



August 3, 2022

Transitioning from Happy Helpings to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals

Many existing Happy Helpings sites are well-positioned to offer afterschool meals during the school year through CACFP. Both organizations and communities benefit when meals are offered to children in low income communities year-round.

Now that we are at the end of the summer season, the opportunity for sponsors to transition to At-Risk Afterschool Meals, a component of CACFP, is upon us. Here are a few things to consider:

- An application for Happy Helpings sponsors transitioning to CACFP is required upon initial entry to the CACFP. General updates and annual renewal will be required thereafter.
- As part of the current ATLAS CACFP application process, Happy Helpings sponsors are required to sign a CACFP agreement in addition to their existing agreement.
- Sponsors are required to adhere to all monitoring requirements.
- Sponsors are required to attend training.
- If you have questions or are interested in registering for training, please contact **Leslie Truman** at 404.657.1779.

After School Programs Required to Apply for License or Exemption to Participate in At-Risk

Afterschool programs **MUST** apply for license or exemption in order to participate in the At Risk Afterschool Meals Program by submitting a complete license or exemption application to DECAL's **Child Care Services (CCS)**.

Available Resources:

- [Applicant's Guide to Licensing](#)
- [Child Care Learning Center Information](#)

For more information, requirements, License Orientation meeting, and state laws, contact CCS at 404.657.5562.

Summer Meals Season Ends When School Starts

Sponsors can only operate Happy Helpings during the summer months when school is not in session. Once school reopens in the district where a site is located, Happy Helpings operations must end.

Reminder to Review Online Happy Helpings Application

Sponsors are required to review and ensure that all sections of their online Happy Helpings

application in GA ATLAS are accurate at all times. Failure to maintain an accurate application could result in a finding(s) and/or an adverse action. [Click here](#) to access Happy Helpings application update procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Business Operations Representative.

For Happy Helpings applications, contact:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Shericka Blount	o (zero)-C H-P	Shericka.Blount@decals.ga.gov	(404) 656-6411
Kenya Taylor	D-G, Q-Z	Kenya.Taylor@decals.ga.gov	(404) 463-4040

Please send site updates and add-a-sites to your reassigned Business Operations Representative:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Jerald Savage	o (zero)-C, H-P	Jerald.Savage@decals.ga.gov	(770) 405-7916
Edith Pierre	D-G, Q-Z	Edith.Pierre@decals.ga.gov	(404) 463-8314

Annual Year-End Reconciliation for Happy Helpings FY2022 due October 31

Institutions operating FY22 Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Program (May 2022-Aug 2022) must complete an Annual Reconciliation Form. The form should include all FY22 Happy Helpings operating months. Per SFSP Policy 5, sponsors are required to submit year-end reconciliation documentation as well as the bank statement and/or general ledger supporting the ending balance on the reconciliation form.

The SFSP reconciliation form **and** final bank statement or general ledger must be submitted to DECAL no later than October 31, 2022. Click [here](#) for the reconciliation form and [here](#) for instructions.

Submit the form, supporting documentation, and include the name of the institution and agreement number in the subject, and send to the Nutrition Budget Team at nutritionbudget@decals.ga.gov, along with any questions about the budget process.

Second Harvest of South Georgia hosts Happy Helpings Spike Event in Valdosta

Taking place on July 12 in Valdosta, Happy Helpings teamed up with Second Harvest of South Georgia for a spike event to promote the importance of summer meals. Approximately 40 children attended the event.

Along with multiple physical activities that included footballs, jump ropes, and



volleyballs, the children enjoyed a nutritious meal and learned a healthy way to keep hydrated during the summer months without the sugar found in soda and sports drinks.

A hydration station was set up where kids selected from a variety of fresh and locally grown fruit to infuse in their glass of water.

Happy Helpings Sponsors:

Submit pictures of your high-quality meals



We want to hear from you!

The Nutrition Services Division wants to spotlight the high-quality meals that you are serving in your Happy Helpings program this year. We are seeking pictures of your *appetizing*, *appealing*, and *nourishing* meals being served this summer!

