



June 3, 2024

2024 Start-up Grant Awards Announced

Congratulations to the following sponsors that were awarded funding for the 2024 Happy Helpings Start-up Grants:

- 3rd Mile
- Bread of Life Ministries
- Chance of Change
- Heart Filled Helping Hands
- Karing Hertz Community Development Corporation
- Real Talk, Let's Talk
- Rock of Salvation
- Sankofa House
- Second Harvest of South Georgia
- Small Treasures Learning Center
- The Black Lotus Project
- Viola's Gift
- Youth Science Academy

The grants were awarded to both new and experienced sponsors for agreeing to establish Happy Helpings meal sites in targeted areas with high rates of childhood food insecurity. Funding will be awarded once the sponsor's application to operate has been approved.



And Justice for All Posters

Sponsors participating in Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program are required to display the "And Justice for All" poster at meal sites where it can be viewed by the public.

You can download the poster [here](#), and display it in the specific size of 11" width x 17" height. The cost for printing posters is an approved Happy Helpings expense and should be allocated to the publication, printing and reproduction budget line item.

Resources to Promote Meal Sites

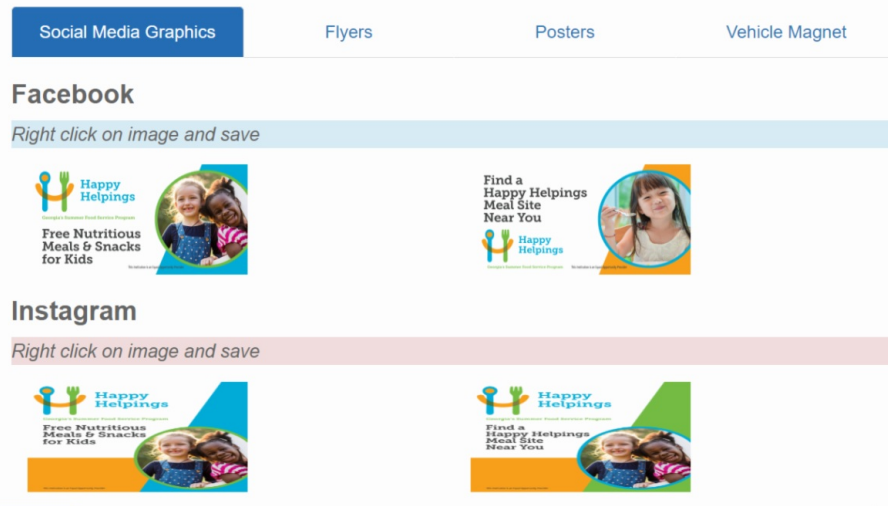
Ensuring families and guardians are aware of the availability of meals in their area is an important part of the Happy Helpings program. Nutrition Services has created several promotional resources to help sponsors gain exposure for meal sites this summer.

These resources include:

- Editable flyer
- Editable Poster
- Social Media Graphics
- Vehicle Magnet*

*To produce a vehicle magnet, print the artwork and take it to any sign company.

Marketing Materials to Promote Meal Sites



To locate these resources, visit the [Nutrition Page](#) on Decal.ga.gov and locate "Happy Helpings Participant Information" on the menu. Expand the menu and scroll to "Posters and Flyers." Click on the link and it will take you to a password protected section. The password is "Flyer."

If you have questions, please contact Cindy.Kicklighter@decals.ga.gov

Submit Your Happy Helpings Application

Federal Deadline: June 15

If you have not submitted your Happy Helpings (HH) application, please make sure to do so by the federal deadline on Saturday, June 15, 2024. Applications not submitted by the deadline date will not be reviewed; therefore, they cannot be approved.

If your organization still has plans to participate this summer, you are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application before the deadline date. For detailed instructions on completing the application, you may refer to the [FY 2024 HH Application Instruction Booklet](#).

