

# Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



March 10, 2021

## SFSP Sponsor Spotlight

*Bryan County Family Connection aims to feed the future and end childhood hunger*

With children in need across the entire county, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsor, Bryan County Board of Commissioners (BOC) ensures that children throughout the community have access to free nutritious meals during the summer months while school is not in session.

**Wendy Simms Futch**, Executive Director for the Bryan County Family Connection oversees SFSP for the county's board of commissioners. The BOC has been a SFSP Sponsor for over 30 years and the Family Connection has been overseeing the program for the past 10 years. During SFSP FY 2020, they served 33,068 meals from March 23 to July 31.



Children eating their summer lunch meals from the Bryan County Family Connection.

The Family Connection began emergency feeding last March providing breakfast and supper at several grab-and-go sites throughout the community. When school was out for the summer, they transitioned to serving grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals until August.

Like many others, the Family Connection had to adapt to changes brought on by the pandemic. Prior to COVID, the organization operated 16 meal sites. Currently, they are offering meals at three centrally

located sites and work with a limited number of staff to limit exposure. Wendy explains, "We had to think outside the box [to] find creative solutions in order to keep our staff safe, while at the same time, providing healthy meals for our children."

Forming strong partnerships and staying organized are key factors in operating a successful meal program. "Working with organizations like the Family Connection collaborative in your area can often help you locate sites and potential staff, make connections to other community partners, and provide ways to spread the word about your program," said Wendy. She also recommends creating a filing system that works best for your organization and sticking with it. She says, "We figured out early (on) to color code the site paperwork and that was the best decision." She refers to color coding as a trivial thing but credits the process as a saver of both time and energy.



Stacks of flyers promoting the Bryan County Summer Lunch Program at different meal site locations.



A group of kids receiving their meals from one of the Family Connection's meal sites.

Wendy knew about SFSP for many years and even volunteered during the summer at several meal sites as a teenager. Now that she has overseen the program for 10 years, it has come full circle for her. Although she manages several programs and services as executive director, she expresses that SFSP is one of her favorites. She finds it rewarding to know the county is providing quality, nutritious meals for children in the community. Wendy says, "Helping families thrive is not just a job; it's my passion, and my life is enriched

because of it."

For more information on Bryan County Family Connection's Summer Lunch program, click [here](#).

There were 78 Georgia counties that did not have a SFSP meal site last summer. If you are interested in expanding meal services to other counties, please [email us](#).

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## USDA extends Flexibilities for Summer 2021

In response to the needs of SFSP sponsors, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has released a series of waivers to maximize flexibility and limit exposure to COVID-19 for summer 2021.

These flexibilities will remain necessary to operate meal programs given the ongoing public health and economic crisis.

FNS has issued the the following updated waivers through September 30, 2021:

- Allowing non-congregate feeding
- Allowing parents and guardians to pick up meals for children
- Extending area eligibility waivers
- Allowing meal service time restrictions
- Allowing Offer vs Serve flexibilities
- Allowing area eligibility for closed enrolled sites
- Waiving first week site visits.

Watch your email and refer to the COVID-19 resource page on [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov) for the most up-to-date information on the extension of the waivers.

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## Need to Update your Banking Information?

*Verification may take up to 30 days to process*

Anytime changes are made to your banking account information, please notify DECAL by completing the Vendor Management Form . The State Accounting Office (SAO) Vendor Management Group has an extensive process for verifying the bank accounts of any individual or organization for which payments are made. This is to prevent fraudulent banking and payments. Therefore, any updates made to your existing banking information may take up to 30 days to process.

