



Happy
Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

Fact Sheet

Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program, is a federally-funded, state-administered program that reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas when school is not in session.

How does the Program Work?

Sponsoring organizations enter into an agreement with the Georgia Department of Early Care Learning to manage a food service program. Sponsors get reimbursed by the Program and may manage multiple meal sites. Sites are places in the community where children receive meals in a safe and supervised environment. Sites may be located in a variety of settings, including schools, parks, community centers, health clinics, hospitals, apartment complexes, churches, and migrant centers. Sites work directly with sponsors.

Who can Sponsor the Happy Helpings Program?

Sponsors are nonprofit organizations that are financially and administratively capable of operating a food service program during the summer months.

Who can receive free meals?

Children 18 and younger may receive free meals and snacks through Happy Helpings. Meals and Snacks are also available to persons with disabilities over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled.

How do Organizations Apply to be a Sponsor?

There are three steps to apply to become a program sponsor.

Step 1. Request and complete a viability screening using the online form on www.happyhelpingsga.com

Step 2. Attend two-day new sponsor training

Step 3. Complete the three-part application.

To demonstrate financial viability, organizations must complete and submit the Potential Sponsor Viability Checklist at least seven days before the last new sponsor training session.

What Type of Organizations are Eligible to Sponsor Happy Helpings?

- Public or private non-profit schools
- Units of local, municipal, county, state or federal government
- Private non-profit organizations
- Public or private non-profit residential camps
- Public or private non-profit universities or colleges
- Community and faith-based organizations





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What is a Meal Site?

THE SITE IS:	IF:	BASED ON:
OPEN	At least 50 percent of children in the area are eligible for free or reduced price school meals (area eligible).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School data • Census data
CLOSED ENROLLED	At least 50 percent of the children enrolled in the program are eligible for free or reduced price school meals or the site is area eligible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School data • Census data • Income eligibility forms
CAMP	A residential or non-residential day camp program which offers a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income eligibility forms • List of income eligible children provided by the school district

Meal Service Requirements

Sponsors may choose from several methods of providing meals. They may:

- Prepare and assemble their own meals
- Obtain meals from a school food authority
- Obtain meals from a vendor



How many meals or snacks can be served each day?

Open or closed enrolled sites can serve up to two meals; lunch, and either breakfast or snack, every day. Camps may serve up to three meals per day (any combination of breakfast, lunch, supper, or snack).

How are Sponsors Reimbursed for the Meals Served?

Sponsor reimbursements are based on the number of reimbursable meals served multiplied by the federal rate of reimbursement which is determined annually.

Reimbursement may be claimed for all meals served that meet program guidelines at open or closed enrolled sites.



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For more information visit HappyHelpingsga.com or call 404-657-1779