Follow these Tips to Complete Your Application

- To minimize confusion and delays, only the program contact and/or authorized representative should be contacting the application reviewer. Keep in mind that the program contact is responsible for entering the information in the online application, GA ATLAS.
- Complete all forms in their entirety.
- The Food Service Permit Inquiry Form needs to be submitted/signed in every county where meals are being served prior to being submitted to DECAL.
- If utilizing a food service management company (FSMC) or acting as FSMC, ensure that numbers 42 & 43 are responded to correctly on the institution application.

Board of Directors Section:

- Ensure that all sections are completed for each board member.
- Any changes made to the Board of Directors (BOD) need to be supported with board

- meeting minutes.
- Ensure that the "delegation of authority" form is signed by an officer of the board (as defined on the form).

Management Plan:

- The plan should be updated annually.
- The percentage of time allocated to Happy Helpings for personnel/staffing should align with the allocation on the staff distribution report.
- Staff and duty allocations in the Management Plan **must** match the names of staff and duty time listed in Staff Distribution Worksheet.

Site Application:

- Your FY2024 HH application must be submitted **first** before your HH budget can be reviewed/approved.
- Site changes, including add-a-sites, need to be approved prior to making changes to an approved budget.
- Ensure to indicate days that the site will not serve meals during normal operating dates on #14.
- If site is outdoors (park, driveway, pool), please detail the plan if indicating that meals will be served indoors when answering #28.

Maximum Meal Count (MMC):

- The threshold for the maximum number of meals that can be served is 100.
- Sponsors that request a MMC over the threshold prior to the initial approval of the site application must submit written justification to their assigned Application Specialist explaining why an increase is needed.
- Enrollment/registration information should be submitted to justify the increase for sites that are closed enrolled.
- Letters of authorization for sites located at unaffiliated schools and/or unaffiliated apartment communities can include information to justify the increase.
- A justification letter is not required for sites requesting the same MMC over the threshold that was approved the previous year. Additionally, if the request is over the MMC threshold, but under the approved MMC that was approved the previous year, no justification letter is required.
- If a request appears unreasonable/unsupported, then the MMC over 100 will not be approved.
- Sponsors that begin operations and later request a MMC over the threshold must submit written justification to their assigned Business Operations Specialist explaining why the increase is needed. Additionally, three consecutive days of daily meal count (DMC) forms must be submitted. If the request is unsupported, the MMC to provide more than 100 meals will not be approved.

15-day Contact:

Your specialist has 15 days to review your initial FY 24 application, including the budget, after it has been submitted.

Budget

Excess Funds

- Prior Year Reconciliation documents must be approved before use of funds.
- You must have completed and approved FY23 reconciliation documents submitted before excess funds are approved for use.

Two Business Day Response

- Allow two business days for the budget specialist to provide a response to your budget inquiries.
- Submit detailed budget questions to nutritionbudget@decal.ga.gov

Submitting Supporting Documents

- Properly label supporting documents by cost category and upload to the Attachments List

Related Party

- Please ensure to submit the related party disclosure form and ensure that all applicable

Notify DECAL When Updating Your Banking Information

Anytime changes are made to your banking account information, please notify DECAL by completing the Supplier Change Request 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. SAO process time varies and may take up to six to eight weeks or longer for banking adds and updates.

To mitigate delays, please follow these steps:

- Use the proper Supplier Change Request Form (note this form changes periodically)
- Complete all required sections of the Supplier Change Request Form (see instructions on how to complete form)
- Use the proper IRSW-9 Form
- Sign and date the IRS W-9 Form (signatures on a W-9 forms are only valid 12 months from the date of the signature per IRS guidelines). W-9 forms must be submitted using the March 2024 version. The version date is both in the top left and bottom right of the form). Digital signatures are NOT acceptable on the W-9 form.
- W-9 forms 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 do not match IRS records. Vendors may be required to resubmit a W-9 form with accurate information or request a TIN verification letter from the IRS and submit it to DECAL
- Some common reasons why the SAO rejects accounts are: the organization is using a smaller regional or local bank, the bank account was opened recently, and/or the account number that was provided is incorrect.
- Submit the Supplier Request Form and updated W-9 form 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.