To mitigate delays, please follow these steps:

- Use the proper **Vendor Management Form** (note this forms changes periodically)
- Complete sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the VM Form.
- On section 2, date and sign with a real signature – SAO will now accept digital signatures. Digital signatures are created by using appropriate PDF software such as Adobe. **Typed signatures using a cursive style font remain unacceptable.**
- On Section 2, specify general bank account for use by all state agencies or specific

- purpose (Pre-K, Nutrition, etc.).
- Use the proper IRS W-9 Form
- Sign and date the IRS W-9 Form (signatures on a W-9 are only valid 12 months from the date of the signature per IRS guidelines). W9's must be submitted using the October 2018 version. The version date is both in the top left and bottom right of the form). **Digital signatures are NOT acceptable on the W9.**
  - W9's for businesses must be completed exactly as the IRS has the company name listed on their tax returns. Both DECAL and SAO verify Tax ID and Name combinations using IRS software. DECAL will not honor requests to setup new vendors where the Tax ID and Name combination does not match IRS records. Vendors may be required to resubmit a W9 with accurate information or request a TIN verification letter from IRS and submit to DECAL.
- Submit the Vendor Management Form and updated W-9 to your assigned Application Specialist for processing.

**Note:** SAO eliminated the requirement for a voided check or bank letter. However, if banking information cannot be verified on the form, you may be asked to submit a voided check or a bank letter. This usually happens with smaller banks, out of state banks, or credit unions. Also, SAO may contact you directly to independently verify banking changes. If you do not cooperate with SAO representatives for this verification, your request to change your bank will not be honored and your payment may be delayed.

**Current processing times:**

1. New vendor set-ups - less than 3 days.
2. Address changes or adds – less than 3 days.
3. Banking adds or changes – 10 to 30 days.

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

Application Specialists or Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (zero)-G,	<a href="mailto:Paula.Lawrence@decals.ga.gov">Paula.Lawrence@decals.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	<a href="mailto:Shericka.Blount@decals.ga.gov">Shericka.Blount@decals.ga.gov</a>	(404)656-6411
Temika Moore	Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Temika.Moore@decals.ga.gov">Temika.Moore@decals.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-1494

## Extending SFSP Operations through June 30, 2021

Pursuant to recent USDA guidance, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are permitted to extend their operations until June 30, 2021. Sponsors that wish to continue serving meals after December 31, 2020, will be required to meet all traditional SFSP requirements.

### Approved SFSP Sponsors Extending through June 30, 2021

Sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional FY 2020 SFSP that would like to continue serving meals until June 30, 2021, must complete the following actions to be considered eligible for reimbursable meals:

- Register and participate in the virtual FY2021 SFSP Experienced Sponsor training scheduled on **March 10, 2021**. Approved sponsors may continue to serve meals until training sessions are made available. Failure to register and participate in a SFSP Experienced Sponsor training will result in meals no longer being eligible for reimbursement.
- Review and update the FY 2021 application in GA ATLAS, which may include:
  - Review of the entire application
  - Revision of the management plan
  - Submission of the annual budget

- Review and revision of site applications (e.g., new operating dates, new mealtimes)
- Submission of annual documents

Sponsors whose operations will extend beyond June 30, 2021, can update their site application(s) to reflect the remainder of their FY 2021 SFSP operations. All hard copy documents must be printed, completed (including signature), scanned and uploaded in GA ATLAS. Once all hard copy documents have been submitted and electronic application sections are completed, please notify your assigned Application Specialist via email of your submission.

### **Returning Sponsors Operating through June 30, 2021**

Experienced Sponsors who did not operate SFSP in FY2020 but would like to serve meals through June 30, 2021, must complete the following actions to be eligible for reimbursable meals:

- Complete an abbreviated viability screening process (Government entities, School Food Authorities and CACFP Sponsors are exempt). Please contact **Demetria Thornton** to request a viability assessment.
- Sponsors that meet the viability requirements will be required to register and participate in the virtual FY 2021 Experienced SFSP Sponsor Training scheduled on **March 10, 2021.**
  - Returning sponsors will be given access to start their applications and serve meals until training sessions are made available. Failure to register for and participate in a SFSP Experienced Sponsor training will result in meals no longer being eligible for reimbursement.
- Enroll in Program Year FY2021\*
- Complete Annual Certification Statements\*
- Review and update the FY2021 application in GA ATLAS, which may include:
  - Review of the entire application
  - Revision of the management plan
  - Submission of the annual budget
  - Review and revision of site applications
  - Submission of annual documents

Sponsors whose operations will extend beyond June 30, 2021, can update their site application(s) to reflect the remainder of their FY 2021 SFSP operations. All hard copy documents must be printed, completed (including signature), scanned and uploaded in GA ATLAS. Once all hard copy documents have been submitted and electronic applications sections are completed, please notify your assigned Application Specialist via email of your submission.

