



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

January 23, 2025

Greetings CACFP Sponsors and Institutions,

On January 8, 2025, DECAL was approved by USDA's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to grant non-congregate meal service waivers which would allow CACFP operators to offer fasting participants in attendance during Ramadan, non-congregate meals to consume at a time that honors their religious principles.

FNS determined that the waiver facilitates the purpose of CACFP as participants are in attendance at a participating site and eligible to receive meals but are unable to consume them during the day because they are fasting in observance of Ramadan. USDA approval can be found [here](#).

Available Waivers

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Meal Service Times

Eligibility for Waivers

As per USDA, the above waivers only apply to:

- Emergency shelters
- Adult day care centers
- Outside-school-hours care centers (OSHCC)
- At-risk afterschool care components of CACFP

This statewide waiver does not apply to CACFP family day care homes or child care centers.

Participant and Meal Eligibility

Non-congregate meals can only be distributed to participants fasting during Ramadan that attend the site on the day non-congregate meals are offered.

Duplicate meals are not to be distributed to any participant.

In addition, participation in the CACFP is at an eligible participant's discretion; therefore, if a participant chooses to consume a meal or snack during the day, institutions may not deny a meal or snack because the participant is thought to be fasting during Ramadan.

Waiver Effective Dates

This waiver is effective February 28, 2025 through March 30, 2025.

Additional Information

- Parent/Guardian Pick-up and Home Delivery are not allowable under these waivers.
- CACFP operators must maintain attendance documentation supporting that participants who receive non-congregate meals were in attendance on the day the meals were provided. Attendance records and all CACFP supporting documentation are subject to DECAL review and must be provided upon DECAL request.
- Per 7 CFR 226.3(e)(3), eligible service providers wishing to request waivers of the provisions in this section during Ramadan for use in either family day care homes or child care centers may submit a waiver for DECAL concurrence, including rationale, and FNS will consider them on a case-by-case basis.

CACFP organizations must seek and receive approval to utilize these waivers and can request their usage through the waiver module in GA ATLAS. Once the request is submitted in the waiver module, organizations must email Tammie Baldwin at Tammie.Baldwin@decalfga.gov to advise that the request has been submitted.

Non-congregate meals served prior to waiver approval are subject to disallowance or reclaim by DECAL.

For questions, please contact [Robyn Parham](#) or [Tammie Baldwin](#).

Regards,
Nutrition Services

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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