

# Nutrition News



Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

May 23, 2022



## 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@decals.ga.gov](mailto:diana.myers@decals.ga.gov).

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## Place an order for Happy Helpings Branded Items

*Respond to the survey*



Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

Earlier this year, DECAL Nutrition announced the new brand for the Summer Food Service Program, Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program. The purpose of the rebrand is to create a more fun and kid-friendly identity that will help grow the program and feed more kids.

To introduce the new brand to the public this summer, Nutrition Services will provide a limited number of specialty items for

sponsors to distribute to kids as well as banners, directional signs, flyers and social media graphics that can be used to promote meal sites.

To help us determine the quantity of items needed, we ask that you take a moment to participate in this brief [survey](#). Please keep in mind, we will not have enough inventory for every child to have multiple items. Consider distributing the branded items at a kick-off event or special occasion during the summer.

We hope these items will bring a little "happy" to your summer meals program this summer!

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# Reminder: PolicyStat available on 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](mailto:Robyn.Parham@decalfga.gov) or Sonja Adams at [Sonja.Adams@decalfga.gov](mailto:Sonja.Adams@decalfga.gov).

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## Updates on USDA Waivers

With Happy Helpings rapidly approaching, 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.

To ensure Happy Helping sponsors are aware of the available waivers and the requirements for usage, Nutrition Services will host a webinar on **Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**

[Click here to join the meeting](#) on the scheduled day and time.

Waiver	Expires	Request Usage via
Non-Congregate Meal Service	September 30, 2022	USDA Waiver Module
Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup	September 30, 2022	USDA Waiver Module

**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](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; or (3) a Center Director/SFSP Sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 within the child and/or

adult care facility or 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.

### **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.

### **Additional Happy Helpings Statewide Waivers Currently Available**

*The following are statewide waivers that are also available to Happy Helping sponsors:*

#### **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 once the updated waivers go live. 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.

### **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

## 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@decal.ga.gov](mailto:Tammie.Baldwin@decal.ga.gov).

For specific policy questions pertaining to waivers, please contact [Robyn.Parham@decal.ga.gov](mailto:Robyn.Parham@decal.ga.gov).

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## 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.
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# 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](#).

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## **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	<a href="mailto:Paula.Lawrence@dec.al.ga.gov">Paula.Lawrence@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-2111
Shericka Blount	H-P	<a href="mailto:Shericka.Blount@dec.al.ga.gov">Shericka.Blount@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404)656-6411
Kenya Taylor	Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Kenya.Taylor@dec.al.ga.gov">Kenya.Taylor@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-4040

### For HH updates, contact:

Business Operations Specialist	Institution Assignment	Email	Phone Number
Temika Moore	o (zero)-G,	<a href="mailto:Temika.Moore@dec.al.ga.gov">Temika.Moore@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-1494
Jerald Savage	H-P	<a href="mailto:Jerald.Savage@dec.al.ga.gov">Jerald.Savage@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(770)405-7916
Edith Pierre	Q-Z	<a href="mailto:Edith.Pierre@dec.al.ga.gov">Edith.Pierre@dec.al.ga.gov</a>	(404) 463-8314

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Get Informed:

*Upcoming Training Opportunities for June*

## Training Announcements

Nutrition Services provides a monthly Training Announcement that includes all training sessions offered in the upcoming month(s). The following training sessions will be offered during the month of June. **Register today!**

### June 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.

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## 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

### *Berry Delicious! Blueberries!*

Berry Delicious! May's Harvest of the Month ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) spotlight is blueberries.

Blueberries are simple, healthy, and delicious. Blueberries are available fresh, frozen, canned, and dried for nutrition and convenience. If selecting fresh, choose firm, plump, dry blueberries with

dusty blue color. Fresh blueberries are available year-round but are the highest quality and lowest price when available locally.

Peak season is July to September. Blueberries are free of fat, cholesterol, and sodium.

Blueberries are an excellent source of vitamin C, which promotes a healthy immune system. They are also a good source of fiber and copper, and high in vitamin K and manganese.

Fun Fact: Each blossom on a blueberry bush becomes one blueberry - first hard and green, then reddish-purple, and finally blue, sweet, and ready to eat!

