



November 17, 2021

Stay Informed: CACFP Policy Updates

Milk Reclaim Policy

The policy memorandum, *Policy and Procedure for Reclaiming Meals due to a Milk Shortage*, was revised to reflect a change regarding the 1-year old age group. Please note, meals will be reclaimed for the 1-year old age group if enough whole milk is not purchased/served.

To access the revised guidance, go to [Policy and Procedure for Reclaiming Meals due to a Milk Shortage, October 1, 2021](#).

Fluid Milk Requirements Policy

The policy memorandum, *Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers*, was reissued to include policy changes since the publication of the 2016 guidance, past guidance which remains relevant, and questions and answers.

To access the reissued guidance, go to [Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers, October 1, 2021](#).

Carry Over Funds in the CACFP Policy

The policy memorandum, *Carry Over of Unused Administrative Reimbursement in the CACFP*, was revised to include the FDCH Carryover Letter. As a reminder, FDCH sponsors must submit the FDCH Carryover Letter with the completed Excess Funds Election, along with a system-generated general ledger or bank statement, to DECAL by November 30 of each year.

To access the revised guidance, go to [Carry Over of Unused Administrative Reimbursement in the CACFP, October 18, 2021](#).

Guidance from USDA on COVID-19 Related Supply Chain Disruptions

The USDA policy memorandum, *Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions - October 28, 2021*, provides guidance on current meal pattern flexibilities in the CACFP and opportunities for State agency and sponsoring organization discretion while monitoring meal pattern compliance during COVID-19 supply chain disruptions. In addition, the guidance, *Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions - October 15, 2021*, provides clarification regarding the use of emergency non-competitive procurement

procedures due to supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19. This guidance provides questions and answers for sponsors and institutions participating in CACFP. Instructions and further guidance from DECAL regarding COVID-19 related supply chain disruptions will be forthcoming.

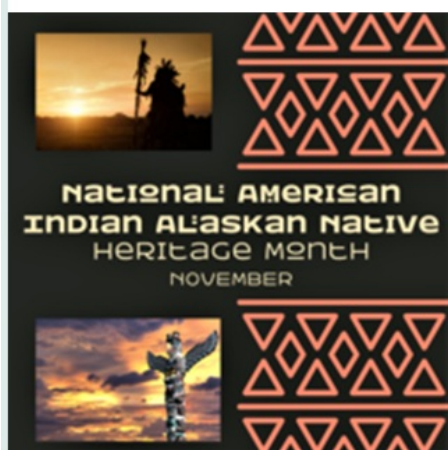
To access the guidance, go to [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions, October 28, 2021](#) and [Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions](#).

Help Spread the Word!

CACFP Meals for Young People Experiencing Homelessness

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) normally provides meals and snacks to young people 18 or under in emergency shelters and at-risk centers. The American Rescue Plan Act now allows emergency shelters and at-risk centers that are operated by emergency shelters to claim CACFP reimbursement for meals and snacks served to young people under age 25.

If you know of an Emergency Shelter that might be interested in participating in CACFP, please forward the [flyer](#) and ask them to contact Cindy Kicklighter at Cindy.Kicklighter@dec.al.gov



USDA Recognizes National American Indian Alaskan Native Heritage Month

November is National American Indian Alaskan Native Heritage Month and is dedicated to the rich and diverse culture of the Native American people. It is an opportunity to learn about more than 500 federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaskan Native cultures and their contribution to the United States.

American Indians in the Southeast region were famously known for being talented farmers which allowed them to stay in the same location for longer periods of time. They honored and celebrated their harvests with the celebration of the "Green Corn Festival." Music and dancing filled their communities as they all came together to feast and held religious ceremonies to commemorate the harvest of corn. The Southeast Indian tribes are examples of the teachings we use in modern agriculture science, and the history of Native tribes being the first caretakers of the North American land. While honoring Native Americans, their culture, and contributions to our Nation also acknowledges the struggles faced by Native Americans in the past and in current times.

Claim Deadlines announced for FY2022

State policy requires that original claims be submitted within 30 calendar days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim. Federal regulations require institutions to submit their final reimbursement claims including any revisions within 60 calendar days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim.

