



June 9, 2022



Thomasville YMCA hosts Happy Helpings Kick-off Event in Meigs to promote Summer Meals

Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program, officially began serving free nutritious meals throughout the state to children 18 & under when school closed for summer break.



On June 7, the Thomasville YMCA hosted a kick-off event in Meigs, GA, to bring awareness to the importance of summer meals. Approximately 60 kids enjoyed nutritious meals, learned the importance of staying hydrated during the summer, and played games to encourage physical activity.



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@decalfga.gov.

Reminder: PolicyStat is available on the Nutrition Services' Webpage!

PolicyStat is an *online policy management system* that allows CACFP and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program, organizations and DECAL staff to navigate, locate, and access policy documents more quickly. The links for PolicyStat can be accessed at the following two links:

- For CACFP, [click here](#)
- For Happy Helpings, [click here](#)

CACFP and Happy Helpings organizations are encouraged to take a moment to become familiar with the system. **Please Note:** As Nutrition Services works to perfect PolicyStat, please continue to use the current **Policy** and **Memos** links on the DECAL website as your main resource for all CACFP and Happy Helpings related policies and memoranda.

For questions, please feel free to contact Robyn Parham at Robyn.Parham@decalfga.gov or Sonja Adams at Sonja.Adams@decalfga.gov.

Updates on USDA Waivers

Nutrition Services would like to offer the most up-to-date information on available waivers, soon-to-be expired waivers, and waivers requested by Nutrition Services that recently received USDA approval.

A webinar summarizing the updates on waivers and requirements was recently hosted by the Nutrition team. To watch the webinar, click [here](#). You can also access the slides from the webinar [here](#).

Happy Helpings (SFSP) USDA Waivers Available for Sponsor Request

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

Non-Congregate Meal Service and Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver Requirements

The Non-Congregate Meal Service and Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup waivers may only be implemented when Happy Helpings meal services are limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the following criteria is required for these two waivers to be approved and used by Happy Helpings sponsors. Waiver requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria:

Criteria 1:

The site must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding COVID-19 community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) websites:

- CDC, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=Risk - Under the "Data Type" pull down menu (located mid-page), the user would select "Community Transmission" to access a county's designation; and/or
- DPH, <https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports> - The user would select the most recent County Indicator Report and click "Community Transmission" in the top right corner of the page to access a county's designation.

Criteria 2:

Sponsors can provide official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by

1. A public state, local, or county official
2. A school superintendent or principal
3. An SFSP Sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 at an SFSP Site.
Documentation to support the documented case of COVID-19 could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.

The Non-Congregate Meal Service and Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waivers will be effective for **30 days** upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted.

*Documentation to support the criteria chosen must be uploaded with the waiver request in GA Atlas. Additionally, waiver requests for sponsored sites will be reviewed and approved upon the site's approval to operate the Program.

Meal Service Time Restrictions

This waiver is applicable to 7 CFR § 225.16(c)(1) which places Federal limits on the amount of time that must elapse between the end of one meal and the beginning of the next, as well as 7 CFR § 225.16(c)(2) which places Federal limits on the duration of a meal service. Happy Helping sponsors interested in participating in the Meal Service Time Restrictions Waiver should apply for DECAL approval through the GA ATLAS Waiver Module. For instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA ATLAS please see the [USDA Waiver User Guide](#).

Closed Enrolled Sites

This waiver is applicable to 7 CFR § 225.15(f) and allows sponsors to operate closed enrolled sites in areas where at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Happy Helping Sponsors interested in participating in the Closed Enrolled Sites waiver should apply for DECAL approval within Happy Helpings' site applications.

First Week Site Visits

This waiver is applicable to 7 CFR 225.15(d)(2) which requires Sponsors to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. This waiver would be applicable only to SFSP sites that have successfully operated the previous year and for sponsors that operate the CACFP or the National School Lunch Program (NLSP). Happy Helping sponsors interested in participating in the First Week Site Visits Waiver should apply for DECAL approval within Happy Helpings' site applications.

