



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

June 7, 2023

Greetings Happy Helpings Sponsors,

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), established a permanent non-congregate meal service option for rural areas with no congregate meal service available through the Summer Meals Programs to include the SFSP.

In response, USDA issued the guidance, *Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Services in Rural Areas*. USDA issued additional guidance on April 20, 2023 entitled *Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas*.

On May 17, 2023, DECAL Nutrition issued, *Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program* which provided:

- Updated resources to determine if a site is located in a rural pocket
- Updates to participant (child) eligibility requirements for home delivery
- Further guidance on bulk distribution of food items including the distinction between bulk items and multi-day meal issuance
- Notification that experienced sponsors must be in good standing to be approved to operate non-congregate service
- Guidance and requirements regarding sponsors' monitoring of non-congregate meal service sites

For additional information, please refer to the resources below, which includes a newly added webinar recording:

Recorded Webinars

- [Happy Helpings SFSP Updates \(Part 2\): Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Option](#), June 6, 2023 **New!**
- [Happy Helpings SFSP Updates: Non-congregate Rural Option, Final Rule, Racial and Ethnic Data, and Tiering Status](#), April 25, 2023

Questions and Answers FAQs

- [Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Option Q&As](#)

Policy Memoranda

- [Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program](#), May 17, 2023

- ***Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas***, April 20, 2023
- ***Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas***, February 28, 2023

Please email your questions, comments, and feedback to Leatha.Bryant@dec.al.ga.gov or the Nutrition TA Mailbox at NutritionTA@dec.al.ga.gov. The Nutrition Services Team will respond to all questions and make the responses available.

For questions regarding policy memoranda, please contact Robyn.Parham@dec.al.ga.gov.

Regards,

Nutrition Services

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

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