You fill the gap for children during the summer months by providing access to necessary and nutritious meals to support children's healthy growth and development. Let's share and celebrate your efforts across Georgia!

Submit your high-quality meal photos, organization's name, and any local items being served to Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor, Diana Myers at diana.myers@dec.al.gov.

Nominations for "Turnip the Beet" Award Opens Aug 15

Nominations for the Turnip the Beet Award officially opens August 15, 2022!

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months.

This is an exciting opportunity for Happy Helpings Sponsors. Stay tuned for more details!

Questions? Contact Diana Myers, Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor at diana.myers@dec.al.gov.

TURNIP THE BEET 

Are you "Spinach to Win It" with us?

Sign up for October's Farm to School Month Campaign Toolkit

Registration for this year's October Farm to School Month campaign is now open! Receive access to an online toolkit filled with spinach-themed activities, standards-based



lessons, recipes, and more when you sign up today.

The first 300 individuals to sign up can choose to be mailed seeds, washable tattoos, and a school garden planting & harvest calendar. To find out more, click [here](#).

#spinachtowinit #farmtoschool @GeorgiaOrganics

USDA Nationwide Waivers Now Available

On July 6, 2022, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a suite of three additional Child Nutrition Program nationwide waivers and flexibilities based on authority amended by the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 to support CNP operations in Summer 2022.

The additional flexibilities available to Happy Helpings (SFSP) sponsors are as follows:

- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #111 - **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 7**
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #112 - **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 7**
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #113 - **Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 4**

Happy Helpings sponsors may request use of these nationwide waivers as implemented by DECAL in Summer 2021. This means that DECAL's process to approve requests for approval contingent upon "if a meal service is limited by the COVID-19 pandemic" and the associated criteria no longer applies.

However, the sponsors must still provide justification for the use of the waivers and maintain records as required last Summer. For further guidance on general record keeping requirements when using nationwide waivers, go to: **Important Reminders when using USDA Approved Waivers**.

NOTE: Happy Helpings Sponsors previously approved to use the above-mentioned waivers do not need to re-apply. Additional nationwide waivers currently available for Happy Helpings sponsors' use include:

- COVID-19: CN Response #107 - **Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 5**
- COVID-19: CN Response #108 - **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 4**
- COVID-19: CN Response #71 - **Allow the extension of existing SFSP FSMC contracts set to expire in July, to be extended for 1 year** (Extended through June 30, 2023)
- Statewide Waiver – **First Week Site Visits** – waives the requirement that sponsors visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation.

Below is a quick reference chart for available Happy Helpings Waivers:

Waiver	Expires	Request Usage via
First week Site Visits	April 30, 2023	ATLAS Site Application Section: <i>General Site Information</i>
Closed Enrolled Sites	September 30, 2022	ATLAS Site Application Section: <i>Site Type</i>
Meal Service Time Restrictions	September 30, 2022	USDA Waiver Module
Non-Congregate Meal Service	September 30, 2022	USDA Waiver Module
Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup	September 30, 2022	USDA Waiver Module

For information on requesting a waiver, please access the following resources:

- **USDA Waiver User Guide** – Provides step by step instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas (applies to both CACFP and SFSP). Updated content is highlighted in yellow.
- **Important Reminders when using USDA Approved Waivers** - Discusses key record-keeping requirements. Updated content is highlighted in yellow.
- **USDA Waiver Addendum** – Required when using the Parent Pick-up waiver or when home delivery under the Non-Congregate waiver.

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

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

Area Eligibility Guidance from the USDA

Transitioning from COVID-19 Nationwide Waivers and School Data

On May 13, 2022, the USDA issued the memorandum [Area Eligibility for Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-2023](#). This memorandum provides guidance on the transition from COVID-19 Nationwide waivers related to the establishment of area eligibility in Child Nutrition Programs for summer 2022 and SY 2022-2023.

