



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Amy Jacobs**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Celebrates National CACFP Week at Local Center**

*Nationwide awareness campaign highlights federally funded nutrition program*

**Atlanta, Ga., (March 9, 2015)** – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will celebrate National CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) Week at the Arthur M. Blank Family Youth YMCA, Wednesday, March 18, 2015 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. National CACFP Week “is a national education and information campaign...to raise awareness of how the USDA’s CACFP works to combat hunger and bring healthy foods to the table for adults in day care and children in child care homes, centers and in afterschool and summer feeding programs across the country.”

The CACFP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Children up to age 12 and adults ages 60 or older and adults who are functionally impaired, can receive nutritious meals while enrolled in qualified, non-residential child care or adult day care settings. Facilities approved by DECAL to provide meals that meet USDA meal pattern requirements can be reimbursed for those meals.

While National CACFP Week brings nationwide awareness to the program, DECAL Nutrition Services Director Falita Flowers explains that Georgia needs more facilities to participate in the CACFP. According to Flowers, “Early healthy nutrition habits are critical to establishing a lifetime of healthy eating choices. The CACFP provides children in care environments nutritious meals that meet federal requirements for providing balanced and healthy options. Our office is continually searching for institutions to participate in the program and instill these healthy habits early.”

The National CACFP Week event at the Arthur M. Blank Family Youth YMCA will include a press conference with DECAL’s Commissioner Amy Jacobs and a nutrition education activity presented by the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

To learn how to get involved in the CACFP, visit <http://dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/CACFPBecomingASponsor.aspx>.

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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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.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).