bottom of the **Training and Technical Assistance webpage** in the **Recorded Training Webinars/Videos folder>Memo Monday Webinars>Memo March 2021.** Register to view the recording.

The **GA ATLAS Waiver Guide** can be found under **COVID-19 Resources** in the *Nutrition Waivers – Waiver Request Forms* section.

NOTE: If you have already submitted and have been approved to utilize a waiver, you do not have to submit the request again.

For general questions about the waiver, please contact **Tammie Baldwin** or call 404-656-6332. You may also contact your assigned Technical Assistance Coordinator or the **Nutrition TA Mailbox**.

Need To Update Your Banking Information? *Verification may take up to 30 days to process*

Anytime changes are made to your banking account information, please notify DECAL by completing the Vendor Management Form . The State Accounting Office (SAO) Vendor Management Group has an extensive process for verifying the bank accounts of any individual or organization for which payments are made. This is to prevent fraudulent banking and payments. Therefore, any updates made to your existing banking information may take up to 30 days to process.

To mitigate delays, please follow these steps:

- Use the proper Vendor Management Form (note this forms changes periodically)
- Complete sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the VM Form.
- On section 2, date and sign with a real signature SAO will now accept digital signatures. Digital signatures are created by using appropriate PDF software such as Adobe. **Typed signatures using a cursive style font remain unacceptable.**
- On Section 2, specify general bank account for use by all state agencies or specific

purpose (Pre-K, Nutrition, etc.).

- Use the proper IRS W-9 Form
- Sign and date the IRS W-9 Form (signatures on a W-9 are only valid 12 months from the date of the signature per IRS guidelines). W9's must be submitted using the October 2018 version. The version date is both in the top left and bottom right of the form). **Digital signatures are NOT acceptable on the W9.**
 - W9's for businesses must be completed exactly as the IRS has the company name listed on their tax returns. Both DECAL and SAO verify Tax ID and Name combinations using IRS software. DECAL will not honor requests to setup new vendors where the Tax ID and Name combination does not match IRS records. Vendors may be required to resubmit a W9 with accurate information or request a TIN verification letter from IRS and submit to DECAL.
- Submit the Vendor Management Form and updated W-9 to your assigned Application Specialist for processing.

Note: SAO eliminated the requirement for a voided check or bank letter. However, if banking information cannot be verified on the form, you may be asked to submit a voided check or a bank letter. This usually happens with smaller banks, out of state banks, or credit unions. Also, SAO may contact you directly to independently verify banking changes. If you do not cooperate with SAO representatives for this verification, your request to change your bank will not be honored and your payment may be delayed.

Current processing times:

- 1. New vendor set-ups less than 3 days.
- 2. Address changes or adds less than 3 days.
- 3. Banking adds or changes 10 to 30 days.

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@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka. Blount@decal.ga.gov	(404)656-6411
Temika Moore	Q-Z	Temika.Moore@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-1494

Did you know Health Inspections are an allowable cost under CACFP?

CACFP regulations do not require at-risk afterschool care centers, outside school hours care centers (OSHCCs), or emergency shelters to be licensed; however, they must meet State or local health and safety standards. Fees charged for health inspections of at-risk afterschool care centers, OSHCCs, emergency shelters, adult care centers and SFSP facilities are allowable costs under the CACFP and the SFSP. Please note that only licensing and fees costs are allowable. Repairs and upgrades needed for facilities to be certified or approved by the State or local health department are excluded from health and safety inspection costs. All documentation to support costs must be maintained and available for review. To charge health inspection costs to CACFP, please follow the steps below.

- Licensing and Fees must be included in the CACFP budget as an operating expense under Facilities and Space Costs.
- An invoice or quote must be uploaded in ATLAS for review.

For more information on allowable costs click here. The policy memo for Health and Safety Requirements can be found here.

Access More CACFP Training Resources:

Breakfast Worksheets, Green Book and a New Feature on the Food Buying Guide Mobile App

Serving Meat/Meat Alternates at Breakfast Worksheets

CACFP operators may serve meats and/or meat alternates instead of grains at breakfast up to three times per week. This option gives you more choices for menu planning. USDA has developed this worksheet (in English and Spanish) to help you ensure meals served are creditable.