Sponsors' original claims not postmarked and/or submitted within 30 calendar days will be

required to fill out a late claim explanation form after trying to submit a claim that is outside the state's 30 days deadline. Claims not postmarked and/or submitted within 60 calendar days cannot be processed unless DECAL and/or FNS determines that an exception should be granted. For example, ABC Day Care must submit their original claim for March reimbursement claim no later than April 30, and the final including any revision for March reimbursement claim no later than May 30.

Claim deadlines for FY 2022 are available [here](#).

Annual Renewal Requirements must be completed to participate in CACFP

All institutions/sponsors were required to complete annual renewal requirements by September 30, 2021, to continue participating in the CACFP. Institutions/sponsors that didn't complete annual renewal requirements will not have an approved FY 2022 application, and therefore, will not be authorized to operate in FY 2022.

If your organization would like to continue participating in the CACFP, please complete all annual renewal requirements.

For instructions on how to register, complete FY 2022 Annual Training and Assessment Questions and enroll in FY 2022 application, [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Specialist:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (zero)-G	Paula.Lawrence@decals.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka.Blount@decals.ga.gov	(404)656-6411
Kenya Taylor	Q-Z	Kenya.Taylor@decals.ga.gov	(404) 463-4040

CACFP Budget Submission Required for FY2022

Deadline to submit FY22 budget: December 1

As you are aware, all institutions/sponsors are required to complete annual renewal requirements to continue participating in the CACFP. If you have not completed a budget revision for FY 2022, please complete and upload all required documents by **December 1, 2021**.

Failure to do so could result in your organization being declared Seriously Deficient. ***“Seriously Deficient” means the status of a sponsor that has been determined to be noncompliant in one or more aspects of its operation of the CACFP and could potentially lead to termination from the program.***

At a minimum, annual budgets are required when:

- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2021 that intends to use FY 2022 reimbursement funds for new operating and/or administrative costs that require prior approval, specific prior written approval, or formal procurement.
- An Independent Center with an approved budget in FY 2021 with approved costs and the same costs in FY 2022, but new supporting documentation must be submitted for

review and approval (e.g., lease agreements for center space, equipment rental, etc.).

- All Administrative, Center and Day Care Home sponsoring organizations.

If you need further guidance on submittal requirements for costs, please refer to the [Budget Guidance Manual](#) or contact [Gwendolyn Howard](#).

How to Handle FDCH Carry Over

According to the CACFP Policy Memo, [Carry Over of Unused CACFP Administrative Reimbursement](#), dated October 18, 2021, Family Daycare Homes (FDCH) Sponsors may only carry over 10% of administrative payments received into the succeeding fiscal year. Funds exceeding 10% must be returned to DECAL or used in another USDA Child Nutrition Program. If the 10% carryover funds are not expended in the succeeding fiscal year, you are required to return the unused funds to DECAL. FDCH sponsoring institutions also have the option of returning all excess funds without carrying funds into the subsequent period.

Additional Requirement:

To support the calculation, a FDCH sponsor must submit a system generated general ledger or the bank statement showing the total ending balance with the FDCH Carryover Letter to the Budget Compliance Specialist, [Gwendolyn Howard](#).

How to Request Continued Use of USDA Waivers for FY 2021 – 2022

CACFP Institutions and Sponsors (excludes sponsors of Day Care Homes):

CACFP institutions and sponsors must certify continued use of USDA Nationwide Waivers for the new Program year by completing and saving the **FY 2021 – 2022** USDA waiver request template (illustrated below) which can be found in the **USDA Waiver Module in GA Atlas**.

Child and Adult Care Food Program **Ga Atlas**

GA Child, Adult & Summer Nutrition Programs

Home | Reports | My Account | Resources | Search | Administration | Help | Log Out

USDA Waivers - Centers List > Program Year: 2020 - 2021

VIEW | MODIFY | DELETE | INTERNAL USE ONLY

**USDA Waivers Received by Site List
For School Year 2021 - 2022**

15580 Status: Active TTA Test Sponsor DBA: 123 Curious George Way Atlanta, GA 30334 FEIN: 11-1111111 County: Fulton	0002 Status: Active LITTLE BABY BUMP ACADEMY 555 Baby Bum Boulevard Atlanta, GA 30334 EIN:
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- Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs – through 6/30/21**
 - No Waivers Have Been Received
 - Participating in waiver