FSMC Contract Duration Waiver Request receives USDA Approval

Nutrition Services also received USDA approval for the Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Contract Duration Waiver. This waiver permits School Food Authorities and Program Operators to extend existing FSMC contracts expiring in the month of July. This flexibility means operators do not need to re-compete their existing Food Service Management Company contracts.

Operators may instead submit to DECAL a notification of renewal letter that is signed and dated by both parties. The renewal will be good for one (1) year and no further criteria is required. This waiver expires June 30, 2023 and sponsors should request use of this waiver via the USDA Waiver Module.

Information on Requesting a Waiver

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).
- **Important Reminders when using USDA Approved Waivers** - Discusses key recordkeeping requirements.
- **USDA Waiver Addendum** – Required when using the Parent Pick-up waiver or when conducting home delivery under the Non-Congregate waiver.

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

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

UPDATES on the Nationwide Waivers during Unanticipated School Closure

Nationwide waivers have allowed flexibility for SFSP during unanticipated school closures. Unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.

School closures occurring during the summer between school years ("summer break") are not considered unanticipated school closures. Traditional Happy Helpings meal service sites that operate during the summer months do not qualify for the listed waivers below.

The waivers for unanticipated school closures are soon to expire or have already expired, and are as follows:

- **Service of Meals at School Sites** ****EXPIRED April 30, 2022****
- **Area Eligibility** ****Waiver Expires June 30, 2022****
- **Meal-Times** ****Waiver Expires June 30, 2022****
- **Non-Congregate Feeding** ****Waiver Expires June 30, 2022****
- **Parent Pick-Up** ****Waiver Expires June 30, 2022****

Nutrition Services received approval for unanticipated school closure waivers for the next school year (*waiver approval can be found [here](#)*). If approved, the following waivers would be in effect October 1, 2022-April 30, 2023.

- Non-Congregate Feeding
 - Parent Pick-Up
 - Meal-Times
 - Service of Meals at School Sites
-

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.
-

New Happy Helpings and CACFP Memorandum

Updates to the Non-Discrimination Statement and Complaint Processing

On May 5, 2022, the USDA issued [Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing and Questions and Answers](#). The memorandum and guidance provides direction to State agencies and Program operators regarding processing program complaints that allege discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation in programs or activities receiving CACFP and Happy Helpings funding.

As per the memorandum, effective immediately, discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation are now included within the definition of "sex discrimination."

Therefore, State agencies and Program operators will have to update/revise the following:

- **Program Discrimination Complaint Processing Procedures** - Must ensure that discrimination complaints alleging sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are processed as complaints of prohibited sex discrimination.
- **Non-Discrimination Statements (NDS)** - The Non-Discrimination Statement in English has been updated and can be found [here](#). The USDA is currently working on updating the statement in other translations. Once updated those translations will be located at [here](#).
- **And Justice for All Posters** - State agencies and Program operators will also need to obtain new posters that reference gender identity and sexual orientation discrimination.

Updates Timeline for the Non-Discrimination Statement and *And Justice for All*

posters:

- Items that can be changed without further guidance should be updated as soon as possible.
- Websites should be updated with the Non-Discrimination Statement no later than 90 days
- Documents, pamphlets, brochures, etc., with older NDS language must be updated when current supply on hand is exhausted or by September 30, 2023
- *And Justice for All* posters are in production and will be available in the coming months. State agencies and program operators must continue to display the September 2019 poster until updated posters are received.

*** Ensuring that discrimination complaints alleging sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are processed as complaints of prohibited sex discrimination is effective immediately.*

For any questions related to the memoranda, please contact [Robyn Parham](#).

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.).
-

Deadline to Submit SFSP Application - June 15

Submit your application by June 15 to participate this summer

If you have not submitted your Happy Helpings (HH) application, please make sure to do so by the federal deadline on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. Applications not submitted by the deadline date will not be reviewed, and therefore, cannot be approved.

If your organization still has plans to participate this summer, you are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application by the deadline date. For detailed instructions on completing the application, you may refer to the [FY 2022 HH Application Instruction Booklet](#).