Standards of Internal Controls – "Green Book"

The Green Book sets the standards for an effective internal control system for federal agencies and provides the overall framework for designing, implementing, and operating an effective internal control system. The standards are organized by the five components of internal control.

- 1. Control Environment
- 2. Risk Assessment
- 3. Control Activities
- 4. Information and Communication
- 5. Monitoring

Visit the Green Book to ensure compliance with CACFP internal control requirements.

Customize the Serving Size per Meal Contribution using the New feature on the Food Buying Guide Mobile App

A new feature is available on the Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Mobile App. The Mobile App now allows users to customize the Serving Size per Meal Contribution for fruits and vegetables using a drop-down menu to auto-calculate the amount to purchase based on the selected serving size. This feature was recently released on the FBG Interactive Webbased Tool. You can download the FREE Food Buying Guide Mobile App on the Apple Store or Google Play today!

In Case You Missed It: Memo Monday!

Memo Monday webinars provide an overview of new and/or revised policy memorandums for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

The March *Memo Monday* provided an overview of the new procedure when requesting a Program waiver and the new USDA Waivers feature in GA ATLAS. If you missed a *Memo Monday*, please visit the **Training and Technical Assistance** webpage for previously recorded webinars.

P-EBT Guidance for Schools and Childcare

On January 29, 2021, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published guidance concerning Pandemic EBT. Specifically, on January 22, in support of President Biden's call to action on hunger, USDA announced that it is increasing the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) benefit by approximately 15 percent, providing more money for low-income families and millions of children missing meals due to school and childcare closures.

In addition, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) amended section 1101 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA, P.L. 116-127), providing significant new flexibilities designed to ease the administration of P-EBT for States and territories. The Act makes changes to P-EBT for school children as well as children in childcare. The guidance issued provides a high-level summary of P-EBT that reflects these flexibilities and other changes.

Please note that additional DECAL guidance concerning implementation is forthcoming.

Child Nutrition Program Emergency Funding – COVID-19

On January 26, 2021, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published implementation guidance for the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Emergency Operational Costs Programs, as authorized in Sec. 722 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).

Under this authority, FNS is offering additional funds to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide eligible program operators with additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs they incurred during the public health emergency. This guidance along with the accompanying Q&A guidance is posted on the **DECAL** website.

Additional DECAL guidance on implementation is forthcoming.

Update on Nationwide Waivers During COVID-19

In light of the exceptional circumstances of the current public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has extended Nationwide Waivers to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact Kate Alexander.

NATIONWIDE WAIVERS

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19

For full details on the CACFP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo or **click here** for more information on DECAL's website.

CACFP

At-Risk Area Eligibility Requirements

Under this waiver, schools and afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, are allowed to serve at-risk afterschool meals and snacks to students after the regular school day. ****Waiver** in effect until June 30, 2021**

Parent Pick-Up:

Under this waiver, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing noncongregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. ****Waiver extended to 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:

The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****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 to June 30, 2021****

Onsite Monitoring Requirements

FNS waives, for all CACFP sponsoring organizations, that CACFP monitoring requirements included at 226.16(d)(4)(iii) be conducted onsite. To ensure Program integrity during this time, sponsoring organizations should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). ****Waiver in effect until September 30, 2021****

Updated CACFP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19

Guidance and Fact Sheets regarding Off-Site Monitoring in Child Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic

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. This guidance has been developed to assist our CACFP sponsors in developing an alternate virtual monitoring process (desk review/audit) to ensure sponsors are in compliance with CACFP monitoring requirements per 7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii) during this public health emergency.

- CACFP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19 (updated)
- Record Request Checklist Template

Procurement Updates

Suspension and Debarment Certification Requirement

USDA/FNS requires verification that persons with whom child nutrition program providers intend to do business have not been excluded or disqualified when entering into a transaction covered by this section. The certification requirement applies equally for procurement transactions across all Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs.

This verification may be done by:

- Checking the System for Award Management (SAM) or the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS); or
- Collecting a certification from that person; or
- Adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person.