***\*Note:** Dual sponsors who have already enrolled in FY2021 CACFP are not required to re-enroll and do not need to complete annual certification statements.*

### **New Organizations Interested in Participating in SFSP**

New organizations interested in participating in the SFSP will be required to complete a viability screening assessment.

A complete and accurate viability screening packet must be submitted at least seven business days prior to the last new sponsor training to allow time for review of the submitted information.

Organizations that meet all viability requirements will be registered to attend one of the required two-day trainings for new sponsors scheduled on **March 24-25, April 7-8, or April 28-29, 2021.**

***\*Note:** School Food Authorities (SFAs) and government entities are exempt from the Viability, Capability, and Accountability (VCA) Checklist requirement. These organizations can contact **Leslie Truman** at **404-657-1779** to register for new sponsor training.*

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

Application Specialists or Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (zero)-G,	<a href="mailto:Paula.Lawrence@decals.ga.gov">Paula.Lawrence@decals.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	<a href="mailto:Shericka.Blount@decals.ga.gov">Shericka.Blount@decals.ga.gov</a>	(404)656-6411
Temika Moore	Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Temika.Moore@decals.ga.gov">Temika.Moore@decals.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-1494

## Budgeting for SFSP

Pursuant to recent USDA guidance, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are permitted to extend their operations until **June 30, 2021**. Sponsors currently approved to serve meals under traditional FY 2020 SFSP that would like to continue serving meals until June 30, 2021, must update their institution's budget to include months January - June 30, 2021. If sponsors are certain their institution will continue operations beyond June 30, the sponsor can include the remainder of FY2021 (July - August) SFSP's reimbursement and costs in the budget. Please contact [Shonda Franklin](#), Budget Compliance Supervisor with any questions or concerns.

In accordance with the budget guidance provided above, sponsors with food costs exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold of \$250,000 must proceed with formal procurement procedures. Food costs will not be approved in excess of \$250,000 until a contract has been executed. For further instruction on how to complete the formal procurement process, please contact [LaMonika Jones](#), Procurement and Purchasing Compliance Officer.

## SFSP Reimbursement Rates for Summer 2021

Effective January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Meal Type	Rural or Self Prep	Other Types of Sites
<b>Breakfast</b>	\$2.4625	\$2.4150
<b>Lunch/Supper</b>	\$4.3175	\$4.2500
<b>Snack</b>	\$1.0200	\$0.9975

## Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

### Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

#### **Monday, March 15, 2021 - Memo Monday!**

This webinar will provide an overview of an upcoming new procedure when requesting a Program waiver and the new USDA Waivers feature in GA ATLAS. **Registration is now open.**

USDA Waivers		
	Program	
Detail	CACFP	Dashboard
Detail	SFSP	Dashboard

#### **Tuesday, March 23, 2021 - SFSP Procurement Readiness Webinar**

This webinar will answer common questions, address challenges, and provide guidance when executing proper procurement. The interactive session is designed to provide information on procurement regulations, requirements, and processes. **Registration is**

**now open.**

Sponsors will learn:

- relevant procurement practices when procuring food & non-food items,
- how to develop formal solicitations,
- current program flexibilities related to procurement during COVID-19, and
- how to incorporate local sourcing practices into meal service.

### **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Orientation and Program Training**

Do you plan to serve summer meals during the FY 2020-2021 program year? If so, please plan to participate in **one (1)** of the upcoming *SFSP Orientation and Program Training* sessions. All sessions will be offered virtually. **Registration is now open.**

#### **SFSP Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)**

- **March 10, 2021**

#### **SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)**

- **March 24-25, 2021**
- **April 7-8, 2021**
- **April 28-29, 2021**

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## **In Case You Missed It:**

### *Memo Monday!*

*Memo Monday* webinars provide an overview of new and/or revised policy memorandums for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

If you missed a *Memo Monday*, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars.

