

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



October 2019 • Edition XLIX

Thank You Sponsors for Serving 4.7 Million Meals!

**Thank
YOU!**

**Thanks to you,
more than 4.7 million
nutritious meals were
served at more than
1,500 sites this summer!**



DECAL's Nutrition Service Division is grateful to our committed SFSP sponsors and institutions who make such a difference for children in Georgia!

We invite you to take a moment to celebrate your impact. We are celebrating with you!

Check Out the 2019 Sponsor Survey Results

2019 SFSP Sponsor Survey



4.7 MILLION
Meals Served



1,500
Meal Sites



84
Sponsors

30 Sponsors Responded

Our Sponsors said:

Program Operations

40%

Completed the survey have participated in the SFSP one to five years

55%

Did not experience barriers or challenges participating in SFSP

46%

Did not experience any barriers or challenges completing the SFSP application

70%

Self-prepped their meal service in 2019

52%

Felt that the marketing materials provided by DECAL was the most effective medium in promoting their meal sites

Customer Service

55%

Rated the customer service of the **Nutrition Services Staff** as Very Good

40%

Rated the customer service of the **Application Staff** as Very Good

40%

Rated the **Technical Assistance** they received as Very Good.*
(Not all sponsors receive technical assistance)

Summer 2020

97%

Plan to participate in SFSP 2020

43%

Plan to expand their meal service operations in Summer 2020

50%

Are currently participating in the At-Risk After School Program

30%

Are interested in participating in a focus group to further improve SFSP

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Help Us Recruit New Sponsors

Know someone who may be interested in becoming a sponsor next summer? Please send your referral to cindy.kicklighter@dec.al.ga.gov for a chance to have your organization featured in our newsletter!

It's Never too Early to Start Planning for Summer 2020

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.

October:

- Take time to reflect on the summer with site administrators and determine what could be improved or what worked.
- Reflect on the service provided by your vendor. Ensure the food was well-received by the children. Revise menus as needed.
- Review unserved and under served areas near current sites. Recruit sites to these areas of need.
- Compare participation from this year to that of prior years, as well as current participation for free and reduced-price meals in local schools.
- Consider providing non-monetary awards to recognize sites that excelled during the summer.

November:

- Reach out to sites that were underutilized and offer support to increase participation for the coming year.
- Register for the 2020 Summer Food Service Program Summit, details coming soon.
- Set participation goals for the next summer and plan how you will accomplish them.
- Look out for dates on mandatory sponsor training from your State agency.
- Begin developing a marketing and outreach campaign.

December:

- Sign up for mandatory sponsor training classes.
- Begin to determine which sites are returning, explore new site options, and meet with community partners.
- Plan site staff training, meal production and delivery, and programs and activities.
- Begin exploring the potential for serving mobile meals.
- Continue developing a marketing and outreach campaign.

DECAL Unveils New Logo



The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has a fresh new look! We are proud to announce the launch of our new logo as part of the ongoing evolution at DECAL.

The revamped logo was created in honor of the agency's 15 year anniversary and identifies us as the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning: Bright from the Start. After

15 years of meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families, we felt our logo needed a refresh. The new logo features a G that looks like a peach to identify with Georgia. Stay tuned as we begin incorporating our new logo!

DECAL Releases Several Policy Memoranda

DECAL recently released several policy memoranda with respect to both the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Institutions and sponsors are strongly advised to carefully read each of these listed below as content within them has changed and/or is new. Further, institutions and sponsors are strongly encouraged to frequently refer to such

guidance as needed.

The following memoranda applies to both Programs and can also be located on the DECAL website.