In SY 2021-2022 many schools participated in the Nationwide waiver to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during SY 2021-2022 and did not have to complete free and reduced eligibility information. This has resulted in an absence of complete SY 2021-2022 free and reduced price school data. As school data and census data are the primary sources used to determine area eligibility in both Happy Helpings and CACFP, the USDA has advised that Program operators may use one of the following two options with regards to school data for sites located in the attendance area of schools that operated SSO in SY 2021-2022 (*these options are not available for sites located in the attendance area of schools that operated NSLP in SY 2021-2022*):

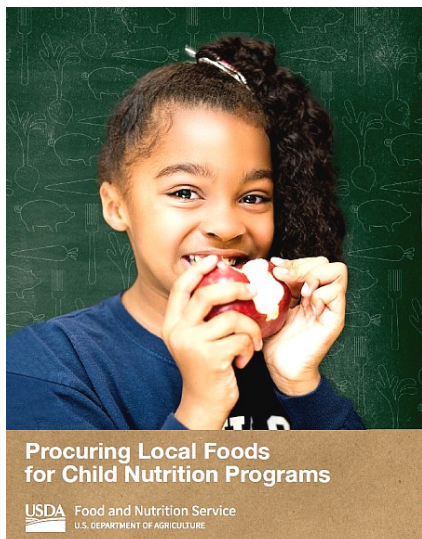
- Use school data from SY 2019-2020 to determine area eligibility. SY 2019-2020 school data is now available on Nutrition Services' website ([Happy Helpings, CACFP](#)).
- SFAs may use Community Eligibility Provision Data (CEP). Once area eligibility data is established, all NSLP afterschool snack programs, SSO, CACFP at-risk afterschool and family day care homes, and SFSP operators may establish sites based on the determination.

Procurement Updates

Monitoring Executed Contracts, Agreements and Services

Organizations are encouraged to frequently monitor and evaluate contractual agreements and invoices, as well as assess current and potential meal sites. Doing so may help determine if:

- There are unexpected changes by the vendor on price or supply
- A new vendor should be used
- The contract period is ending, and/or
- If proper procurement using alternative procurement methods different from previous years should be executed (i.e., new bid process, new agreements, amendments, change in procurement method overall, etc.).



Now Available! Revised Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs Guide

On June 21, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Farm to School Program released the revised Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs Guide, which provides an overview of federal procurement principles and covers topics related to sourcing and purchasing local foods, for State agencies and child nutrition program operators.

This guide highlights a variety of mechanisms schools can use to purchase local products while staying in accordance with federal procurement regulations. Featured are examples of how to target local foods when conducting

both formal and informal procurements, use the Geographic Preference option, and use the USDA Foods and DoD Fresh Programs to enhance local purchasing. Please feel free to share the guide across your networks.

To access the revised Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs Guide along with other local procurement resources for child nutrition program operators, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/procuring-local-foods>.

Get Informed: 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 [Farm to Summer](#) webinar. It discussed tips on how to incorporate local foods and food education into your summer feeding program. Also highlighted this month is the [Procurement Readiness \(FY 2022\)](#) webinar, which provided information on procurement regulations, requirements, and standard processes.

[SFSP Transition to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Webinar Recording](#) **Now Available!**

Are you interested in serving meals year-round when school is in-session? Register below to learn:

- the overview of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program,
- eligibility, application, licensing, and exemption requirements to participate.
- [[Register Now](#)]

[USDA Webinar on Keep Kids Fed Act](#) **Now On-Demand!**

The [National CACFP Sponsor Association](#) is offering a webinar recording on the overview of the recently enacted Keep Kids Fed Act. The recording discusses the additional resources and flexibilities that will be available for summer, school, and child care program operations during summer 2022 and School Year (SY) 2022-2023. You may also download

the [presentation slides](#). The webinar focused on five [5] key topics.

1. Legislative Roadmap
2. Keep Kids Fed Act Overview
3. Summer 2022 Updates
4. School Meal and CACFP Flexibilities
5. Additional Supply Chain Assistance Funds
 - [\[Download Slides\]](#)
 - [\[Watch On-Demand\]](#)

Summer Food, Summer Moves Resources Kit

USDA's toolkit is a fun, hands-on resource designed to get kids and families excited about healthy eating and physical activity during the summer months. The toolkit provides several activity guides, including [Stay Cool with Summer Meals Activity Guide](#). This guide offers tips to help keep kids cool with these fun activities.

