Child & Adult Care Food Program

December 17, 2021

Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions

In October 2021, USDA issued guidance on current meal pattern flexibilities in the CACFP and opportunities for State agencies and sponsoring organizations to use discretion while monitoring meal pattern compliance during COVID-19 supply chain disruptions. Available flexibilities include:

- **Emergency Procurement Flexibilities** - 2 CFR 200.320 allows for the noncompetitive procurement method to be utilized when a public exigency or emergency prevents competitive procurement.
- **Milk Flexibilities** - 7 CFR 226.20(e) allows State agencies to approve meal services without milk during a temporary emergency period if Program operators are unable to obtain milk or the required milk type *(Request use of this flexibility via the USDA waiver module in GA ATLAS)*.
- **Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CACFP for School Year 2021-2022** (Response #91) - Allows operators to serve meals that do not meet the following specified meal pattern requirements *(Request use of this flexibility via the USDA waiver module in GA ATLAS)*:
    - The whole grain-rich requirement
    - The crediting of grains by ounce equivalents requirement
    - The requirement that low-fat milk must be unflavored
- **Flexibilities in issuing fiscal actions for violations of the meal pattern per 7 CFR 226.14(b)** – Guidance for State Agencies and Sponsoring Organizations.

To learn more and access USDA's guidance, go to:

- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions**
- **COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #91 - Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for School Year 2021-2022**

For instructions on how to request and/or utilize each flexibility, go to:

- **Flexibility Guidance for COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions**
- **CACFP Guidance on the Milk Flexibility for COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions**

Reminder for Sponsors:

Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures Monitoring

On October 1, 2021, DECAL issued the policy memorandum, ***Monitoring Requirements - Monitoring Sponsored Centers Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures (October 1, 2021)*** which provided additional guidance for affiliated and unaffiliated sponsoring organizations on the monitoring of their sponsored centers. This memo is not applicable to day care home sponsors.

Specifically, sponsoring organizations must effectively monitor the following:

- Their sponsored centers' **non-profit food service**, and
- Their sponsored centers' **procurement procedures and procurement practices**

Please refer to the **policy memorandum** for further details and instruction on these requirements.

The following chart illustrates the number of centers sponsors are required to review:

Number of Centers	Non-profit Review	Procurement Procedures	Procurement Review
50 or less centers	100% of centers once per year	100%	100% of centers once per year
51 or more centers	50 centers plus 25% of remaining centers	100%	50 centers plus 25% of remaining centers

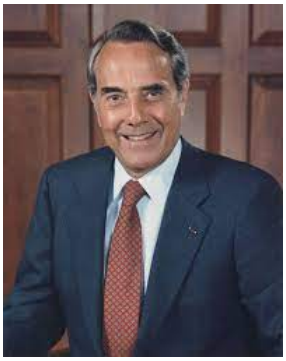
The below timeline illustrates the deadlines sponsors must follow for implementing the memo's requirements:

Action	Deadline
Start developing a plan to incorporate monitoring center non-profit food service and procurement for all centers.	October 1, 2021
Train all sponsor and center staff and finalize the monitoring plan.	June 1, 2022
Centers required to meet non-profit food service and procurement requirements.	October 1, 2022
Begin monitoring all centers based on guidelines set forth effective this date.	October 1, 2022 (during FY 2023)
Effective date to begin imposing findings/adverse actions.	October 1, 2023 (during FY 2024)

For additional information, please contact **Robyn Parham,** Policy Administrator at (404) 651-8193.

Remembering U.S. Senator Bob Dole

Recognizing his Contribution to USDA Nutrition Programs



GA DECAL echoes the sentiments on the loss of U.S. Senator Robert Dole (R-Kan.) who passed away earlier this month. Senator Dole had a major impact on the development of USDA nutrition programs and resources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, the Special Supplemental

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to name a few.

For more information on the significant contributions from Senator Dole that paved the way for anti-hunger programs and access to nutrition in America, please click the links below.

- **Remembering Robert Dole | USDA**
- **Food Research & Action Center Mourns the Loss of Anti-Hunger Champion, U.S. Senator Bob Dole - Food Research & Action Center (frac.org)**

Photo Credit: Wikipedia.

Need To Update Your Banking Information?