If using the certification method to meet the verification requirements the **Suspension and Debarment Certification Form AD1048** must be used and cannot be deviated from in any way. This form is located on the **Procurement Web Page.**

Update: Procurement Templates (Formal and Informal Documents)

All procurement documents have been updated as of February 2021. Please be sure to use the most recent version of all formal and informal agreements, Invitation for Bid and Request for Proposal templates as well as the Procurement Policy Template. Updated documents are located on the **DECAL Procurement Web Page.**

Local Sourcing Spotlight *Catch the Carrots!*

According to the Georgia Department of Agriculture, one of the newest and most popular commodities grown here in



A Buyers Guide to Carrots

Georgia are carrots. They are high in beta carotene and help to prevent certain types of cancers. These sweet and crunchy vegetables are grown and ready for harvest December through June and many are commercially grown in the southern part of the state.

When looking to purchase carrots, try this helpful buyer's guide from the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture:

- Look for smooth, firm and well-shaped fresh carrots that are bright orange to orangishred in color.
- To store: remove any leafy tops or stems, rinse, drain and place in plastic bags before refrigerating.
- Shriveled, cracked, or soft carrots should be discarded.
- If you buy fresh unpackaged carrots, look for those carrots with fresh green tops.

Bonus: Radishes and Beets

Believe it or not, we are still in the winter months for many vegetables which means it is a prime time to purchase root vegetables such a radishes and beets. Packed with vitamins and flavor, these winter vegetables are relatively inexpensive to purchase and can be stored for a few weeks or served immediately alongside your favorite meal.



Buy Georgia Grown Georgia AgWeek is March 22 - 26

March 22-26, 2021 is **Georgia AgWeek**. As the state continues to highlight locally grown Georgia products, March 23 has been designated as "Buy Georgia Grown Day." Help Georgia celebrate AgWeek by purchasing your fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items from local Georgia farmers and growers. Please visit **Georgia Grown website** for a list of farmers in your area!

For questions regarding procurement, please contact LaMonika Jones, Procurement Compliance Officer.

Nutrition Ed Nook Crazy for Carrots!

Crunchy carrots are our Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight this March! These nutritious root vegetables are cool season crops. Ranging a variety of colors including orange, purple, black, and white, carrots can be prepared in many ways. Enjoy them raw, boiled, baked, steamed, or cooked in soups and stews. Rich in vitamin A and fiber, these culinary masterpieces will add to your menus during snacks and mealtimes. Don't be so quick to throw away the carrot tops; you can make a carrot top pesto to dip the carrots in for a wholesome treat. Enjoy!

Integration:

- Creamy Coleslaw
- Carrot Raisin Salad

- Corn and Edamame Blend
- Mediterranean Tuna Salad

Education:

- *Taste* carrots in several color varieties. Ask your participants if they taste any different.
- *Grow* carrots in your gardens. Share the satisfying feeling of harvesting the carrots 60-80 days after planting and seeing how big they've grown!



• *Talk* with families about how participants can help with meal preparation by recommending developmentally appropriate tasks. **Bonus:** send carrot recipes home for families to try together!

Conversation:

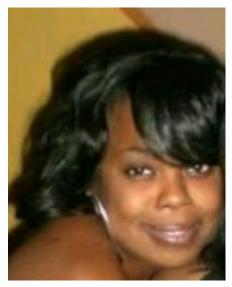
- What carrot colors have your participants seen?
- Have your participants ever tried carrots or carrot top greens before?
- What adjectives would your participants use to describe carrots? Crunchy and sweet would be my choice!

Share your spring Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of carrots with Nutrition Health Educator, **Diana Myers**, MS, RD, LD!

Nutrition Division Employee Spotlight *Edith Pierre - Business Operations Specialist*

In this month's Nutrition Employee Spotlight, we introduce you to **Edith Pierre**, one of three Business Operations Specialists for DECAL's Nutrition Services. As a Business Ops Specialist, Edith processes Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) add-a-site applications, renewals, and occasionally assists with processing traditional SFSP applications. Along with her main responsibilities, she also handles password resets for sponsors and institutions requiring assistance with their ATLAS login.