### Integration:

- **Whole-Wheat Blueberry Muffins**
- **Berry Blast Off**
- **Watermelon and Fruit Salad**
- **Fruit Pizza**
- **Un-beet-able Berry Smoothie**

### Education:

- **Grow** blueberries. Blueberries thrive under clear blue skies, with hot days and cool nights. They're native to North America, where the harvest runs from April to late September.
- **Incorporate** blueberries into your meal. Add them into a salad, smoothie, oatmeal, cereal, or enjoy them as a snack throughout the day.
- **Talk** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation including washing and drying blueberries to be served with a meal. **Bonus:** Send recipes that incorporate blueberries home for families to try together!

### Conversation:

- Have your program participants eaten blueberries before?
- What is their favorite way to eat blueberries?
- What other types of berries do they like to eat?

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## May's Harvest of the Month BONUS Item: Vidalia Onions

The May Harvest of the Month Bonus spotlight is the Vidalia Onion. Onions boost flavor and add antioxidants for cell and tissue health.

Onions are available fresh and frozen for good nutrition and convenience. Choose whole onions that are firm and heavy for their size, and have no scent.

Look for a dry, papery outer skin. Avoid cut, bruised, or sprouting onions.



Types of onions include yellow, white, red, sweet, green, chives, and leeks. When cooked, Vidalia Onions become sweeter! Caramelize, grill, sauté, steam, or roast them or dice them up and add them raw on top of tacos or a salad to boost the flavor!

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of blueberries and Vidalia onions with Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor, Diana Myers, MS, RD, LD at [diana.myers@dec.al.gov](mailto:diana.myers@dec.al.gov)!

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## DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight: *Temika Moore, Business Operations Representative*

Temika Moore serves as a Business Operations Representative for the Nutrition Services Division. She has held this position since 2019 but joined the division as a temp in 2017.





As a Business Operations Specialist, Temika reviews and determines eligibility for the Child and Adult Food Care Program sponsored facilities and Happy Helpings meal sites. Additionally, she reviews and approves new CACFP facility & Happy Helping meal site applications and monthly updates for participating institutions and Sponsors.

In this role, her goal is to provide great customer service that ensures the experience for the sponsor and institution flows effortlessly.

Prior to joining DECAL, Temika worked for Ricoh, a printer and copier company, as a parts administrator.

Temika is originally from Mansfield Ohio. She moved to Atlanta at age 12 and attended Grady High School. She has two children, Jessika, 33 and EJ, 27. She loves riding horses and traveling to the beach.

Temika is also a breast cancer survivor. It was a very hard experience for her, but she was very blessed to have a great support system. The advice she gives to anyone going through cancer is to “surround yourself with people that love you.”

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## 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

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## 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](#)

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## How was my Customer Service?



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

## NEW DECAL Download

### DECAL Community Partnerships: Northwest Region



The DECAL Download’s tour of all six regions stops in the Northwest region this week. We’re talking to our Community Partnership Coordinators, representatives from our Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and introducing you to child care providers in the region.

The Northwest Region consists of 11 counties including Fulton and ten other counties in the northwest

corner of the state, spreading from Haralson, and continuing up to the Tennessee line and over to Pickens and Cherokee counties. It has 704 Quality Rated eligible providers in the Northwest region with 58% being Quality Rated, and 79% participating in Quality Rated.

Joining us to talk about the Northwest Region on our latest DECAL Download are Glenda Davis-Canteen, our Early Education Community Partnership Coordinator, and Brittney Everett, the ECE Specialist Team Lead at Quality Care for Children CCR&R of Northwest Georgia. Also joining us is DiAnne Coggins, a family child care provider and one of our Peer Support Network Ambassadors from College Park in Fulton County and Kari Emerson who is a Program Specialist with Ninth District Opportunity Head Start & Early Head Start at the Pickens County Head Start program in Tate Georgia.

[Click here to listen.](#)

Have a suggestion for a future podcast? Let us hear from you at [decaldownload@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:decaldownload@dec.al.ga.gov).



### Nutrition Division Marketing & Outreach Team

Cindy Kicklighter  
Carl Glover

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*  
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