Verification may take up to 30 days to process

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

To mitigate delays, please follow these steps:

- Use the proper Vendor Management Form (note this forms changes periodically)
- Complete sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the VM Form.
- On section 2, date and sign with a real signature – SAO will now accept digital signatures. Digital signatures are created by using appropriate PDF software such as Adobe. Typed signatures using a cursive style font remain unacceptable.
- On Section 2, specify general bank account for use by all state agencies or specific purpose (Pre-K, Nutrition, etc.).
- Use the proper IRS W-9 Form
- Sign and date the IRS W-9 Form (signatures on a W-9 are only valid 12 months from the date of the signature per IRS guidelines). W9's must be submitted using the October 2018 version. The version date is both in the top left and bottom right of the form). Digital signatures are NOT acceptable on the W9.
    - W9's for businesses must be completed exactly as the IRS has the company name listed on their tax returns. Both DECAL and SAO verify Tax ID and Name combinations using IRS software. DECAL will not honor requests to setup new vendors where the Tax ID and Name combination does not match IRS records. Vendors may be required to resubmit a W9 with accurate information or request a TIN verification letter from IRS and submit to DECAL.
- Submit the Vendor Management Form and updated W-9 to your assigned Application Specialist for processing.

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

Current processing times:

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

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

Application Specialists	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Paula Lawrence	0 (zero)-G	Paula.Lawrence@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	Shericka. Blount@decal.ga.gov	(404)656-6411
Kenya Taylor	Q-Z	Kenya.Taylor@decal.ga.gov	(404) 463-4040

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

January 10, 2022 - *Memo Monday!*

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will discuss the following policy memos during our January *Memo Monday*.

- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Flexibilities During COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions dated October 28, 2021
- Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions dated October 15, 2021
- **Flexibility Guidance for COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions**
- **CACFP Guidance on the Milk Flexibility for COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions**
- GA ATLAS Waiver Module: How to Submit a Waiver

February 2, 2022 – *Serving Milk in CACFP with The Dairy Alliance Guest Speaker*

Do you know the most common dairy myths? Join this webinar session to learn:

- a breakdown of dairy myths,
- fluid milk requirements for all age ranges, and
- identify ways to ensure milk remains cold during alternative feeding practices.

Training Resources

In Case You Missed It: *Memo Monday!*

Webinar Recordings Now Available!

If you missed a*webinar*, please visit the **Training and Technical Assistance** webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's spotlight recording is the ***August Memo Monday*** webinar. It discussed how to be successful with COVID-19 waiver(s) implementation, recordkeeping requirements and procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waivers module in GA ATLAS.

Civil Rights in Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) ***Now Available in Spanish!*** The **Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)** is now offering Civil Rights training sessions in Spanish. [**Enroll Now**]

Identifying Gluten-Free Foods in CACFP

This educational resource from General Mills will help operators learn about gluten and how to check ingredient labels to identify gluten-free foods.

Team Nutrition Web Quizzes

USDA's Team Nutrition has developed interactive ten-question web quizzes as a fun way to

introduce a variety of nutrition topics. The quizzes can be used during staff training and other nutrition events. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion. These web quizzes are also available as a widget. Please see a list of available quizzes below.

- **Infant Nutrition Quiz [Spanish]**
- **Toddler Nutrition Quiz [Spanish]**
- **Meal Components Quiz**

Hanukkah Activities
The **National CACFP Sponsors Association Learning Center** has developed this free activity to help program participants have fun while learning about the traditions of the holiday.

Rainbow Plate Coloring Sheet
The **National CACFP Sponsors Association Learning Center** has developed this free activity to help program participants identify and create a rainbow of healthy foods.

Food Safety Jeopardy
Did you know that December is Food Service Safety Month! It is important to know the latest news and tips on safely handling and storing food to prevent foodborne illness outbreaks. The **Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)** has developed fun Jeopardy-style slides to help you refresh your knowledge on the basic food safety principles.
[**Download Slides**]

COVID-19 Food Safety Tip Cards
The **Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)** has developed food safety tips on handwashing stations and proper usage of hand sanitizer.

Pasta Products Made of Vegetable Flour in the CNPs are Creditable ***Reminder!***
Expanding on previously afforded flexibilities, institutions and sponsors may now credit pasta made with vegetable flour(s) as a **vegetable**, even if the pasta is not served with another recognizable vegetable. Whole vegetables cut into “noodles” or spirals such as spiralized zucchini or sweet potatoes, continue to credit toward the respective vegetable subgroups based on the volume served. Learn more in the memo titled, ***Crediting Pasta Products Made of Vegetables in CNPs dated May 17, 2019.***

Available Nationwide Waivers During COVID-19

In light of the exceptional circumstances of the current public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has extended Nationwide Waivers to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

For any waiver-related questions, please contact **Robyn Parham.**

NATIONWIDE WAIVERS
DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19

For full details on the CACFP waivers below, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo or ***click here*** *for more information on DECAL's website.*

CACFP

Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs & for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022
This waiver allows schools and at-risk afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to claim all National School Lunch Program, Afterschool Snack Service and Child and Adult

