

Nutrition News



Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

January 5, 2022



Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

Happy Helpings

Join us for the Happy Helpings Kick-off Call: January 12

It's a new year and it's a great time to start the planning process for summer meals.

We invite you to join Tamika Boone, Director of Nutrition Services for a **Happy Helpings Kick-Off Call** on Wednesday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. We have a full agenda from sharing the news about the Happy Helpings brand to the latest guidance from the USDA.

You can join the call from your computer or mobile app:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join with a video conferencing device

785174869@t.plcm.vc

Video Conference ID: 112 999 333 9

Or call in (audio only)

+1 470-481-4462,,255847141# United States, Atlanta

Phone Conference ID: 255 847 141#

It's Never too Early to Start Planning for Summer 2022

Providing summer meals is a year-round effort. At any point throughout the year, there are things you can do to prepare for next summer! [Click here](#) for more information on proactive planning for sponsors.

Here's a guide for the new year:

January

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

Nationwide Waivers:

Happy Helpings: SFSP

Serving Meals during Unanticipated School Closures

Recent nationwide waivers allow flexibility for SFSP during unanticipated school closures. For the purposes of these waivers, 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.

In the event of an unanticipated school closure, SFSP organizations must request/certify use of a waiver using the USDA waiver module in GA Atlas. SFSP organizations must use the **FY 2021-2022 Program Year** link when certifying. A list of available waivers in the event of an unanticipated school closure can be found [here](#) (see [Child Nutrition Waiver Update to Address Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures and Supply Chain Issues - September 22, 2021](#) and Responses #101 through #105).

For additional information on unanticipated school closures, see DECAL memorandum, "[Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures, March 13, 2020.](#)"

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).
- [July Memo Monday Webinar](#) - Discusses procedure updates when requesting a waiver using the USDA Waiver feature in GA ATLAS.

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

DECAL Participation of Nationwide Waivers Due to COVID-19

For full details, please click on the links to read the actual waiver memo, or [click here](#) for a complete list of the Nationwide Waivers due to COVID-19.

Child Nutrition Waiver Update

On September 22, 2021, the USDA issued the memorandum *Child Nutrition Waiver Update to Address Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures and Supply Chain Issues*. This memorandum announced a new set of Child Nutrition Program waivers for school year 2021-2022 for SFSP programs serving meals during unanticipated school closures.

(Note: the following waivers are only for sponsors operating during unanticipated school closures. We don't yet know whether these waivers will be available to all sponsors during the traditional SFSP months.)

Area Eligibility

Allows Program operators to locate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) open sites in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements. ****Waiver in effect through June 30, 2022****

Meal Time Waiver

This waiver allows program operators the flexibility to adjust the times meals and snacks are provided in order to streamline operations. ****Waiver in effect through 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 in effect through June 30, 2022****

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 in effect through June 30, 2022****

Service of Meals at School Sites

The requirement that limits the operation of SFSP during unanticipated school closures to non-school sites is waived. Program operators may serve meals at school sites during unanticipated school closures. ****Waiver in effect through April 30, 2022****

Closed Enrolled Eligibility

Under this waiver, for all States, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. ****Waiver expired September 30, 2021****

First Week Site Visits

FNS waives, for all States, the requirement that Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation. (2) This waiver applies to State agencies administering and local organizations that have operated the SFSP successfully in the previous year, and SFSP sponsors in good standing that have successfully participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). ****Waiver expired September 30, 2021****

Onsite Monitoring Waiver for Sponsors

For sponsors only - FNS waives that SFSP monitoring requirements included at 7 CFR 225.15(d) be conducted on site. ****Waiver expired September 30, 2021****

Meal Pattern Flexibilities

The requirement to serve meals that meet the meal pattern requirements is waived during the public health emergency. ****Waiver expired June 30, 2021****

Keep an eye out...

Please keep an eye out for new and revised Happy Helping policies and guidance for FY 2022. For current guidance, policies, and memos, please visit DECAL's [Nutrition Services website](#).

Get Informed: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Upcoming Training and Technical Assistance

February 2, 2022 –

Serving Milk in CACFP & Happy Helpings 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.

February 23 or March 23, 2022-

Happy Helpings: Experienced Sponsor Training (1 day)

March 30-31 or April 13-14, or April 27-28, 2022 - Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training - (2 days)

Do you plan to serve summer meals during the FY 2021-2022 program year? If so, please plan to participate in **one (1)** of the upcoming *Happy Helpings* training sessions. All sessions will be offered virtually.