If you have questions, please contact your assigned applications specialist.

Stay Informed: SFSP Policy Revised

In May 2024, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Appeal Procedures were revised to include that appeals are not allowed on decisions by FNS with respect to late claims or upward adjustments. This policy can be found [here](#).

Waivers for Physical Safety Concerns

Nutrition Services received recent notification that USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will consider non-congregate waiver requests submitted by sponsors for individual sites during exceptional circumstances that cause physical safety concerns.

Exceptional circumstances can include incidents such as a violent crime occurring within close proximity of a site, determination of unsafe or contaminated water at a site, or other extreme and specific conditions or events that would severely jeopardize the safety of Program participants at a particular site.

It is important to keep in mind that waivers will only be considered for specific meal sites in close proximity to actual incidents. Blanket waiver requests for the entire state, communities, or neighborhoods will not be considered/approved by DECAL or FNS.

To apply for this waiver, sponsors should follow waiver request procedures in DECAL's memorandum [Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Guidance and Protocol](#). Attached to the memorandum is a template waiver request form that sponsors should use to submit the waiver request to Nutrition Services.

This request should be submitted to Robyn Parham at Robyn.Parham@decalfga.gov. Waivers for physical safety concerns must receive DECAL and FNS approval and non-congregate meal services may not occur until approval has been granted.

Sponsors may request waivers for specific sites for the following:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(i)(15)]
- Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup [42 U.S.C.1761(f)(3), 7 CFR 225.2(Meals), and 7 CFR 225.9(d)(7)]
- Meal Service Times [7 CFR 225.16(c)(1),(2), and (3)]

Please note that sponsors would be required to publish a public notice of their waiver request on the SFSP sponsor's website or through a printed announcement in the local/state newspaper. This notice must include the regulation that is requested to be waived, such as the regulations noted above.

In addition to the request form, sponsors must submit documentation of the incident that threatens physical safety of Program participants at the site. Examples of documentation that should be submitted are as follows:

- Written and signed statements from site staff who directly witnessed and documented the event;
- Documentation of an event by a law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the site exists (e.g., a police report);
- Published news reports or articles reporting of the incident in close proximity of the site; or
- In the case of contaminated water at a site, a notice from a local health authority advising of the unsafe water conditions.

Waivers will be approved for no more than 7 days. If the safety issue persists past that period, FNS may consider granting extensions on a case-by-case basis.

For questions, please contact Robyn Parham at Robyn.Parham@decalfga.gov

New Waivers Available during Excessive Heat and Air Quality Advisories

On March 26, 2024, USDA granted a Nutrition Services request to waive certain requirements in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for summer 2024 operations. Specifically, Nutrition Services was approved to waive the requirement to serve congregate meals during times of excessive heat and air quality advisories.

Non-Congregate Meals during Excessive Heat Waiver

This waiver allows SFSP sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without temperature-controlled alternative sites as non-congregate sites on days

when the area is experiencing excessive heat. These waivers may only be used on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor meal site is located, as indicated at <https://www.weather.gov/>. These waivers are effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*.

Non-Congregate Meals during Air Quality Advisories Waiver

This waiver allows SFSP sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without alternative indoor sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing certain air quality advisories. Sites may be approved for non-congregate meal service on days when the site's zip code has an Air Quality Index (AQI) "purple" flag or higher, as indicated at <https://www.airnow.gov/>. These waivers are effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*.

Additional Flexibilities Available

The following flexibilities are also available during times of excessive heat and air quality advisories. These flexibilities are effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024*

- **Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up**
- **Meal Service Time Flexibilities**

Guidance Available on Waivers and Approval Process

Nutrition Services has developed instructions and further guidance on applying for these waivers and flexibilities entitled Happy Helpings Excessive Heat and Air Quality Advisories Application and Instruction Guide. The guidance can be found [here](#).