Originally from Florida, Edith has over 15 years of experience in the government industry. In 2005, she worked as an Election Support Administrator in the Voter Registration Department for the state of Florida. In 2007, she transitioned to the Dade County Appraisal



Office as an Appraisal Clerk then promoted to a Field Evaluator in 2014. She moved to Georgia in 2018 and began her journey with DECAL's Nutrition Services Division performing clerical duties as a temporary employee. She transferred to the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) for six months and then transitioned to her current position with Nutrition in March 2020.

Although there may be some challenges when it comes to processing applications and keeping up with federal program changes, Edith appreciates the support from her team. She explains, "Even during these tough times, we manage to come together virtually and engage in fun learning activities as if we are still physically in the office."

A fun fact about Edith is that she used to embalm bodies while attending The School of Funeral Sciences at Miami Dade College, and she enjoyed it!

Connecting Farm to ECE & CACFP National Farm to School Network's CACFP Week Mini-Series

National Farm to School Network(NFSN) celebrated National CACFP week with a miniseries on their blog highlighting innovating & inspiring ways that states are connecting farm to ECE and CACFP.

Read the stories here:

- Innovations in Farm to CACFP: Part 1- Iowa's Incentive Pilot Program
- Innovations in Farm to CACFP: Part 2 Arizona's CACFP Farm Fresh Challenge
- Innovations in Farm to CACFP: Part 3 Colorado's CACFP Matchmaking Survey

Grant provides \$3k for Educational Gardens *Apply Now! Deadline is March 31*

The Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant application is now open. The Garden Grant program provides a \$3,000 monetary grant to support a new or existing edible educational garden located at either a K–12 School or a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves children in the K-12 grade range.

ECE sites that operate as a nonprofit and serve a minimum of ten K-12 kids (afterschool, etc.) are eligible to apply. Application closes March 31.

For more information, visit: Whole Kids Foundation | Garden Grant Program

Register today for the 2021 Virtual National Child Nutrition Conference

National CACFP Sponsors Association's 2021 **Virtual National Child Nutrition Conference** will be held **April 19 - 23, 2021**. Attendees will be able to join this premier event online from the comfort of their home, office, or home offices. Join the child nutrition community for an incredible few days of training and learning opportunities. Learn from and network with colleagues from across the nation. For a schedule of events, **click here**.

Click here to register. Standard registration ends March 31, 2021. Late registration is April 1 - 15, 2021.

DECAL presents the Agency's FY20 Annual Report

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning presents the FY20 Annual Report highlighting the agency's focus, services, programs, performance measures, finances, accomplishments, and strategic themes.

Click here to view the FY2020 Annual Report.

Dates to Remember



DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 25, 2021	Virtual Vendor Summit
MARCH 31, 2021	Deadline for Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant application
APRIL 19 - 23, 2021	National CACFP Sponsors Association 2021 Virtual National Child Nutrition Conference
APRIL 26 - MAY 1, 2021	Georgia Farm to School and Early Care Education Virtual Summit

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download! Supplemental Payments to Georgia's Pre-K and Childcare

The recent plan to provide onetime \$1,000 bonus payment to every Georgia's Pre-K Program teacher, assistant teacher, and birth to 5 child care teacher in the state by Governor Brian Kemp and Commissioner Jacobs has drummed up plenty of excitement. It has also drummed up plenty of questions. With so much interest, we tackle some of the common questions in this week's DECAL Download.

Joining us to talk about supplemental payments to Pre-K and child care is **Susan Adams**, Deputy Commissioner of Georgia's Pre-K Program and Instructional Supports; **Barbara McWethy** who is On the next ...



This Week's Guests



Susan Adams Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K Program and Instructional Supports



Barbara McWethy Workforce Support Manager Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

This Week's Topic: Supplemental Payments to Pre-K and Child Care



Yiet Knight Universal Child Care and Learning Center LLC

POWER Providing Our

Workforce with Essential Recognition

Manager of Workforce Support in our Professional Learning Group, and **Yiet Knight** who is the owner of the Universal Child Care and Learning Center in Augusta, a three-star Quality Rated program, and part of our Quality Rated Peer Support Network.

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

You can find DECAL Download **here** or on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Stitcher, TuneIn, Overcast, and more!

Have an idea for a future topic? E-mail us.

Stay safe, everyone!



Nutrition Division Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter Gaby Garza

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Nondiscrimination Statement: English Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

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