



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

May 17, 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*. Additional USDA guidance was issued on April 20, 2023, entitled *Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas*.

Nutrition Services, to provide further clarity, has re-issued the memorandum, *Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program*. The memorandum has been revised to include:

- 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

In addition, Nutrition Services has developed question and answer guidance (FAQs) on the implementation of rural non-congregate meal services. This guidance can be found [here](#). Please also be on the lookout for a webinar to reflect the above-mentioned updates.

Reminder: In April, Nutrition Services issued a recorded webinar that incorporated other USDA guidance including information on racial and ethnic data collection, regulation changes as a result of the Final Rule, and DECAL's sponsor tiering system. You may access the webinar recording [here](#).

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

For questions regarding the memoranda, please contact **Robyn Parham**.

Regards,

Nutrition Services

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

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