All sponsors who desire to apply for these waivers are strongly encouraged to review this guidance as it offers information on required documentation to be maintained and submitted. In addition, the guidance contains instructions on how to report meals served during the utilization of these waivers.

Sponsors interested in utilizing these waivers and flexibilities must request approval via the Waiver Module in GA ATLAS. Sponsors must have approval to utilize these waivers and flexibilities prior to serving meals in non-congregate settings during excessive heat and/or air quality advisories.

For general questions on requesting a USDA approved waiver, please contact Tammie.Baldwin@dec.al.ga.gov.

For specific policy questions pertaining to waivers, please contact Robyn.Parham@dec.al.ga.gov.

Unanticipated School Closure Waivers Available

On August 30, 2023, Nutrition Services received USDA approval for statewide waivers for Happy Helpings sponsors to utilize during unanticipated school closures.

The following waivers are available during unanticipated school closures when meal service operations are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency for similar unanticipated causes.

The following approved waivers are available when schools are closed with no virtual learning:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-up
- Meal Service Times
- Service of Meals at School Sites

The waivers listed above are available through June 30, 2024. To read more, click [here](#).

High Quality Summer Meals Award Program

Turnip the Beet Award Nominations Deadline: August 30

Awarded by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, the **Turnip the Beet Award** recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors across the nation who work tirelessly to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing and nutritious during the summer months.

This award is an exciting opportunity for Happy Helpings sponsors to show how they are going above and beyond to ensure that children are receiving high-quality meals.

To apply, sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party. The nomination form for this award includes short-answer questions and menu criteria based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

To apply, complete the [nomination form](#) and submit it along with supporting documentation to Morgan.Chapman@decalfga.gov by August 30.

Celebrating Farm to Summer Week

June 24-28, 2024



DECAL's Nutrition Services is celebrating Farm to Summer Week June 24-28, 2024.

Farm to Summer engages kids and families through fun, hands-on experiential learning activities, improves the quality and appeal of summer meals, increases access to fresh fruits & vegetables, & nourishment while school is out.

The themes for the week are as follows:

- Monday – What is Farm to Summer?
- Tuesday – Gardening & Physical Activity
- Wednesday – Cooking & Taste Testing
- Thursday – Locally Grown in Meals & Snacks
- Friday – Literacy, Music & Movement

Share your photos with us throughout the week of your program participating in Farm to Summer activities using [#GAFarmtoSummer](#) or via email to morgan.chapman@decalfga.gov

Upcoming Training Dates

June 17, 2024 – Memo Monday!
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Do you have questions about charging allowable items in the SFSP as it relates to camps? Do you know how SFSP funds may enhance your Farm to ECE/ Summer program? Are you unsure about the documents required to support verification of meals at self-prep sites for summer? Join this webinar to learn more.

The following memos will be reviewed:

- [Charging for SFSP Meals at Camps and Conditional Non-Congregate Sites](#)
- [Use of SFSP Funds towards Farm to Early Care and Education Costs, with](#)

June 18, 2024 – Happy Helpings Reconciliation Training 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Do you need a refresher on reconciliation and the required records? Join this webinar to learn:

- detailed information on the annual Year-End Reconciliation process,
- how to complete the Reconciliation Form, and
- documents required for submission and potential next steps.

June 18, 2024 – Tuesday Tip! Farm to Summer 1:30 – 2:00 pm

Are you ready to support farmers and serve fresh foods that are locally grown? Join this webinar to learn:

- tips for increasing local foods,
- ways to engage children through hands-on food education, and
- ideas for increasing garden-based education.
- Bonus: learn about USDA's Turnip the Beet Award and how to become involved.

Participants can earn two [2] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.

Please click [here](#) to register for all DECAL webinars listed above.