Care Food program At-Risk Afterschool meals and snacks at the free rate. This waiver also allows day care homes participating in the CACFP to claim all meals served to enrolled children at the Tier 1 rate, regardless of their location. . ****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Reimbursement for Meals & Snacks served to Young Adults in the CACFP New!
This waiver allows emergency shelters to claim reimbursement for meals and snacks served to individuals under the age of 25. ****Waiver in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.**

Parent Pick-Up:
Under this waiver, Program operators in a State with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children. ****Waiver extended to June 30, 2022****

Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility
This waiver allows program operators to serve meals that do not meet specificed meal pattern requirements during the public health emergency. FNS is establishing a waiver for all States of the following CACFP requirements:

- That at least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich.
- That the crediting of grains by ounce equivalents must be fully implemented by October 1, 2021.
- That low-fat milk (1 percent) must be unflavored

****Waiver in effect until June 30, 2022****

Meal Times Waiver:
The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended until June 30, 2022****

Non-Congregate Feeding:
The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver extended to June 30, 2022****

Onsite Monitoring Requirements
FNS waives, for all CACFP sponsoring organizations, that CACFP monitoring requirements included at 226.16(d)(4)(iii) be conducted onsite. To ensure Program integrity during this time, sponsoring organizations should, to the maximum extent practicable, continue monitoring activities of Program operations offsite (e.g., through a desk audit). ****Waiver remains in effect until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency.****

Nutrition Ed Nook

Lettuce Learn More!

Planted in early spring or late fall, lettuce enjoys cool temperatures and can endure a light frost.

With Georgia's temperatures being what they are, we have now arrived at lettuce season as December's Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) produce item.

Lettuce comes in an assortment of varieties ranging from greens to purples with the most common types being Romaine, Loose Leaf, and Bibb. The beauty of lettuce is that you do not have to wait for the full head to grow; you can start harvesting lettuce leaves as soon as they are big enough to eat and enjoy. As an excellent source of fiber, iron, folate, and vitamin C, "lettuce see it" on

your menu today for added nutritional value!

Integration:

- **Eagle Pizza**
- **Bean Tostada**
- **Vegetable Wrap**
- **Bok Choy Wrappers**
- **Chicken Caesar Salad**
- **Purple Power Bean Wrap**
- **Roasted Fish Crispy Slaw Wrap**

Education:

- *Grow* lettuce – not only is lettuce a great first item to test out your gardening growing practices, but it also serves as a delicious taste test item for participants.
- *Make* several vinaigrette recipes to pair with the harvested or purchased lettuce varieties. Tally up which recipe is the favorite and include it on your next menu cycle! To make a simple vinaigrette dressing, pair one-part vinegar to two-parts oil and add seasonings such as salt, pepper, garlic, or oregano. Test out using various vinegar varieties and consider adding Dijon mustard or lemon juice for an additional flavor.
- *Talk* with families about how participants can help with meal preparation including tearing up lettuce leaves for a salad. **Bonus:** send lettuce recipes home for families to try together!

Conversation:

- Have the participants you serve tasted lettuce before?
- If you try various vinaigrettes in a taste test, which one do the participants you serve like the best?
- What is their favorite way to eat lettuce? Do they eat it as a salad base, shredded on tacos, or topped on sandwiches?

December's Harvest of the Month BONUS Item: Citrus

Have you ever tried or served citrus fruits? Satsumas, oranges, clementines, and mandarins – they taste like nature's candy!

They are juicy, sweet, nearly seedless, and easy to peel. According to University of Florida researchers, satsumas may have originated in China, but were first reported in Japan over 700 years ago. Satsumas were first grown in the U.S. by settlers in Louisiana in the early 1800s.

As a fruit that is low in calories and high in fiber and vitamin C, fruits in the citrus family serve as a nutritional option for your menus. Serve them as a fruit side with whole-grain pancakes and milk for breakfast or topped on a romaine lettuce salad with a turkey wrap and milk for lunch.

Share your winter Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of lettuce and citrus with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at **diana.myers@decal.ga.gov.**

DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight:
Meet Robyn Parham, Policy Administrator

Robyn Parham recently joined the Nutrition Services Division as Policy Administrator. In this role, Robyn oversees policy development and implementation for the nutrition programs and testifies on behalf of DECAL in administrative proceedings. It is her goal to provide sponsors with the most up-to-date interpretation and guidance for USDA's policies. She also works closely with the Legal and Audit divisions to manage the Serious Deficiency (SD) process.

Robyn has worked with DECAL for 11 years. Most recently, she worked with the Audits & Compliance Division where she served for eight years, first as a Nutrition Compliance Examiner then as a Nutrition Compliance Administrator, and finally as a Nutrition Compliance Supervisor. Earlier in her career, Robyn served as a Licensing Consultant.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a law degree from the University of Georgia, and she brings a wealth of knowledge to the Policy Administrator role from her experience in audits, licensing and her perspective on law.