- Jump in for Healthy Choices
- The Big Wind Blows
- Water Safety Tips
- Hot Tornado
- Fruit and Veggie Waters
- Cool Cucumber Yogurt Dip
- [\[Download in English and Spanish\]](#)

The Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Brochure *Updated!*

Team Nutrition has updated this brochure and it is now available online. The brochure describes the purpose of the FBG and the various features, such as the Recipe Analysis Workbook, Exhibit A Grains Tools, and FBG Calculator, included in the Web-based Tool and Mobile App. The FBG is the go-to source of food yield information for all Child Nutrition Programs and is used by Program operators as well as the food industry. The brochure also provides links to FBG training resources such as recorded webinars, training videos, and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) training modules.

- [\[Download Brochure\]](#)

Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool *New Yields!*

New yield data for whole sorghum, pearled sorghum, and sorghum flour have been added to the FBG. This is the first set of new data from phase two of the FBG Yield Study.

- [\[Check out the FBG\]](#)

Training & Technical Assistance

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. We want to ensure that we continue to meet this goal during any transitions and/or position changes.

Therefore, sponsors that reside in **therregion 2** and **region 3** areas listed, please contact our Nutrition TA mailbox at NutritionTA@dec.al.ga.gov with any needed technical assistance.

You may also visit our [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for program resources and recorded webinars.



Job Opportunities

Apply for Technical Assistance Coordinator & Trainer Positions

If you are a child nutrition advocate and have talent with providing technical assistance, training, and excellent customer service, join our Nutrition Services team! Interested individuals may apply through Team Georgia Careers by **Friday, August 8, 2022**.

- [Apply for Technical Assistance Coordinator & Trainer East position](#)
- [Apply for Technical Assistance Coordinator & Trainer Southwest position](#)

For more information, contact Grushan Blake by email at Grushan.Blake@dec.al.gov.



Nutrition Ed Nook

Watermelon: A Classic Summer Treat!

The August Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) item is watermelon! Watermelons are low in calories and very nutritious.

They are high in lycopene, which gives it its red color and is a powerful antioxidant that helps

keep you healthy. They are also high in vitamin C, vitamin A, and potassium. Watermelons are available seeded and seedless. Watch for locally grown watermelon from July to September. Seasonal produce is more cost effective, taste better, and last longer.

Although red watermelons are the most common, they come in other colors like orange, yellow, and white. Watermelon is an excellent and delicious way to help hydrate in the heat because it contains 92% water.

Fun Fact: July is National Watermelon Month and August 3 is National Watermelon Day.

Integration:

- [Watermelon and Fruit Salad](#)
- [Watermelon Cooler](#)
- [Watermelon Breakfast Parfait A Go Go](#)
- [Watermelon Kiwi Smoothie](#)
- [Watermelon Slushy](#)
- [Watermelon Kebabs](#)

Education:

- **Compare & Contrast** Make a list of similarities and a list of differences between watermelon and another summer fruit. Are there more similarities or differences? Find a list of summer produce [here](#).
- **Watch a Video** Find and watch a video online that shows how watermelon are grown, harvested, and distributed in the United States.
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation including spooning watermelon in a bowl to be served with a meal. **Bonus:** Send recipes that incorporate watermelon home for families to try together!

Conversation:

- Have your program participants eaten watermelon before?
- What is their favorite way to eat watermelon?
- What other melons do your program participants like to eat?

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of watermelon with Nutrition



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Meet Diana Myers, Nutrition and Physical Activity Supervisor*

Diana Myers serves as the Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor for DECAL's Nutrition Division, overseeing a newly formed team to include a Nutrition Education Specialist and a Physical Activity Specialist. Her recent promotion as a supervisor comes as the Nutrition Division has expanded their work to integrate a formal physical activity program through trainings, partnerships, and integration into the early care environment and summer meal sites.

Diana has an immense love for children and is motivated to leave the world better than she found it. "I believe to make this happen, we must collaborate, connect, and converse," said Diana. "This begins with the program operators for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program."