Months of waiver participation (check all that apply for the current month and/or future months as applicable):

All: Jul: Aug: Sep: Oct: Nov: Dec:

Jan: Feb: Mar: Apr: May: Jun:

Distribution method (Grab and Go, Household Delivery, etc.):
- Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – through 6/30/21**
 - No Waivers Have Been Received
 - Participating in waiver

Months of waiver participation (check all that apply for the current month and/or future months as applicable):

All: Jul: Aug: Sep: Oct: Nov: Dec:

Jan: Feb: Mar: Apr: May: Jun:

Specifically:

- The FY 2021 - 2022 template will become accessible once the institution/sponsor's application renewal for the new Program year has been approved. In GA Atlas, the **Application Packet Status** must indicate **"Approved"** for FY 2021 -2022. For a reminder of the CACFP application renewal instructions, please click [here](#). For complete instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas, please click [here](#).
- Participating institutions with previously approved waivers, must also certify continued use of these waivers for FY 2021-22 via the waiver module in GA ATLAS. This will ensure DECAL has the most current and accurate waiver usage information possible for reporting and monitoring purposes.
- Participating institutions that have not utilized waivers in the past and/or new institutions in need of a waiver, must also do so via the waiver module.

Child and Adult Care Food Program **Ga Atlas**

GA Child, Adult & Summer Nutrition Programs

Home | Reports | My Account | Resources | Search | Administration | Help | Log Out

USDA Waivers - Centers List > Program Year: 2021 - 2022

USDA Waivers List

15580 Status: Active TTA Test Sponsor DBA: 123 Curious George Way Atlanta, GA 30334 FEIN: 11-1111111 County: Fulton	
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Action	School Year	# of Sites	Status
Detail	2021 - 2022	1	Not Started
Detail	2020 - 2021	1	Not Started
	2019 - 2020	0	Not Started

[< Back](#)

When accessing the waiver module, the **"Detail"** link on the **USDA Waivers List** page will be active for School Year 2021 – 2022 as shown; click the link to begin the waiver request process.

Day Care Home Sponsors (DCH):

GA Atlas is currently undergoing system changes to accommodate waiver requests from day care home sponsors. Therefore, accessing the waiver module remains temporarily unavailable

to organizations in this category. DCH sponsors who wish to request a waiver for their homes must contact Tammie Baldwin via email at Tammie.Baldwin@dec.al.ga.gov.

Completion of Forms for Uploading (new):

As of August 1, 2021, SFSP & CACFP operators may begin using the new **USDA Waiver Request Addendum** to request waivers for **Parent/Guardian Pick-up** and the **Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver** when using home delivery only. This addendum will now be used in place of forms previously posted on the DECAL website. All other available waivers can be requested through the waiver module in GA Atlas without further completion of an additional form. The USDA Waiver Request Addendum is available [here](#) and can also be found on the DECAL website. Once completed, the form can be uploaded within the waiver request template in GA Atlas.

Please Note:

- Institutions will be notified of the status of their request via the USDA Waivers module or via email.
- Institutions are encouraged to ensure all waiver requests are “submitted” no later than October 31, 2021 and “certified” before November 30, 2021.
- For sponsoring organizations with more than 100 sponsored facilities in need of continued use of the **Parent-Pick Up** waiver or the **Home Delivery** option (under the non-congregate feeding waiver), please contact Tammie Baldwin prior to completing the Waiver Request Addendum.

For additional information on requesting a waiver, please access the following resources:

- [USDA Waiver User Guide](#) – Provides step by step instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas.
- [Important Reminders when Using USDA National Waivers](#)
- [July Memo Monday Webinar](#) - Discusses procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waiver feature in GA ATLAS.

For general questions regarding requesting a USDA Nationwide Waiver, please contact Tammie.Baldwin@dec.al.ga.gov.

Applications for the 2021-2022 Gro More Good Gardens Grants are now open.

Deadline to Apply: December 15

Interested in bringing the magic of gardening to your program? Or creating small at-home gardens for your parents and families? How about an outdoor green space? The **Gro More Good Garden Grant** is the perfect opportunity for you!