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## **Here to Help**

### *Get to know the Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Unit*

The goal of the **Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Unit** is to improve performance and better equip new and participating institutions and sponsors by providing practical, user-friendly resources and guidance materials that strengthen internal controls and result in successful, sustainable Program administration and operation.

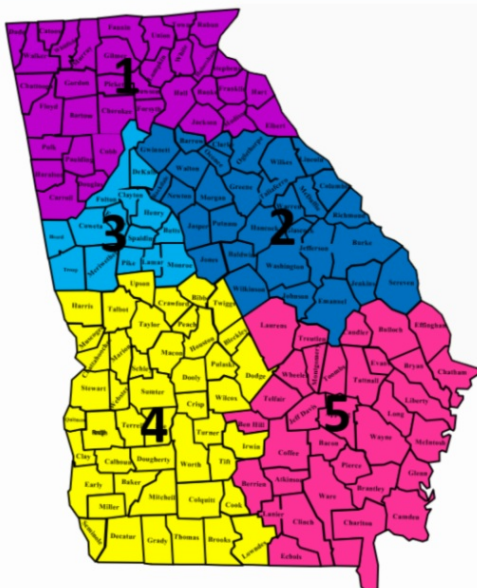
For upcoming SFSP training dates, see the [Training Calendar](#).

#### **Need Assistance?**

Each Technical Assistance Coordinator is responsible for various counties throughout Georgia as shown in the regional map below.

If you are a SFSP Sponsor who needs assistance, the TTA Unit can help with any questions or concerns regarding the overall SFSP program and training. To contact the TTA Unit, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below. You may also email the [NutritionTA Mailbox](#).

For previously recorded webinars or more information about training and other resources, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#).



- Region 1 – Nkem Ijeh
- Region 2 – Deidrea Thompson
- Region 3 – Tanya Coleman
- Region 4 – Victoria Thomas
- Region 5 – LaKisha Robinson

## Contact Information for Training & TA

Name	Title	Phone	Region
LaKisha Robinson	TA Coordinator	(478) 314 -2806	Southeast
Deidrea Thompson	TA Coordinator	(866) 370 -3203	East
Victoria Thomas	TA Coordinator	(470) 532 -0873	Southwest
Nkem Ijeh	TA Coordinator	(404) 973 -4099	North/NW
Tanya Coleman	TA Coordinator	(470) 373 -7826	Metro West
Sylvia Boykin	Trainer	(404) 463 -2317	
Grushan Blake	Training Manager	(404) 651 -7426	

Contact the TA Team individually or the TA mailbox at [NutritionTA@decals.ga.gov](mailto:NutritionTA@decals.ga.gov)

All email addresses are [firstname.lastname@decals.ga.gov](mailto:firstname.lastname@decals.ga.gov)



## It's Never too Early to Start Planning for Summer 2021

Providing summer meals is a year-round effort. At any point throughout the year, there are things you can do to prepare for next summer! Click [here](#) for more information on proactive planning for sponsors.

### March/April

- Review sites and ensure you are aware of their locations, operational hours, staff, and dates for monitoring.
- Think about how meals will be delivered to the sites and how many will be served.
- Complete pre-operational site visits.
- Ensure administrative staff are trained.
- Finish application and renewal forms.
- Contract with a food service management company, if necessary.
- Check with DECAL to determine if there are any potential sites lacking sponsors or areas lacking sites and sponsors and consider extending service to those areas.

# Updates to DECAL's Nutrition Division Child Health & Wellness Webpage Now Available!

Child Health & Wellness encompasses the whole child as a state of physical, mental, intellectual, social, and emotional well-being. Engage these available resources to improve the way you reinforce child health and wellness in your programs.

