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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Georgia's Child and Adult Care Food Program Available to Eligible and Approved Facilities**

*Child Care, Adult Care, Head Start, Emergency Shelters among Needed Participants*

**Atlanta, Ga., (October 29, 2015)** – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking eligible child and adult care facilities to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program reimburses approved facilities such as child care centers, adult day care centers, Head Start programs, emergency shelters and before- and after-school programs for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults in care. The CACFP is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eligibility for the CACFP is determined by federal income guidelines. 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 who receive Social Security Income (SSI) or are Medicaid participants are categorically eligible for free meals.

Approved or exempt institutions that offer a structured after school program with educational or enrichment activities may be eligible to participate in the At-Risk/Afterschool component of the CACFP. This component reimburses institutions that serve nutritious after school snacks and/or a meal to children up to 18 years old in a structured environment after school hours. The after school program must be located in a low-income area where 50% or more of the children at the nearest school receive free or reduced-price meals. Qualifying eligibility data can be found on DECAL's website at <http://decalf.ga.gov/Nutrition/EligibilityData.aspx>.

Falita Flowers, DECAL's Director of Nutrition Services, stressed the need for more approved organizations to participate in the CACFP. "Nutritious meals are essential to the overall health

and wellness of Georgia's children and seniors. DECAL continuously seeks eligible and qualified institutions to provide more children and adults access to healthy meals." Flowers continued, "While many understand the importance of ensuring children have access to nutritious meals, there is also a great need to provide access to well-balanced meals to seniors in adult day care facilities across the state."

To learn more about participating in the CACFP, contact Shani Drake at [shani.drake@decalf.ga.gov](mailto:shani.drake@decalf.ga.gov) or 404-656-3221. 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) to find a list of all local facilities and sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), 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).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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