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 [December 2020 Memo Monday](#). It discusses requirements for obtaining a Food Service Permit, how to

complete the Food Service Permit Inquiry Form and FAQs addressed by the Department of Public Health.

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](#)]

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](#)

Food Safety Jeopardy

Did you know that December was Worldwide 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](#).



Nutrition Ed Nook

Greens, Greens and More Greens

Turnip greens, Collard greens, and Mustard greens are our Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight this January!

Typically planted eight to ten weeks before the first frost, these green varieties are available to be purchased locally in Georgia at this time of the year and will continue growing well throughout the winter. Collard greens have a slightly

bitter flavor, while mustard and turnip greens have a slightly spicy, peppery one. Collard greens are a popular vegetable in southern cuisine but can also be found in meals elsewhere around the world, such as Brazil, Kashmir, Kenya, Portugal, and Tanzania. These leafy green vegetables are often cooked together. Share cultural traditions from across the world with your participants!

Integration:

- [Winter Greens*](#)
- [Collard Greens*](#)
- [Greens & Beans Soup*](#) (Sopa de garbanzo y hojas verdes)

**You may substitute any of the HOTM greens for this recipe or include a combination of all of them.*

Education:

- *Grow* turnip, mustard, and collard greens – growing greens begins in fall time and early spring and are an exciting item to harvest as the leaves get bigger.
- *Make* a variety of cultural dishes that include greens to share various meals from across the world with your participants.
- *Talk* with families about how participants can help with meal preparation including tearing up greens to be cooked into a dish. **Bonus:** send greens recipes home for families to try together!

Conversation:

- Have your participants tried greens before?
- What is their favorite type of green to try? Each type has a unique flavor!
- Do your participants have a certain type of green that they cook at home?

Share your winter Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of collard, mustard, and turnip greens with Nutrition Health Educator, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at diana.myers@decalfga.gov.



DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight:

*Meet Gwendolyn Howard, Budget
Compliance Supervisor*

Please join us in congratulating **Gwendolyn Howard** on her recent promotion to Budget Compliance Supervisor. She has been with Decal's Nutrition Division for the past 14 months and contributed greatly to her role as Budget Compliance

Specialist.

In her new role, Gwendolyn analyzes budgets for the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program ensuring that annual cost estimates and revenue projections are compliant with state and federal regulations.

Gwendolyn has more than nine years of professional experience working with multifaceted organizations to include executive administration, accounting, compliance and customer service.

Although Gwendolyn is an Atlanta native, she was raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. Gwendolyn moved to Alabama to pursue her education earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Alabama State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Troy University. In her leisure time, Gwendolyn loves traveling, shopping and most importantly spending time with her family and friends including her two dogs.

Job Opportunity!

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**. For more information, contact Grushan Blake by email at Grushan.Blake@decalfga.gov.

Dates to Remember

DATE:	
January 12	• Happy Helpings Kick-off Conference Call
February 2	• Serving Milk in Happy Helpings Webinar
February 23	• Experienced Sponsor Training
March 23	• Experienced Sponsor Training
March 30-31	• New Sponsor Training
April 13-14	• New Sponsor Training
April 27-28	• New Sponsor Training

Happy Helpings Resources:

The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:

- [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](#)
- [Transitioning from SFSP to CACFP At Risk Afterschool Meals](#)
- [Income Eligibility Guidelines for FY 2022](#)
- [Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-2022](#)
- [What to do if you have lost or destroyed records](#)
- [SFSP Reimbursement Rates for 2021](#)
- [Updated SFSP Sponsor Monitoring Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [Waiver to Claim Meals Prior to SFSP Approval](#)
- [How to File a SFSP Claim for Reimbursement](#)
- [Budgeting for SFSP](#)
- [Pre-Award Costs and Advance Requests](#)
- [USDA extends Flexibilities for Summer 2021](#)
- [Suspension and Debarment Certification Requirement](#)
- [Update: Procurement Templates \(Formal and Informal Documents\)](#)
- [Virtual Vendor Summit Replay](#)

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

A Day in the Life: Rachael Lee, Quality Improvement Supervisor

On the next ...
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This Week's Guest



Rachael Lee
Quality Improvement Supervisor

This Week's Topic:
"Day in the Life"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We recently sent you all a survey to find out which topics you would like to hear featured on the DECAL Download. One of the suggestions was to launch a new feature called "A Day in the Life" where we learn more about a member of the DECAL team and what they do for Georgia's youngest learners and their families daily.

We are kicking off this new feature spending a "Day in the Life" of Rachael Lee, the Quality Improvement Supervisor in our Child Care Services Division.

[Click here to listen.](#)



Nutrition Division
Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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