In its fourth year, this partnership between the National Head Start Association (NHSA) and the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation brings garden grants to Head Start programs demonstrating a strong need for teaching their children, families, and communities how to grow their own fresh produce—for life!

The Gro More Good Garden Grant will grant awards varying from \$2,500—5,000 in an effort to supplement needs of existing garden projects and to help launch new garden projects, or to supplement/launch outdoor green space projects (land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation and an option for children and the community to learn). The Initiative will be awarding a total of \$50,000 in grant awards. Previously awarded programs are ineligible.

Applications are accepted until **December 15, 2021**.

Questions? Write to us.

[Apply here.](#)

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

**Registration
Coming Soon**

December 13, 2021 - Memo Monday!

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will discuss the following policy memos during our December *Memo Monday*.

- **Expiring Flexibility Guidance Regarding the Updated CACFP Meal Patterns dated August 16, 2021**
- **Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements, with Questions and Answers dated October 19, 2019**
- **Nutrition Requirements for Fluid Milk and Fluid Milk Substitutions in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Questions and Answers dated October 1, 2021**

HealthMPowers offers FREE Statewide Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators

Space is limited. Register by Nov. 30

If you are...

- passionate about the health and well-being of children, families, and staff;
- committed to increasing your knowledge and creating networks of support to improve ECE policies and practices at your center/family home;
- interested in up to **30 Bright from the Start credit hours**; AND
- interested in **\$125+ in ECE nutrition and physical activity resources and a \$200 mini-grant**

... this unique training opportunity from HealthMPowers is for **YOU!**

IMPORTANT:

- Space is limited.
- Registration as an ECE site is required at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WN6M5RS> by **Tuesday, November 30, 2021**.
- Training sessions take place from late January 2022 to June 2022.

Please contact ECetraininginfo@healthmpowers.org with questions.

Training Resources

In Case You Missed It: Memo Monday!

If you missed a *Memo Monday*, please visit the **Training and Technical Assistance** webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's training highlight is the **August Memo Monday** webinar. It discussed procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waivers feature in GA ATLAS.

New CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slides

The USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is excited to announce new meal pattern training slide presentations for CACFP. These ready-to-go presentation slides may be used by State agencies, sponsoring organizations, child care centers, and others to train providers, operators, and menu planners. See the new slide presentations below, available in English and Spanish. Team Nutrition also provides training resources to accompany the slide

presentations.

- Crediting Single-Serving Packages of Grains in the CACFP*
- Crediting Store-Bought Combination Baby Foods in the CACFP
- Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredients List Part 1
- Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredients List Part 2
- Serving Snacks in the CACFP
- Using the Nutrition Facts Label in CACFP

Identifying Whole Grain-Rich Foods for the CACFP Using the Ingredients List Training Worksheet *Updated!*

This eight page worksheet shows CACFP operators how to use the *Rule of Three* to identify whole grain-rich items to serve in CACFP. This worksheet has been updated to include more examples of whole-grain ingredients, as well as practice questions.

On-Demand Recording

The [National CACFP Sponsors Association](#) Learning Center offers on-demand webinar recordings that provide CACFP and Child Nutrition information, tools, and resources. Register and watch to receive a certificate of attendance and Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Newly advertised webinar recordings are below.

- ***Creditable Meals in the CACFP: Be in the Know*** : Visit the Learning Center for a deeper dive into the Crediting Handbook for the CACFP, as well as the Food Buying Guide and get the tools you need to credit, purchase, and serve meals to program participants.
- ***Serving Adults in CACFP: Meal Patterns, Nutrition and Resources*** : Visit the Learning Center to hear all about allowable substitutions, senior nutrition and discover the wealth of resources available for food, nutrition, and physical activities for adults.
- ***Adding Whole Grains to Your Menu*** : Visit the Learning Center to determine how to offer whole grains at CACFP sites.

Vitamin ABCs Worksheets

The [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) has developed this worksheet and a vitamin log to help providers, children and adults learn which vitamins keep bones strong, which ones are good for the brain and how the foods they eat help their bodies stay healthy.