Robyn lives in the Augusta area with her husband, Wayne. Fun fact: Their first grandbaby turns two this week, and she says he is "perfection personified."

Job Opportunities!

Technical Assistance Coordinator & Trainer – Southwest
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, January 7, 2022.** **Click here** to view the job description. This position will also be posted on DECAL's website

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CACFP Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

Planning Update: Emergency Operating Costs Funding for CACFP Providers
Stay Informed: CACFP Policy Updates
Claim Deadlines FY22
Healthy Cooking in CACFP with Chef Asata Reid: 5 Part Video Series
Annual Renewal Requirements must be completed to participate in CACFP
How to Handle FDCH Carry Over
CACFP Meals for Young People Experiencing Homelessness
How to Request Continued Use of USDA Waivers for FY 2021 – 2022
Happy Helpings Announced
Procurement Tips for CACFP
CACFP Budget Submission Required for FY2022
USDA Webinar: Meal Service Flexibilities for the FY 2021-2022 School Year
Guidance for Serving School-Age Children in the CACFP during COVID-19
Oct 1: Deadline to Implement Grain Ounce Equivalents in Menu Planning
Expiring Soon: Updated CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibilities
Reminder: Review Your Online CACFP Applications for Accuracy
Celebrating Breastfeeding as the Best Source of Nutrition
CACFP Reimbursement Rates: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022
Strategic Plan for Growing Farm to School and Early Care and Education in Georgia
Beech-Nut to stop selling a specific baby rice cereal because of arsenic levels

found in some test samples
What to do if you have Lost or Destroyed Records
Monitoring Sponsored Centers Non-profit Food Service and Procurement Procedures
Income Eligibility Guidlines for FY 2022
CACFP Training Resources
Farmers Resource List
Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 21-22
How to file a CACFP Claim for Reimbursement
How to update your banking information
How to Exclude Cash-In-Lieu (CIL) When Calculating for CACFP Administrative Cost
How to Calculate Allowable Administrative Costs Each Month
Guidance on Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults in the CACFP
Guidance on P-EBT for Schools and Childcare
FAQs Child Nutrition Program: Emergency Operational Costs Program

You can find archived CACFP Newsletters **here.**

Mark your calendar for March 15-17 for the 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

The 2022 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference is once again virtual to allow thousands of anti-hunger advocates from all across the country to safely and conveniently attend without having to travel. The conference plenaries and content-rich workshops will take place on March 15 and 16 and then on March 17, head (virtually) to Capitol Hill to advocate for bold policy solutions for ending hunger in America.

The conference will offer a number of workshops featuring presenters from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences and content that explores one of the following conference themes:

- Building on Lessons Learned on the Critical Role of the Federal Nutrition Programs During the Pandemic
- Addressing the Inequities and Root Causes that Fuel Who Experiences Hunger in America
- Creating a Movement to End Hunger in America

The National Child Nutrition Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 18-22, 2022. For 35 years, this conference for CACFP, Afterschool, and Summer Food programs has offered unparalleled training, education and networking opportunities to the child nutrition community.

Register to attend the five-day professional education event offering over 75 hours of presentations, featuring topics including nutrition, program operations, administration and

financial management of CACFP and SFSP, resources and technology, case studies, train-the-trainer sessions, and management solutions.
Register for the conference here.

Fifteen scholarship opportunities are available from the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) for the 2022 National Child Nutrition Conference. Each scholarship will include conference registration, four (4) nights' lodging at the conference hotel, and up to $300.00 toward transportation costs. The deadline for application is **Monday, January 10, 2022.** ***Apply for Scholarship here***

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
January 10	• Memo Monday • Deadline to apply for the 2022 National Child Nutrition Conference scholarship.
January 31	• Claim Deadline for December 2021
February 2	• Serving Milk in CACFP with The Dairy Alliance
March 15-17	• National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference
April 18-22	• National Child Nutrition Conference

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.

Join Us for a NEW DECAL Download!

Holiday Podcast

The holiday season is here and as we finish up that last minute shopping, the DECAL Download has some holiday tips and treats. We give out some gift ideas for Georgia's youngest learners as well as some nutritious meals and snacks for the holidays. Our DECAL family also shares their favorite traditions and New Year's resolutions for 2022 in our annual holiday podcast.

Joining us this week to help celebrate the season is Annie Blair, one of our Infant Toddler Specialists and Ann Panzica, the Child and Family Development Training Specialist. We are also joined by LaToya Longshore, the Northwest Region Child Care Consultant from CCS and DECAL Nutrition Health Educator Diana Meyers. In addition, we have a great musical selection from our very own Keturah Washington Wafer.

Listen here.

Nutrition Services
DECAL

Nutrition Division

Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

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