Reminder to Review Online HH Application

Sponsors are required to review and ensure that all sections of their online HH 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 HH application update procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Business Operations Representative.

Summer Meals Season Ends when School Starts

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

For HH applications, contact:

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	o (zero)-G	Paula.Lawrence@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka.Blount@decalf.ga.gov	(404)656-6411
Kenya Taylor	Q-Z	Kenya.Taylor@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 463-4040

For HH updates, contact:

Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Temika Moore	o (zero)-G,	Temika.Moore@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 463-1494
Jerald Savage	H-P	Jerald.Savage@decalf.ga.gov	(770)405-7916
Edith Pierre	Q-Z	Edith.Pierre@decalf.ga.gov	(404) 463-8314

Summer Meals Site Finder is Live

The **Summer Meals Site Finder** (aka Meals 4 Kids Site Finder) for the 2022 summer season went live on May 5, 2022. The map will be refreshed and published weekly.

Do you know the Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit?

Non-licensed facilities that serve CACFP and/or SFSP meals manipulated or handled by Program staff must determine if a Food Service Permit is required by a local Health Authority. Manipulation is defined as unpacking, plating, and/or heating of food/meals. Heating is referred to instances where food is placed in warmers or similar use containers for the intent of reheating or hot holding food/meals.

DECAL's **Food Service Permit Inquiry Form** is available to assist non-licensed facilities in Georgia's food service permitting process.

Get Informed:

Upcoming Training Opportunities for June

Training Dates

Jun 7, 2022 – Happy Helpings Reconciliation Training

Are you using the correct process to reconcile your budget? Join this webinar to learn:

- the annual Year-End Reconciliation process,
- how to complete the Reconciliation Form, and
- documents required for submission.

June 13, 2022 – Procurement Readiness Training

Are you practicing proper procurement requirements in your program? Join this webinar to learn:

- relevant procurement practices when procuring food & non-food items,
- how to develop formal solicitations, and
- how to incorporate local sourcing practices into meal service.

June 15, 2022 – *Physical Activity Training*

Do you prioritize physical activity throughout the day in your program? Join this webinar to learn:

- the benefits of physical activity,
- ways to increase physical activity throughout the day,
- ideas to incorporate physical activity in small spaces, outdoor areas, and while using minimal equipment.

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

Training Resources

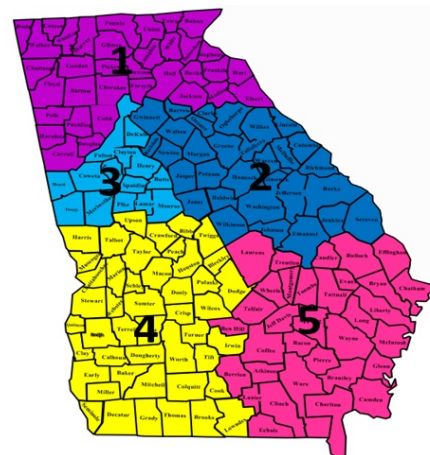
In Case You Missed It: Webinar Recordings Now Available!

If you missed a *webinar*, please visit the [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's training highlight is the *March Memo Monday* webinar. It discussed instructions on how to use a new policy resource, PolicyStat. An online policy management system that will allow CACFP and Happy Helpings organizations and DECAL staff to navigate, locate, and access policy documents more quickly.

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 the **region 3** listed in the map below, please contact our Nutrition TA mailbox at NutritionTA@decalfga.gov with any needed technical assistance. You may also visit our [Training and Technical Assistance](#) webpage for Program resources and recorded webinars.



Approval for Pre-Award Costs

- Pre-Award costs should be submitted prior to the application being submitted or approved. Pre-Award costs are only allowed for experienced sponsors who have excess funds from previous years.
- The Pre-Award SFSP Cost Request Form is located here:
 - [PreAwardCostsForm.doc \(live.com\)](#)

Nutrition Ed Nook

Juicy, Red Tomatoes!

The June Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) item is the tomato! Tomatoes are rich in nutrients that promote good health, including fiber, vitamins C and A, and potassium.