Calculating Cereal Sugar Limits for Breakfast Cereal

All breakfast cereals served in CACFP must not have more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce. This is equal to 21.2 grams of sugar per 100 grams of cereal. USDA has developed this worksheet with three [3] ways to help you determine sugar limits. The worksheet is available in English and Spanish.

Tips for Family Style Dining

Learn more about the benefits of family-style dining and how to make the most out of this educational experience with a worksheet developed by the [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) (NCA).

Adult Day Care Food Allergy Fact Sheets

The [Institute of Child Nutrition \(ICN\)](#) has developed a fact sheet to learn the symptoms of an allergic reaction and how to recognize which foods contain allergens.

My Plate on Alexa Skill

The [USDA](#) introduced a digital tool for parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers ages 4-24 months. Alexa users can receive nutrition information on what and how to feed their child based on age.

Nacho Average Coloring Page

The [National CACFP Sponsors Association](#) has developed this free activity page to discuss food preferences. Children and adults alike can color in the foods that they would want to include when building their own nacho plate. [[Free Download](#)]

Grains Game: Dot-to-Dot

The [National CACFP Sponsors Association](#) has developed this free activity for a quick and fun dot-to-dot and coloring page. [[Free Download](#)]

Healthy Cooking in CACFP with Chef Asata Reid: *A Five-Part Video Series*

As part of a CACFP Meal Pattern Training Grant, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Nutrition Services Division teamed up with local **Chef Asata Reid** for a five-part [Healthy Cooking in the CACFP video series](#).

Follow Chef Asata Reid on a culinary journey as she shares practical tips and best practices to enhance the meals provided through CACFP. Learn about a variety of topics including Knife Skills, CACFP Snacks, Enhancing Meal Appeal, Using Seasonal Produce, and Using Spices and Herbs.

We encourage you to use this series during training sessions and in professional development meetings with staff who develop menus, purchase food, and prepare and serve meals. The video series includes general culinary information and guidance and are encouraged to be used by other states. Please ensure all information aligns with your state agency regulations.'

*You can also access the five-part video series on the **Training and Technical Assistance** webpage under the Recorded Training Webinar/Videos section.*



Nutrition Services is excited to announce that Georgia's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) has a new name and logo. Happy Helpings is the new brand identity for the SFSP that ensures all Georgia's children continue to receive nutritious meals throughout their summer vacation.

Although Happy Helpings is the program's new name, it will continue to operate in the same way as the USDA's Summer Food Service Program.

"We believe the new look is fun, kid-friendly and a better match for connecting with our intended audiences," said **Tamika Boone**, Director of Nutrition Services."

In the upcoming months, you'll start to see the new Happy Helpings name and logo used in DECAL's training and promotions including online, video, social media, and statewide advertising. In addition to the new name and logo, the Nutrition Division is launching a new Happy Helpings website. The site offers potential sponsoring organizations access to information and eligibility requirements for participation in the program. Users will be able to complete an online form to indicate their interest in the program and pre-qualify their organization.

The site will also be marketed to help Georgia families locate meal sites in their area as well as access nutrition education and activities for well-balanced meals.

Available 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 [Sonja Adams](#).

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

Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs & for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022

This waiver allows schools and at-risk afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to claim all National School Lunch Program, Afterschool Snack Service and Child and Adult Care Food program At-Risk Afterschool meals and snacks at the free rate. This waiver also allows day care homes participating in the CACFP to claim all meals served to enrolled children at the Tier 1 rate, regardless of their location. . ****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Reimbursement for Meals & Snacks served to Young Adults in the CACFP **New!**

This waiver allows emergency shelters to claim reimbursement for meals and snacks served to individuals under the age of 25. ****Waiver in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.**

Parent Pick-Up:

Under this waiver, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate 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, 2022****

Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility

This waiver allows program operators to serve meals that do not meet specified meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency. FNS is establishing a waiver for all States of the following CACFP requirements:

- That at least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich.
- That the crediting of grains by ounce equivalents must be fully implemented by October 1, 2021.
- That low-fat milk (1 percent) must be unflavored

****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

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, 2022****

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, 2022****

Onsite Monitoring Requirements

FNS waivers, 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 remains in effect until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.****

Procurement Tips for CACFP

CACFP FY22 is in full swing. Whether you are a self-prep sponsor preparing meals using your own designated kitchen or a sponsor with vended meal sites utilizing the services of a food service management company, please continue to monitor and evaluate contract and/or agreements as well as assess current and potential meal sites. Doing so will allow you to determine if a supply chain disruption exists, a new vendor should be used, or if you should execute proper procurement using alternative procurement methods from previous years.