Diana strives to learn about the challenges being faced, strategize ways to support through those challenges, and hear success stories surrounding Nutrition Education, Physical Activity, and Farm to Early Care & Education. Since the pandemic hit in March 2020, Diana saw an even greater importance of the work being done through both the CACFP and Happy Helpings.

As Fred Rogers said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" This quote resonated so deeply as Diana saw the CACFP and Happy Helpings helpers. She continues to see people connecting as access points to serve Georgia's children and older adults' nutritious meals. "From our Sponsors to our sites, from our directors to our providers, it takes a village to make this happen," said Diana.

During the pandemic, Diana's training sessions shifted to virtual. Recently, she had several in person training sessions and has loved connecting with all our operators. She sees the benefit of having both virtual and in-person options to serve the needs of our CACFP and Happy Helpings operators. She had the opportunity to Co-Lead two Cooking Matters for Childcare Professionals Trainings alongside Quality Care for Children. In both Atlanta and Albany, the training participants included CACFP cooks, menu planners, and food purchasers. Diana says, "Seeing the lightbulb moments on their faces during training and watching them connect while practicing knife skills and family style dining was fuel in the work."

Nutrition Education and Physical Activity support is more important now more than ever before. As 1 in 6 children experience food insecurity and 3 in 4 children do not meet daily physical activity recommendations, our CACFP and Happy Helpings programs have the optimal opportunity to provide these educational experiences at their sites through hands-on play and an integrated approach.

Diana's work helps to fill that gap through training, collaboration, resource development, technical assistance, campaign creation, and in-person events. She also has the pleasure of serving as one of the Co-Chairs of the Farm to Early Care & Education Coalition alongside a team of dedicated and active individuals looking to move the bar forward in Georgia's early care programs.

Diana and her husband have two children, a 14-month-old daughter and a 13-year-old son. Diana's hobbies include spending time with her family while gardening, snowboarding, climbing, hiking, backpacking, adventuring, and exploring nature. Anything in the outdoors is a love for her. "My professional and personal life are very connected. I enjoy watching things grow and flourish, whether that be my husband, children, nature, or Georgia's children and

their families.”

Happy Helpings Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [Racial and Ethnic Data Collection](#)
- [Revised Happy Helpings Policies & Memoranda](#)
- [PolicyStat is available on the Nutrition Services' Webpage](#)
- [Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit](#)
- [Infant Formula Recall](#)
- [Does your organization operate as a Food Service Management Company \(FSMC\)?](#)
- [Check your Email Messages in GA ATLAS](#)
- [Reimbursement Rates for Summer 2022](#)
- [COVID Resources for Sponsors](#)
- [Updated CDC Guidance for Operating Early Care & Education/Child Care Programs](#)
- [After School Programs Required to Apply for License or Exemption to Participate in At-Risk](#)
- [Annual Year End Reconciliation Notice](#)
- [Nutrition Services announces New Brand Identity for the Summer Food Service Program: Happy Helpings](#)
- [Claim Deadlines announced for FY2022](#)
- [How to Submit a Waiver Request](#)

How was my Customer Service?

Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team



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

NEW DECAL Download

Cyber Security

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

This Week's Topic:
Cyber Security

Radha Datla
Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Technology Officer for DECAL

Dennis Brice
Chief Information Officer

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

9th Annual
Podcasts Download

From banking and shopping to communication and many other parts of our lives, we are living in a digital world. Since the start of the pandemic more and more of what we do every day is virtual and online. A heavy use of smartphones and computers also means cyber criminals are working hard to take advantage of businesses and individuals.

The state of Georgia has an ongoing training for cyber security to help keep networks and sensitive information safe. Joining us on this week's episode of DECAL Download to talk cyber security is our very own DECAL IT Team. We are joined by our Chief Information Officer, Dennis Brice and our Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Technology Officer, Radha Datla.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

**Cindy Kicklighter
Carl Glover**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

[Nondiscrimination Statement: English](#)

[Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish](#)

FOLLOW US



Bright from the Start: DECAL | 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA 30334

[Unsubscribe cindy.kicklighter@decal.ga.gov](mailto:cindy.kicklighter@decal.ga.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cindy.kicklighter@decal.ga.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!