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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adult day care centers needed to combat hunger among seniors

Nationwide awareness campaign highlights federally funded nutrition program

Atlanta, Ga., (September 8, 2015) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will celebrate the National Adult Day Care Center Week, September 13-19, 2015. The focus of the week is to turn a spotlight to the Adult Day Care (ADC) component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The Nutrition Services Division of DECAL administers two nutrition programs funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

With food insecurity among seniors on the rise, DECAL looks to combat this issue by bringing more Adult Day Care centers onto the CACFP. “Adult day service organizations may be eligible to receive reimbursements for meals served to seniors in their programs that are 60 years or older,” said Falita Flowers, Director of DECAL’s Nutrition Services Division. “While the need for health and nutrition is a foregone conclusion to most as it pertains to children, it eludes a great deal of the populace that the same holds true for our seniors. The need for healthy and nutritious food as one ages is critical to continued health and well-being.”

The Adult Day Care (ADC) component of the CACFP reimburses eligible for- and non-profit adult day care centers that provide free meals to eligible seniors in their facilities. Facilities that serve nutritious meals to adults aged 60 or older or adults who are functionally impaired while enrolled in qualified non-residential adult day care settings can receive reimbursement to help with meal service costs. Eligible organizations can prepare and serve meals themselves, receive bulk items from a vendor or contract with a food service management company to prepare meals for the program.

Eligible organizations receive training regarding the application process; setting up and operating a successful CACFP; nutrition education; and they receive technical assistance during the time the program is operating.

For more information on becoming a CACFP institution, visit:
<http://www.decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/CACFPHowtoApply.aspx>.

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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.