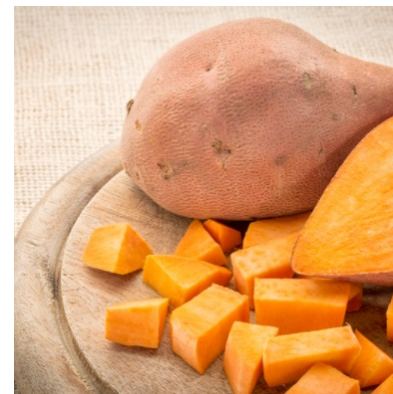
Local Sourcing Spotlight

How Sweet are those Potatoes?

Georgia is famous for quite a few things...but did you know sweet potatoes was one of them? **Georgia Grown Sweet Potatoes** account for \$2.5M of Georgia's agricultural market.

These potatoes are a Native American plant high in Calcium, Potassium and Vitamin A and C. There are currently (5) different varieties grown in Georgia with a harvest time averaging around 90 days after the first planting.

Calhoun Produce is a great option for purchasing locally grown sweet potatoes. Visit their main location in Ashburn, GA or stop by the fall farmer's market in Cordele, GA.



For questions regarding procurement, please contact LaMonika Jones, Procurement Compliance Office, lamonika.jones@decal.ga.gov.

Nutrition Ed Nook

'Tis the Season for Sweet Potatoes



Can you feel it? The crisp air in the morning time, the changing colors of the trees, the sound of birds migrating south for the winter, and the smell of sweet potatoes cooking on our stovetops. It's sweet potato season! Our Georgia farmers have been hard at work preparing, planting, caring, and harvesting sweet potatoes so that they can then land on the plates of Georgia's youngest eaters.

As November's Harvest of the Month item (**English and Spanish**), we encourage you to engage the children in your program with various sweet potato recipes. Consider mashing, roasting, or sauteing them to encourage children to try them! Did you know it can take a child ten or more tastes before learning to accept and love a new vegetable? How will you introduce sweet potatoes into your menu this season?

Integration

- **Local Harvest Bake**

- **Whipped Sweet Potatoes**
- **Smokin' Powerhouse Chili**
- **Baked Sweet Potatoes and Apples**
- **Tasty Tots** (USDA's Popular Choice Award!)

Education

- Perform a sweet potato taste test with your children – what do they think of mashed sweet potatoes versus baked sweet potato fries? *BONUS*: Add their favorite taste testing recipe to your menu cycle!
- Read the books *Little Sweet Potato* by Amy Beth Bloom and *Sweet Potato Pie* by Kathleen Lindsey
- **Sprout sweet potatoes** for children to observe and experience the growth firsthand

CALi had a curiosity: what would happen if she placed her sprouted sweet potato into a pot of soil? To her amazement, her sweet potato grew a vine that grew foot by foot all the way up to 8 feet long! What a great way to experiment in the garden, she says!



Conversation

- Have your children ever tasted sweet potatoes before?
- How are sweet potatoes different than regular potatoes?
- What family traditions do your children have surrounding sweet potatoes?

Share your fall Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of sweet potatoes with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at diana.myers@dec.al.gov!



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Victoria Carden, Training Coordinator*

Victoria Carden is the newly appointed Training Coordinator for the Nutrition Services Division. In this role, she oversees both experienced and new sponsor training for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program.

Victoria aims to help sponsors and institutions build a solid understanding of the federal nutrition programs. "My goal is to ensure participants have a strong foundation to build upon and continue to grow during their journey of serving healthy meals," she said.

Victoria has a long history of experience in the field of Nutrition. Since August 2017, she served as a Technical Assistance Coordinator for DECAL's Southwest Region. Previously, she held roles as the CACFP program contact for Early Head Start/Head Start in Georgia and Alabama as well as the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) area coordinator for the Muscogee County School District.