Registration: This is a **two-step** process:

- **Step 1:**
 - After registering in GA ATLAS, you will receive a Training Confirmation email *immediately* from Georgia DECAL Help Desk - helpdesk@cnpus.com with a registration link to attend the webinar (**check your spam/junk folder**).
- **Step 2:**
 - You must then register for the training using the link provided on the Training confirmation email.
 - If you should have an issue with registering, please contact Leslie Truman **prior** to the day of training.
 - **Click here** if you need a refresher on how to register for training in GA ATLAS.

Please note: Only the Program Contact (PC) can self-register within GA ATLAS. If an additional person will be attending, please contact Leslie Truman, Administrative Assistant, at (404) 657-1779 for assistance.

Additional Training Opportunity

June 12, 2024- Assisting Small Business thru SAM.gov Training 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Join this virtual training with the General Services Administration to obtain hands on assistance with your [SAM.gov](#) questions and challenges.

[Register here](#)

Participants will:

- Understand [SAM.gov](#) and who should register
- Walk through the steps and validations required to get a Unique Entity ID and register in [SAM.gov](#)
- Get tips and tricks to help you avoid the most common challenge
- Learn where to get help and get answers to your questions
-

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Diana Leonardo at

Training Resources

In Case You Missed It: Webinar Recordings Now Available!

If you missed a webinar, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's training highlight is the [Happy Helpings Budget Training](#) webinar. It discussed the purpose of the budget package, the purpose of all budget line items in GA ATLAS, and how to prepare & develop a complete GA ATLAS budget package.

2024 Summer Food Service Program Administration Guide *Newly Released!*

FNS is pleased to announce the release of the 2024 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Administration Guide. The guide reflects policy updates to the SFSP since its last release in 2016, including policy updates made through the interim final rulemaking, [Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs \(88 FR 90230\)](#).

The content is structured in units focused on participating, applying, administering, and operating the meal service in the SFSP, and is catered to those operating the Program, mainly State agencies and sponsors. The entire guide may be accessed on the FNS Webpage, at [SFSP Administration Guide](#) and on [DECAL website](#) under [Happy Helpings Participants Information > Handbooks/Instructions](#).

- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Introduction to the SFSP](#)
- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Unit 1 Participating in the SFSP](#)
- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Unit 2 Applying to the SFSP](#)
- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Unit 3 Administering the SFSP](#)
- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Unit 4 Operating the Meal Service for the SFSP](#)
- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Appendix 1 SFSP Definitions and Basics](#)
- [SFSP Administration Guide 2024_ Appendix 2 Prototype Forms for the SFSP](#)

Happy Helpings promoted at Bump & Beyond Maternal Health Fair



The Nutrition Services Division recently participated in the Bump & Beyond Maternal Health Fair held in Canton.

Representatives promoted the availability of free nutritious meals for kids this summer through Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program and nutrition education & physical activities for families.

The fair also featured free health services, kid-friendly activities, & pregnancy and postpartum health tips as well as valuable information on

Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids.

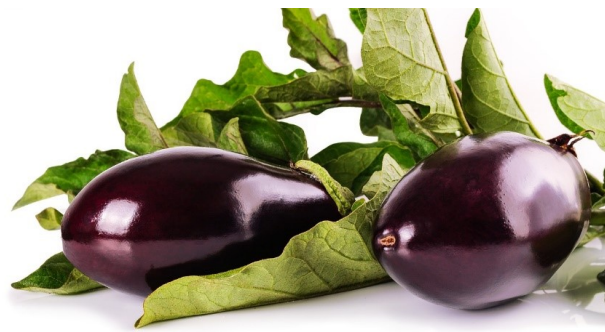
Pictured above: Morgan Chapman, Nutrition Education Specialist, Tina McLaren, Physical Activity Specialist and Cindy Kicklighter, Marketing & Outreach Manager.

Nutrition Ed Nook

The Versatile Eggplant

Eggplant is the June Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight!