- ***DECAL Disaster Preparedness Guidance, August 15, 2019 (v.3)***. This memo reminds CACFP and SFSP organizations of the various flexibilities when preparing for or experiencing a disaster. Further, the memo assists participating organizations in determining when assistance requires further approval from FNS and provides new disaster menu templates, food safety guidance, and additional disaster relief resources.
- ***Farm Bill Implementation Memo: Donated Traditional Foods and Civil Liability, August 22, 2019***. This memo notifies participating CACFP and SFSP organizations of the 2018 Farm Bill's expansion of the provision which states that certain groups are not liable in civil cases regarding the donation and service of traditional foods, The provision applies only to food service programs at public and nonprofit facilities that primarily serve Indians, including those operated by Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.
- ***Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the CNPs, September 13, 2019 (v.2)***. This memo rescinds and replaces DECAL Policy Memorandum, Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Corn Flour in the CNPs initially published in May of 2019. The updated guidance clarifies how coconut, hominy, corn masa, masa harina, corn flour, and cornmeal will credit towards a reimbursable meal or snack.
- ***NDL Search: Determining Whether a Facility, Individual, or Family Dare Care Home Provider is Present on the USDA National Disqualified List (NDL)***. This memo is new and advises sponsors participating in the CACFP and SFSP to ensure that any facility or individual under their sponsorship and for which they have an Agreement, not be present on USDA's NDL with a "disqualified" status.

For questions concerning these updates, please contact the Policy Administrator at (404) 651-8193.

Local Sourcing Spotlight

Oh My! So Much Squash!!

October kicks off the official start to Farm to School Month. This year's focus is on Squash. There are many different varieties of squash with some of the most common varieties being Acorn, Butternut and Spaghetti.

Here in Georgia harvest season begins May 1 and ends October 31. When searching for summer squash you should know this variety takes 30-45 days to mature and should be harvested every other day. If you're in search of winter squash know that this variety takes longer to mature at 80 - 120 days.



When you're ready to purchase squash, it's important to know if your vegetable is mature. Winter squash should be fully colored with a hard rind that is resistant to fingernail scratches. Summer squash typically has a thin, edible rind/skin.

Where to buy?

So you're ready to purchase squash for meal service or taste tests? Georgia is ripe with farmers, growers and farm stands ready to supply you with your squash

needs. If your program resides in the Metro Atlanta Area, visit [Metro Atlanta Urban Farm](#) who specializes in affordable, fresh produce free of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

Nutrition ED Nook

Oh My Squash!

It's finally here! *Oh My Squash!* is a state-wide celebration to get kids eating, growing, and participating in squash-themed activities. To participate in *Oh My Squash!* at your school, early care center, or in your community, click [here](#) to sign up. Participants will receive free electronic resources to help you plan and implement your activities. Resources include standards-based lesson plans, quick activities, recipes, videos, school garden planting and harvesting information, and more!

Share your *Oh My Squash!* pictures and activities on social media with #ohmysquash. Each week during October, anyone who uses this hashtag will be entered to win a gift card and at the end of the month, we will have a grand prize winner of a two day education pass to the Georgia Organics Conference on **February 7-8, 2020** in Athens (a \$425 value)!

To start off the month-long celebration, indulge in this squash-themed recipe below.



Zucchini Pizza Bites

Ingredients:

- 3 large zucchini, *sliced 1/4 " rounds*
- Extra-virgin olive oil, *for brushing*
- 1/4 cup marinara sauce
- 1/3 cup shredded mozzarella

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Place zucchini slices on a baking sheet and brush with olive oil.
3. Bake until slightly tender for about 5 minutes.
4. Spoon on a thin layer of sauce over each slice, then top with mozzarella.
5. Bake until zucchini is tender and cheese is melted for about 10 minutes.
6. Enjoy with the children!

Have you listened to DECAL Download?



With an annual budget of over \$847 million, DECAL's Finance and Administration Divisions play an important role in the success of our agency. Listen to this week's episode of DECAL Download as we talk with Rian Ringsrud, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration.

DECAL Download

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

Nutrition Division Marketing & Outreach Team

**Cindy Kicklighter
Gabrielle Phillips
Giovanna Lucas**

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