



Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

March 24, 2025

Greetings Happy Helpings Sponsors,

Expanding access to nutritious meals and snacks in every Georgia county is an ongoing goal for Nutrition Services. Unfortunately during fiscal year 2024, 56 Georgia counties did not have a Happy Helpings meal site. In an effort to increase meal access and to feed more children this summer, DECAL is offering start-up grants.

New and experienced sponsors are eligible for up to \$10,000 in funding for establishing additional Happy Helping meal sites in targeted areas with high rates of childhood food insecurity.

To qualify, sponsors must complete the survey to apply for the grant by **Monday, May 12, 2025**. Click [here](#) to apply.

Interested but have questions?

Contact Cindy Kicklighter by email at Cindy.Kicklighter@decalfga.gov or call 678.841.3170.

What we are looking for:

DECAL Nutrition is seeking partners to increase access to meals and snacks in targeted areas with high rates of childhood food insecurity during summer 2025. These counties include:

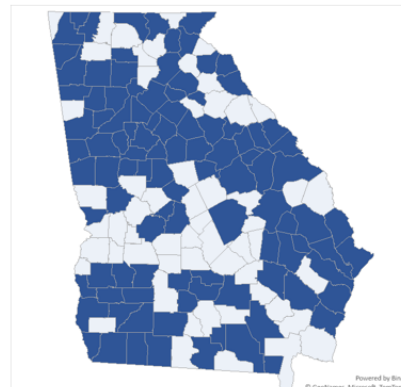


FY25 Areas of Need: 56

1. Atkinson	13. Crisp	25. Jeff Davis	37. Oglethorpe	49. Twiggs
2. Bacon	14. Dade	26. Jenkins	38. Pierce	50. Upson
3. Banks	15. Dawson	27. Jones	39. Pulaski	51. Webster
4. Berrien	16. Dodge	28. Lincoln	40. Quitman	52. Wheeler
5. Bleckley	17. Dooly	29. Long	41. Schley	53. Wilcox
6. Brantley	18. Echols	30. Lumpkin	42. Screven	54. Wilkes
7. Brooks	19. Forsyth	31. Madison	43. Stewart	55. Wilkinson
8. Camden	20. Gilmer	32. Marion	44. Sumter	56. Worth
9. Charlton	21. Gordon	33. Miller	45. Taylor	
10. Chattahoochee	22. Grady	34. Montgomery	46. Telfair	
11. Cook	23. Haralson	35. Murray	47. Towns	
12. Crawford	24. Harris	36. Oconee	48. Treutlen	



Blue: HH meals were offered in these counties:
White: Areas of Need



Project Specifications:

Each project will have a budget of up to \$10,000 for the period of June-August 2024. Please use the following items as references for the allowability of activities:

Allocating Cost in Child Nutrition Programs

Requirements:

- Must be an approved experienced Happy Helpings sponsor in good standing or an approved new sponsor prior to receiving funds.
- Must agree to operate a Happy Helpings meal site in one or more of the targeted counties. *Failure to serve meals in at least one of the designated counties during FY25 will result in returning the funds to DECAL.*
- Must complete & submit the Happy Helpings start-up grant survey by 11:59 p.m. on May 12, 2025. Start-up grant applications will be evaluated using a point-scoring system. The higher number of points will result in a larger award amount.
- Applications must be approved by June 23 to be eligible to receive a Start-up grant.
- Site(s) located in one or more of the target counties must be approved in your application before funds are distributed.
- Must sign a grant agreement amendment with DECAL.
- Must use grant funds on allowable Happy Helpings' costs.
- Must submit meal claims within 30 days.
- Must have the ability to share project outcomes including how funds were used along with photos by September 30, 2025.

Sponsors that receive the Start-up grant award will be notified individually. Grant awardees will be announced to all sponsors by June 16. Payments will be made on or before June 30, 2025.

Grant Timeline:

DATE	TASK
May 12	Grant Application Due
May 30	Grants Finalized
June 16	Grant Awards Announced
June 23	Applications Must be Approved
June 25	Amendments Signed
June 30	Grant Funding Issued
September 30	Grant Outcomes Due

For more information:

Contact Cindy.Kicklighter@decals.ga.gov or call 678.841.3170

Together, we can help feed Georgia's Children & Adults.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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