Tomato season is July through October. Tomatoes exist in a variety of types and colors. Types of tomatoes include cherry, grape, Roma, and beefsteak. Colors of tomatoes include red, green, and yellow. If selecting fresh, choose tomatoes with bright, shiny skins and firm flesh.

They are also available canned when fresh tomatoes are unavailable. 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 are a vegetable food component.

Fun Fact: Tomatoes have become the second most popular vegetable in the United States!

Integration:

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

Education:

- **Make** a new tomato recipe. Ask your program participants to help choose the recipe and prepare it.
- **Grow** tomatoes. They grow best when the daytime temperature is between 65° and 85° F. Tomatoes need full sun and warm, well-drained soil.
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation including rinsing and drying tomatoes to be served with a meal. **Bonus:** Send recipes that incorporate tomatoes home for families to try together!

Conversation:

- Have your program participants eaten tomatoes before?
- What is their favorite way to eat tomatoes?
- What other red fruits and vegetables do they like to eat?

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of tomatoes with Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at diana.myers@dec.al.gov



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight:

Carl Glover, Nutrition Marketing and Outreach Specialist

Carl Glover recently joined the Nutrition Services Division as the Marketing and Outreach Specialist. He is excited to meet everyone and assist the Nutrition team.

In this role, Carl will assist in promoting the federal nutrition programs to increase awareness and will help recruit and retain sponsors and institutions to participate in the programs. "One of the aspects of the job I am most excited about is getting to meet new people and help them learn about the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings," said Carl. "I want to assure that any child or senior adult in the state of Georgia that needs food assistance, receives it," he added.

Previously, Carl worked for several school systems coaching sports and serving as a social media director for David Emanuel Academy. Carl also worked at Plant Hatch, which is part of Southern Nuclear/Georgia Power, and he has experience organizing food drives.

Carl attended East Georgia State College after high school, where he earned his Associate of Arts degree. He then transferred to the University of Georgia and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the Grady College of Journalism. During that time, he was part of the student produced news broadcast show, UGA Newsource. Carl is the first person in his family to graduate from college.

Carl was born in Dublin, Georgia. He has a younger brother and younger sister, and they were raised in Johnson County, Georgia. Carl enjoys spending time with family, playing trivia, watching sports, and is a huge Georgia Bulldogs fan. He has also volunteered for the Vidalia Onion Festival.

A fun fact about Carl is his paternal grandmother worked with Herschel Walker's mother 35 years ago. Carl got to touch his 1982 Heisman Trophy while at Mr. Walker's mom and dad's home in 2003, which is a moment he will never forget.

Dates to Remember

DATE:	June 2022
June 7	• HH Reconciliation Training
June 13	• Procurement Readiness Training
June 15	• Physical Activity Training
June 15	• Deadline to submit HH/SFSP Application

Happy Helpings Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [Revised Happy Helpings Policies & Memoranda](#)
- [Infant Formula Recall](#)
- [Does your organization operate as a Food Service Management Company \(FSMC\)?](#)
- [Check your Email Messages in GA ATLAS](#)
- [Revised Happy Helpings Policies and Memoranda](#)
- [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

NEW DECAL Download

DECAL Community Partnerships: Southeast Region



The DECAL Download is continuing its tour of all six regions by talking to our Community Partnership Coordinators, representatives from our Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and introducing you to child care providers in each region. So far, we have talked with the Southwest and Northwest regions. On this episode of the DECAL Download we're talking about the Southeast region

consisting of 40 counties that stretch from Monroe County, North of Macon, all the way down to Lowndes County on the Florida border and it encompasses all of Georgia's coastline.

Joining us this week to talk about the Southeast region are Tomisher Campbell who is an Early Education Community Partnership Coordinator, and Jeneine Barlow who is the Technical Assistance Manager at the CCR&R of Southeast Georgia. Also joining us today is Shalinda Smith, a family child care provider in Emanuel County and Bree Carter, the Owner and Director of Bree's Creative Learning Preschool Childcare Center in Lowndes county.

Listen [here](#)



Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter
Carl Glover

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Nondiscrimination Statement: English
Nondiscrimination Statement: Spanish

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