The newly updated webpage includes useful resources, knowledge, and information revolved around:

- Nutrition Education
- Meals and Menu Planning
- Farm to Child Nutrition Programs
- CACFP Meal Patterns
- USDA Recipe Box
- Food Safety
- Physical Activity
- Georgia SHAPE

Please click [here](#) to check out all of the available resources.

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## Waiver to Claim Meals Prior to SFSP Approval *Can SFSP Sponsors claim meals prior to approval?*

The answer is, yes. On September 11, 2020, FNS issued a nationwide waiver to allow state agencies to reimburse Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors for meals served prior to the sponsor receiving notification that the sponsor or site was approved for participation in the program.

[Click here](#) to access the notification. Sponsors who would like to utilize this waiver must update their FY 2021 SFSP site application(s) in [GA ATLAS](#) to reflect changes (e.g., new operating dates, meal times). Once changes are made, Sponsors must complete Attachment Q-Site Update Form, and send the completed form to their assigned Business Operations Specialist. [Click here](#) to access Attachment Q-Site Update Form.

**Note: Sponsors are only eligible for reimbursement for meals served. Supporting documentation for all meals served must be maintained on file.**

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## Revised SFSP Policies and Memoranda

DECAL Nutrition Services recently revised important policies and memoranda with respect to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). As a reminder, sponsors are strongly advised to carefully read each policy and memorandum listed below. Further, sponsors are strongly encouraged to frequently refer to such guidance as needed. The policies and memoranda listed below can be found on the DECAL website under their applicable subheading.

### Policies

- **Policy No. SFSP/03-5, [Recordkeeping Requirements for All Sponsors and Sponsored Facilities Participating in the SFSP](#)** This policy was revised to further align with the existing CACFP policy. The revisions add language concerning electronic recordkeeping, recycled milk, closures, and alternate forms.
- **Policy No. SFSP/04-14, [Sponsors Owing Outstanding Debts to the SFSP](#)** This policy was revised to further clarify the collections process and applicable Program terms.
- **Policy No. SFSP/04-15, [Serious Deficiency Process for Sponsors in the SFSP](#)** This policy describes the serious deficiency process and procedure for sponsors applying to or participating in the SFSP. The policy was revised to better



align with the CACFP policy and clarifies Program terms.

## Memoranda

- **Policy Memorandum, *Site Caps in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)*** This memo was updated to clarify that appeal rights are not required to be provided to a sponsoring organization when a site cap is issued during the initial application review or as a result of a review.
- **Policy Memorandum, *Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit (v.5)*** The previous version of the Food Service Permit Inquiry Form mentioned in this memorandum was removed. Instead, a link to the newly revised form is provided within this memo and can also be accessed on DECAL's website.

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## SFSP Federal Regulations Link has Changed!

To ensure that organizations have access to the most recent version of the applicable Federal regulations (7 CFR 226), a direct link to them was added to our website. To access the regulations, please visit the Nutrition page and click on **CACFP Participant Information**. From there, you will see **Federal Regulations** appear from the drop-down menu.

For questions concerning these updates, please contact the Nutrition Services' Policy Administrator, **Kate Alexander**.

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## COVID-19 Waiver Extension Update – *FSMC Contract Duration*

On January 6, 2021, USDA FNS released *COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #71*. This guidance extends the waiver, for all State agencies, school food authorities, and SFSP sponsors the food service management company contracts duration requirements at 7 CFR 210.16(d) and 225.6(h)(7).

This waiver allows food service management company (FSMC) contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2021 and have not been extended for SY2020-2021 to be extended through school year 2021-2022 (June 30, 2022).

To ensure Program integrity during this time, extended FSMC contracts are limited to one-year only. Further, this waiver applies to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program. To access the guidance, please visit the **DECAL website**.

For questions concerning these updates, please contact the Nutrition Services' Policy Administrator, **Kate Alexander**.

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## Updated SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19

### **New Guidance and Fact Sheets regarding Off-Site Monitoring in Child Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic**

On November 13, 2020, USDA issued guidance and fact sheets regarding Program monitoring in the CACFP, SFSP and the National School Lunch Programs. Each correspondence reiterates monitoring requirements as well as flexibilities for State agencies and Program operators as a result of the pandemic. The flexibilities mentioned in the guidance are extended through September 30, 2021. To review copies of the guidance, click **here** and see *Nationwide Waivers – Policy Guidance*.