Eggplant is a good source of fiber, which helps with digestion and may lower your risk for heart disease. It also contains vitamins C & K, which keep our immune system strong and help our bodies heal quickly; and potassium, which helps build muscle and keeps your heart healthy.



In Georgia, eggplants are in season June through October. The oblong purple eggplant found in most stores is often called a globe eggplant. Other varieties to grow or find at farmers markets include oblong, long, thin, or round. Colors vary from white and green to pink, purple or black. Some have stripes of color.

Eggplant goes well with many flavors. Add diced eggplant to soups and casseroles. It is known for how well it soaks up the flavor of the broth and sauces. Enjoy it grilled, roasted, sauteed or stir-fried.

Fun Fact: Although considered a vegetable, the eggplant is actually a berry related to the tomato and potato. They all belong to the nightshade family.

Integration:

- **Baba Ghanoush**
- **Eggplant Pizza Slice**
- **Roasted Eggplant Tomato Ratatouille**
- **Roasted Eggplant with Curried Lentils**

Education:

- **Watch** the **Learn Fruits and Vegetables for Kids: The Eggplant** video. In this episode, get to know better the eggplant and have fun!
- **Taste test** eggplant to see how participants like them and add it to your menu. Get creative with your recipe and involve participants in the process. This will increase their willingness to try it.
- **Read** the book, **Rainbow Stew by Cathryn Falwell**. Splish, splash, puddle dash! It's a rainy summer day, but the vegetables in Grandpa's garden are just waiting to be picked. Yellow peppers, purple cabbage, red tomatoes, green zucchini, orange carrots, and more. So many colors! So many delicious ingredients to slice, chop, peel, and dice for a great big pot of mouthwatering Rainbow Stew. Yum!"
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation such as placing eggplant slices on a baking sheet to be cooked for a meal. **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate eggplant into their meals!

Conversation:

- Have your program participants eaten eggplant before?
- If so, how did they eat eggplant? If not, how would they like to try it?
- What other produce items are in the same family as eggplant?

June Harvest of the Month
BONUS Item
Juicy, Red Tomatoes!



Tomatoes are the June Harvest of the Month bonus spotlight! Tomatoes are rich in nutrients that promote good health, including fiber, vitamins C & A, and potassium. There are many varieties of tomatoes, in a range of sizes and colors such as red, yellow, orange, green and purple.

Tomatoes can be stuffed, stewed, baked, and used in sauces, casseroles, and soups. Serve raw tomatoes in salads, on sandwiches, or as a quick snack! Tomatoes are botanically a fruit, but we often place them in the

vegetable food group.

Integration:

- **Pico de Gallo**
- **Tomato Melt**
- **Tomato Pasta Salad**
- **My Personal Pizza**
- **Baked Tomatoes with Cheese**

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of eggplant and tomatoes with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCHc at morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov!

Physical Activity Corner

Be Active All Summer Long



Hello Summer Activities! This is the perfect time to venture outdoors, bring out those running shoes, get ready to play and get in some physical activity.

It is recommended that children and adults get at least one hour of physical activity every day. Physical activity doesn't have to mean structured *exercise*, and instead can be a way to integrate movement in your day while being outdoors. Unstructured and structured play are both forms of physical activity.

Be prepared with activity ideas when children say, "I'm bored." Have less screen time, turn off TVs, and electronic devices and get everyone moving at set times during the day. It may be helpful to brainstorm with the children a list of

activities in advance that your family enjoys.

Here are a few of summer activities for the children and families:

- Go on a group bike ride.
- Go on a trail walk, jog, or run with your family.
- Take time to go to local community pools early in the morning.
- Play games like *Freeze Tag* and *Red Light/Green Light*.
- Have a backyard garden party—invite the neighbors and friends to harvest a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Draw different shapes with sidewalk chalk and practice moving over, around, frog hops, and counting numbers like hopscotch.