She prides herself in providing great customer service all while being an asset to both internal and external stakeholders. Victoria uses her nutrition field experience to set up sponsors and institutions for success. "I've been in their seat and having that experience gives me the opportunity to train from their perspective," she said.

Victoria recently earned two professional certifications: CACFP Child Nutrition Professional

(CCNP) and CACFP Management Professional (CMP). She also earned a Masters of Public Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Administration from Walden University. She and her husband Bryant and their three children Carmen, Christan and Dylan reside in Columbus, Georgia.

CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

Planning Update: Emergency Operating Costs Funding for CACFP Providers

USDA Webinar: Meal Service Flexibilities for the FY 2021-2022 School Year

Guidance for Serving School-Age Children in the CACFP during COVID-19

Oct 1: Deadline to Implement Grain Ounce Equivalents in Menu Planning

Expiring Soon: Updated CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibilities

Reminder: Review Your Online CACFP Applications for Accuracy

Celebrating Breastfeeding as the Best Source of Nutrition

CACFP Reimbursement Rates: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Strategic Plan for Growing Farm to School and Early Care and Education in Georgia

Beech-Nut to stop selling a specific baby rice cereal because of arsenic levels found in some test samples

What to do if you have Lost or Destroyed Records

Monitoring Sponsored Centers Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures

Income Eligibility Guidelines for FY 2022

CACFP Training Resources

Farmers Resource List

Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 21-22

How to file a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement

How to update your banking information

How to Exclude Cash-In-Lieu (CIL) When Calculating for CACFP Administrative Cost

How to Calculate Allowable Administrative Costs Each Month

Guidance on Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP

Guidance on P-EBT for Schools and Childcare

FAQs Child Nutrition Program: Emergency Operational Costs Program

You can find archived CACFP Newsletters [here](#).



Mark your calendar for March 15-17 for the 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

The 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference is once again virtual to allow thousands of anti-hunger advocates from all across the country to safely and conveniently attend without having to travel. The conference plenaries and content-rich workshops will take place on March 15 and 16 and then on March 17, head (virtually) to Capitol Hill to advocate for bold policy solutions for ending hunger in America.

The conference will offer a number of workshops featuring presenters from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences and content that explores one of the following conference themes:

- Building on Lessons Learned on the Critical Role of the Federal Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic

- Addressing the Inequities and Root Causes that Fuel Who Experiences Hunger in America
- Creating a Movement to End Hunger in America



The National Child Nutrition Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 18-22, 2022. For 35 years, this conference for CACFP, Afterschool, and Summer Food programs has offered unparalleled training, education and networking opportunities to the child nutrition community.

Register to attend the five-day professional education event offering over 75 hours of presentations, featuring topics including nutrition, program operations, administration and financial management of CACFP and SFSP, resources and technology, case studies, train-the-trainer sessions, and management solutions.

[Register for the conference here.](#)

Have more questions about the conference?

Come learn more about advance registration, additional training sessions being offered, and how you can join us in New Orleans or on Zoom!

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Eastern

[Register for the preconference webinar here .](#)

Fifteen scholarship opportunities are available from the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) for the 2022 National Child Nutrition Conference. Each scholarship will include conference registration, four (4) nights' lodging at the conference hotel, and up to \$300.00 toward transportation costs. The deadline for application is **Monday, January 10, 2022.** [Apply for Scholarship here](#)

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
November	• National American Indian Alaskan Native Heritage Month
November 30	• Deadline to register for professional development training provided by HealthMPowers
December 1	• Deadline to submit FY 22 CACFP Budget
December 13	• Memo Monday
December 15	• Deadline to apply for Gro More Good Gardens Grants
March 15-17	• National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference
April 18-22	• National Child Nutrition Conference

How was my Customer Service?
Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



Click on the icon at right to participate in the customer service survey. Responses are anonymous.

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

Clark's Christmas Kids



#DECALDownload this week features Clark Howard talking about Clark's Christmas Kids with Georgia Department of Human Services and some great consumer advice for the holiday season!

Please join us and get involved in helping foster children in Georgia.

[Listen here.](#)



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

Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

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