A **Sponsor Monitoring Guide** was created to provide guidance on monitoring during COVID-19, monitoring waiver options, and conducting virtual/desk reviews. Due to the continuation of the Summer Food Service Program operations in FY2021, this guidance has been developed to ensure sponsors are in compliance with SFSP monitoring requirements

per 7 CFR 225.15 (d)(2)(3) and to provide additional guidance regarding on-going site monitoring after the first and fourth week visit/review.

**Effective January 4, 2021**, DECAL recommends that, in addition to the first and fourth week visit/review, all sponsoring organizations conduct on-going quarterly monitoring reviews for all sites in operation in FY2021. Refer to the guidance below:

- [SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [Record Request Checklist Template](#)

*The documents can also be found at DECAL's website under COVID-19 Resources>Resources.*

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## COVID-19 Resources for Sponsors

### FAQs: Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding serving meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### SFSP: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time for Children During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

#### Nationwide Waivers:

##### SFSP

*For full details on the SFSP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo.*

##### DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers Due to COVID-19

*For full details, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo, or [click here](#) for a complete list of the Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19.*

##### Nationwide Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the SFSP

FNS waives the requirement that reimbursement shall not be paid for meals served at a site before the sponsor has received written notification of approval for participation in the Program. **\*\*Waiver in effect until June 30, 2021\*\***

##### Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP & SSO Operations through June 2021

This waiver allows the SFSP & SSO to continue to operate through June 2021. **\*\*Waiver is effective until June 30, 2021\*\***

##### Area Eligibility

Allows Program operators to locate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements. **\*\*Waiver extended until June 30, 2021\*\***

##### Closed Enrolled Eligibility

Under this waiver, for all States, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. **\*\*Waiver extended until June 30, 2021\*\***

##### First Week Site Visits

FNS waives, for all States, the requirement that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. (2) This waiver applies to State agencies administering and local organizations that have operated the SFSP successfully in the previous year, and SFSP sponsors in good standing that have successfully participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). **\*\*Waiver extended until June 30, 2021\*\***

##### Meal Pattern Flexibilities

The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. **\*\*Waiver extended until June 30, 2021\*\***

### Meal Times Waiver

This waiver allows program operators the flexibility to adjust the times meals and snacks are provided in order to streamline operations. **\*\*Waiver extended until June 30, 2021\*\***

### 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 until June 30, 2021\*\***

### 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 until June 30, 2021\*\***

### Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsors

For sponsors only - FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.15(d) be conducted on site. **\*\*Waiver extended until September 30, 2021\*\***

### Important Reminders:

If you were previously approved for a SFSP only waiver, but would like to continue utilizing the waiver in your CACFP operations, please submit a request to utilize the waiver for the CACFP. Similarly, if you were previously approved for a CACFP only waiver but wish to utilize the waiver in your SFSP operations, a SFSP waiver request is required.

Waiver requests can be submitted to [Leslie Truman](#). Waiver request forms that were previously approved for both CACFP and SFSP do not need to be re-submitted.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact [Kate Alexander](#).

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## Procurement Updates

### Food Service Management Company Waiver Extended

As a reminder, USDA released a policy memo dated April 24, 2020, which allowed Summer Food Service Sponsors with a Food Service Management Company contract expiring on or around June 30, 2020, to execute a one-year noncompetitive, non-renewable agreement. The agreement helps prevent a delay in meal service while having to execute a new contract.

The April 2020 policy memo has been extended as of January 6, 2021, for SY2021-2022. Therefore, if you are a sponsor with a contract expiring on or around June 30, 2021, and will be participating in the Summer Food Service Program, you may apply for this waiver. The waiver is only valid for sponsors with a food service management company contract. The waiver is not applicable for sponsors purchasing bulk or pre-packaged food items and/or for sponsors utilizing informal procurement procedures.