- Play catch with a water balloon.
- Walk like different animals—bear, crab, chicken, dog, snake, etc.
- Set up a variety of targets— old bottles, cans, buckets. Then work on throwing a ball at them from different distances.

Integration:

- [Getting Started: Georgia Farm to ECE Guide](#)
- [Georgia Master Gardeners: Gardens of Georgia](#)
- [Quality Care for Children’s Farm to ECE Webpage](#)
- [UGA Extension’s Community and School Gardens](#)
- [Georgia Department of Natural Resources](#)

Education:

- **Read out loud**, “[And Then Comes Summer](#)” by **Tome Brenner**.
- **Watch** the video on [Summer Safety Tips For Kids](#).
- **Talk** with families about ways to get moving in the summer, whether at home, outside, in their local community, at your childcare site, or at their local recreational areas.
Bonus: Share #GetMoving, #BeActive, #SummerMoves, #InstaMoves, #KeepKidsMoving pictures and events that are happening in your communities.

Share your #DECALPhysicalActivity #NationalPhysicalActivityFitness&Sports #MayFitness, #MoveInMay, #BeActive, #MoveYourWay stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, Tina McLaren, MPH at tina.mclaren@dec.al.gov.

Eat Healthy and Live Active

Georgia Early Care and Education

Harvest of the Month 23-24

Calendar

Harvest of the Month (HOTM) is the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program’s farm to school initiative that highlights an item each month that can be sourced locally and served in Georgia’s school meals.

The Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month is a collaborative campaign to promote a different local, seasonal fruit or vegetable in child care settings each month.

Visit the Georgia Department of Education's HOTM [webpage](#) and Quality Care for Children [webpage](#). Upon viewing, you can find tips and tricks for preparing produce items, curriculum connections, activity lists and book alignment for your early care classrooms.



Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENTS
June	Harvest of the Month: Eggplant & Tomatoes
June 12	Assisting Small Businesses thru SAM.gov Training
June 15	Federal Deadline to Submit Application
June 17	Memo Monday
June 18	Reconciliation Training Tuesday Tip! Farm to Summer
June 20	Kick-off Event: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Augusta
June 24-28	Farm to Summer Week
June 25	Kick-off Event: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Georgia

Happy Helpings Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- Updated Guidance for Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services
- Updated Guidance: Rural Non-Congregate Parent/Guardian Pick up and Delivered Meals
- Procurement Methods At-A-Glance
- Have You Determined this Summer's Food Cost & Procurement Methods?
- BOLD Ministries, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Augusta and Burke County Public Schools recognized as Turnip the Beet Award Winners
- Budget Representatives Updated April 2024
- USDA Requests Input on Serious Deficiency Process
- Identifying the Difference between Pre-Award Cost Request vs. Excess Funds
- Make your Local Farmers Market a Meal Site Option
- FY24 Reimbursement Rates Released
- Increasing Access to Food Through Mobile Feeding
- Check your Email Messages in GA ATLAS

How was my Customer Service?

Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



Click on the icon on the right to participate in the customer service survey. Responses are anonymous.

NEW DECAL Download

Retiring DECAL Employees

A career in state government offers employees an engaging and diverse work environment that allows them to fulfill personal and professional ambitions, while taking pride in providing services that contribute to Georgia's success.

Joining us this week to talk about retiring this year from DECAL is

On the next ...
DECAL
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New Episodes Every Wednesday!

This Week's Topic:
Retiring DECAL employees



Rhonda Gunn
Senior HR Manager

Susan Breheny
Pre-K Business Process Analyst



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL



Rhonda Gunn, Senior HR Manager, who has worked in state government for 34 years, 16 of them here at DECAL...and Susan Breheny, Business Process Analyst for Georgia's Pre-K Program, who has been with us 17 years starting as a registrar for Pre-K teacher training in 2007. Great memories....be sure to join us!

Listen to the [episode here](#).



Nutrition Division
Marketing & Outreach

Cindy Kicklighter

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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[Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish](#)

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