



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Amy Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **More Nutritious Meals for Children in Atlanta this Summer Through State and Local Partnership**

*First Lady Sandra Deal, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, GA Department of Early Care and Learning  
Commissioner Amy Jacobs launch innovative summer meals model*

**ATLANTA, Ga. (June 27, 2016)** – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), the City of Atlanta, and Georgia First Lady Sandra Deal will hold a special event to launch an innovative Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) mobile feeding model this week. The event will take place on **Wednesday, June 29, 2016**, beginning at 1:00 PM at the City of Atlanta’s Metropolitan Library, 1332 Metropolitan Parkway in Southwest Atlanta.

The SFSP is a nutrition program that provides children 18 and under (and some eligible adults) free, nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session. The SFSP, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is administered in Georgia by DECAL. The City of Atlanta is a sponsoring organization of the program in the metro Atlanta area.

Transportation is often a barrier that prevents children from benefiting from these needed resources. This year the City of Atlanta will experiment with a mobile meals model to ensure more children in Metro Atlanta have access to these meals. “Ensuring Atlanta’s young people are safe and have access to essential services year round is one of my top priorities,” said Mayor Kasim Reed. “When children are hungry, they lose out on key educational opportunities and can fall behind their peers. I want every young person in the City of Atlanta, no matter their family situation or their zip code, to have access to a high-quality education and a bright future.”

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DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs explains, “Over one million children in Georgia rely on free/reduced-price breakfast and lunch during the school year. However, during the summer only about 15% of those same children participate in summer meals. And one of the reasons is a lack of transportation. Through their Lunchtime Locomotive, the City of Atlanta is eliminating one barrier to accessing summer meals – and doing so in an innovative way.”

The SFSP kickoff event at the Metropolitan Public Library will include a press conference with First Lady of Georgia Sandra Deal, Mayor Reed, Commissioner Jacobs, and others and will include a physical education activity presented by Amerigroup.

For more information about the SFSP and to locate a site where children can access nutritious, free meals, visit the DECAL 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 open to the public and sponsors, addresses, maps, contact names, and phone numbers.

Also, families can call 1-855-550-SFSP (7377) or text “FOODGA” to 877-877 (standard messaging and data rates apply) to locate sites or see the route of the Lunchtime Locomotive.

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- (1) mail:  
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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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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).