### Suspension and Debarment Certification Requirement

USDA/FNS requires verification that persons with whom child nutrition program providers intend to do business have not been excluded or disqualified when entering into a transaction covered by this section. The certification requirement applies equally for procurement transactions across all Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs.

This verification may be done by:

- Checking the System for Award Management (SAM) or the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS); or
- Collecting a certification from that person; or
- Adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that person.

If using the certification method to meet the verification requirements the [Suspension and Debarment Certification Form AD1048](#) must be used and cannot be deviated from in any way. This form is located on the [Procurement Web Page](#).

### Update: Procurement Templates (Formal and Informal Documents)

All procurement documents have been updated as of February 2021. Please be sure to use the most recent version of all formal and informal agreements, Invitation for Bid and

## Register Now:

### *2021 Nutrition Services Virtual Vendor Summit*

Registration is open for the **2021 Nutrition Services Virtual Vendor Summit** on **Thursday, March 25, 2021**. We will be hosting the first of five Virtual Vendor Summits. This will be an opportunity for program providers to meet and greet with vendors and suppliers servicing both CACFP and SFSP. There will be an opportunity to learn about how they are working to better address program provider's challenges in the midst of COVID-19.

To register, [click here](#).



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## Local Sourcing Spotlight

### *Catch the Carrots!*

According to the Georgia Department of Agriculture, one of the newest and most popular commodities grown here in Georgia are carrots. They are high in beta carotene and help to prevent certain types of cancers. These sweet and crunchy vegetables are grown and ready for harvest December through June and many are commercially grown in the southern part of the state.



When looking to purchase carrots, try this helpful buyer's guide from the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture:

#### **A Buyers Guide to Carrots**

- Look for smooth, firm and well-shaped fresh carrots that are bright orange to orangish-red in color.
- To store: remove any leafy tops or stems, rinse, drain and place in plastic bags before refrigerating.
- Shriveled, cracked, or soft carrots should be discarded.
- If you buy fresh unpackaged carrots, look for those carrots with fresh green tops.

#### **Bonus: Radishes and Beets**

Believe it or not, we are still in the winter months for many vegetables which means it is a prime time to purchase root vegetables such as radishes and beets. Packed with vitamins and flavor, these winter vegetables are relatively inexpensive to purchase and can be stored for a few weeks or served immediately alongside your favorite meal.



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## Buy Georgia Grown Day

**March 22-26, 2021** is **Georgia AgWeek**. As the state continues to highlight locally grown Georgia products, **March 23** has been designated as “Buy Georgia Grown Day.” Help Georgia celebrate this day by purchasing your fresh fruits, vegetables and other food items from local Georgia farmers and growers. Please visit [Georgia Grown website](#) for a list of farmers in your area!

For questions regarding procurement, please contact [LaMonika Jones](#), Procurement Compliance Officer.

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## Nutrition Ed Nook

### *Crazy for Carrots!*

Crunchy carrots are our Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight this March! These nutritious root vegetables are cool season crops. Ranging a variety of colors including orange, purple, black, and white, carrots can be prepared in many ways. Enjoy them raw, boiled, baked, steamed, or cooked in soups and stews. Rich in vitamin A and fiber, these culinary masterpieces will add to your menus during snacks and mealtimes. Don't be so quick to throw away the carrot tops; you can make a carrot top pesto to dip the carrots in for a wholesome treat. Enjoy!

#### Integration:

- [Creamy Coleslaw](#)
- [Carrot Raisin Salad](#)
- [Corn and Edamame Blend](#)
- [Mediterranean Tuna Salad](#)



#### Education:

- **Taste** carrots in several color varieties. Ask your participants if they taste any different.
- **Grow** carrots in your gardens. Share the satisfying feeling of harvesting the carrots 60-80 days after planting and seeing how big they've grown!
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation by recommending developmentally appropriate tasks. **Bonus:** send carrot recipes home for families to try together!

#### Conversation:

- What carrot colors have your participants seen?
- Have your participants ever tried carrots or carrot top greens before?
- What adjectives would your participants use to describe carrots? Crunchy and sweet would be my choice!

Share your spring Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of carrots with Nutrition Health Educator, [Diana Myers](#), MS, RD, LD!

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# Nutrition Division Employee Spotlight

## *Edith Pierre - Business Operations Specialist*

In this month's Nutrition Employee Spotlight, we introduce you to **Edith Pierre**, one of three Business Operations Specialists for DECAL's Nutrition Services. As a Business Ops Specialist, Edith processes Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) add-a-site applications, renewals, and occasionally assists with processing traditional SFSP applications. Along with her main responsibilities, she also handles password resets for sponsors and institutions requiring assistance with their ATLAS login.



Originally from Florida, Edith has over 15 years of experience in the government industry. In 2005, she worked as an Election Support Administrator in the Voter Registration Department for the state of Florida. In 2007, she transitioned to the Dade County Appraisal Office as an Appraisal Clerk then promoted to a Field Evaluator in 2014. She moved to Georgia in 2018 and began her journey with DECAL's Nutrition Services Division performing clerical duties as a temporary employee. She transferred to the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) for six months and then transitioned to her current position with Nutrition in March 2020.

Although there may be some challenges when it comes to processing applications and keeping up with federal program changes, Edith appreciates the support from her team. She explains, "Even during these tough times, we manage to come together virtually and engage in fun learning activities as if we are still physically in the office."

A fun fact about Edith is that she used to embalm bodies while attending The School of Funeral Sciences at Miami Dade College, and she enjoyed it!

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## SFSP Meal Sites throughout Georgia



Georgia's children still have access to free, healthy meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Click [here](#) to find a meal site location near you.

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## SFSP DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH 10, 2021	SFSP Experienced Sponsor Training (1 Day)
MARCH 15, 2021	Memo Monday
MARCH 23, 2021	SFSP Procurement Readiness Webinar & Buy Georgia Grown Day
MARCH 24 - 25, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)
MARCH 25, 2021	Virtual Vendor Summit
APRIL 7 - 8, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)
APRIL 28 - 29, 2021	SFSP New Sponsor Training (2 Days)

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## NEW DECAL Download

### *Applications for GA Pre-K Teachers of the Year 2021-2022*

Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the year program celebrates excellence by recognizing exceptional Pre-K teachers. The Pre-K teachers of the year serve as an ambassador for Georgia's Pre-K program for one school year. DECAL is now accepting applications for Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year for 2021-2022. DECAL will select a winner from a local public school system and a winner from a private child care center.

Joining us to talk about applying for Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year is **Meghan McNail**,

Summer Transition and Outreach Manager for Georgia's Pre-K Program; **Channie Frazier** is a pre-K teacher at Kids World Learning Center in Statesboro and was our Pre-K Teacher of the Year for 2016-2017; **Nathan Leatherwood** is a Pre-K teacher at Calhoun City Pre-K and was Pre-K Teacher of the Year for 2017-2018; and **Stephanie Westhafter** is a Pre-K teacher at Georgia Kids Academy in Hoschton and was Pre-K Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019.

Stay tuned for this week's water cooler question and the DECAL Download Quiz for your chance to win a nice prize!

Have an idea for a future topic? [E-mail us](#).

You can find DECAL Download [here](#) or on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Overcast, and more!

On the next ...

**DECAL**  
**Download**   
New Episodes Every Wednesday!  
This Week's Guests



**Meaghan McNail**  
Summer Transition and  
Outreach Manager,  
Georgia Pre-K Program



**Channie Frazier**  
Pre-KTOTY  
2016-2017



**Nathan Leatherwood**  
Pre-KTOTY  
2017-2018



**Stephanie Westhafter**  
Pre-KTOTY  
2018-2019

This Week's Topic:  
**Applications for**  
**GA Pre-K**  
**Teachers**  
**of the Year**  
2021-2022



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

### **Nutrition Division** **Marketing & Outreach Team**

**Cindy Kicklighter**  
**Gaby Garza**

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