

Important Reminders when Using USDA Approved Waivers for CACFP & Happy Helpings

Revised July 2022



Happy Helpings Available Waivers (SFSP)



Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Non-Congregate Meal Service: Happy Helpings</p>	<p>The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This waiver only allows the meals to be consumed off-site. Meals cannot be dropped off.• Children can only pick-up meals for themselves. Children cannot pick-up meals for siblings or other children.• Operators must remain on site during mealtimes indicated in the application and conduct POS (point of service) meal counts.• Note: To serve multiple meals for several days at one time (ex. serving 5 lunches at one time for the week), the sponsor must also request and receive approval for the Meal Service Times waiver. If the meals are to be picked up by parents or guardians, in addition to requesting and receiving approval for the Meal Service Times waiver, sponsors must request and receive approval for the Parent/Guardian Pickup waiver.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expires September 30, 2022

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
Parent Pick-Up: Happy Helpings	Under this waiver, program operators in a state with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators must complete & submit the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and must be approved prior to utilizing this waiver.• The sponsor must obtain a verification method to distribute meals to parents.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• valid identification of child and adult• a parent/guardian pick-up roster.• Parents/guardians can only pick-up meals for their own children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expires September 30, 2022

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Meal Service Times: Happing Helpings</p>	<p>The waiver waives the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal to the next and duration of the meal service. This waiver would also allow for more than one [1] meal to be given at the same time if the operator is operating multiple meal services. This would also allow the operator to distribute multiple meals on certain days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators are still required to adhere to program operations listed in the GA ATLAS application, including adhering to approved mealtimes in Site Applications even with this waiver approval. Note: To serve multiple meals for several days at one time (ex. serving 5 lunches at one time for the week), the sponsor must also request and receive approval for the Non-Congregate Meals Service waiver. If the meals are to be picked up by parents or guardians, in addition to requesting and receiving approval for the Non-Congregate waiver, sponsors must request and receive approval for the Parent/Guardian Pickup waiver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expires September 30, 2022 <p>Note: To serve multiple meals for several days at one time (ex. serving 5 lunches at one time for the week), the sponsor must request and receive approval for the Non-Congregate waiver. If the meals are to be picked up by parents or guardians, in addition to requesting and receiving approval for the Non-Congregate waiver, sponsors must request and receive approval for the Parent/Guardian Pickup waiver.</p>

Home Meal Delivery

Waiver(s)	Purpose	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Congregate Feeding• Meal Service Times Happy Helpings	<p>The home meal delivery method may be utilized with an approved non-congregate waiver. A mealtimes waiver may also be necessary to deliver meals outside of mealtimes indicated in the GA ATLAS Site Application.</p> <p>Note: If all requirements are not followed for the home meal delivery method, DECAL can unapproved utilization of this home meal delivery flexibility method.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators must select the home meal delivery method on the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> to utilize this flexibility.• This meal distribution method requires additional requirements and/or certification.• It is critical that operators protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process.• The procedures listed in the COVID-19 FAQ document must be followed for home meal delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expires September 30, 2022

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Contract Duration: Happy Helpings</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2022</p>	<p>Permits SFAs and Program Operators to extend existing Food Service Management Company contracts expiring in the month of July. This flexibility means operators do not need to re-compete their existing Food Service Management Company contracts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If approved, operators will be contacted by DECAL for further instructions.• Operators are still required to adhere to program operations listed in the GA ATLAS application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expires September 30, 2023

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites: Happy Helpings</p>	<p>This waiver allows Happy Helpings closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operators must contact their assigned Application Specialist to be officially approved for this waiver.• Camps cannot use the area eligibility waiver. Camps must continue to collect IES Forms to support the free and reduced meals claimed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 30, 2023

Child and Adult Care Food Program
(CACFP)
Available Waivers



Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals and Snacks Served to Young Adults: CACFP</p>	<p>This waiver allows emergency shelters to claim reimbursement for meals and snacks served to individuals under the age of 25. Reimbursement at the free rate can be claimed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All reimbursable meals and snacks served to young adults ages 18-24, who reside in an emergency shelter participating in CACFP under section 17(t) of the NSLA; and All reimbursable meals and snacks served to young adults ages 18-24, who receive services from an emergency shelter participating in CACFP as an at-risk center under 17(r) of the NSLA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators are only eligible for reimbursement for meals actually served. Supporting documentation for all meals served must be maintained on file. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiver in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted. <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This waiver is set to expire August 14, 2022.

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Non-Congregate Meal Service: CACFP</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2022</p>	<p>The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the public health emergency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This waiver only allows the meals to be consumed off-site. Meals cannot be dropped off. Children can only pick-up meals for themselves. Children cannot pick-up meals for siblings or other children. Operators must remain on site during mealtimes indicated in the application and conduct POS (point of service) meal counts. Note: To serve multiple meals for several days at one time (ex. serving 5 lunches at one time for the week), the sponsor must also request and receive approval for the Meal Service Times waiver. If the meals are to be picked up by parents or guardians, in addition to requesting and receiving approval for the Meal Service Times waiver, sponsors must request and receive approval for the Parent/Guardian Pickup waiver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expires June 30, 2023 <p>Note: This waiver will be available for request, but under new requirements. Waiver requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria. The Site:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=Risk; and/or GA DPH https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports Received official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of widespread COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by (1) a public state, local, or county official; (2) a school superintendent or principal; or (3) a Center Director reporting a documented case of COVID-19 within the child and/or adult care facility, or SFSP site. <p>The waiver will be effective for 30 days upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Parent/Guardian Pick-Up: CACFP</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2022</p>	<p>Under this waiver, program operators in a state with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19 related operations may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators must complete & submit the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and must be approved prior to utilizing this waiver. • The sponsor must obtain a verification method to distribute meals to parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valid identification of child and adult • a parent/guardian pick-up roster. • Parents/guardians can only pick-up meals for their own children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expires June 30, 2023 <p>Note: This waiver will be available for request, but under new requirements. Waiver requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria. The Site:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=Risk; and/or • GA DPH https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports 2. Received official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of widespread COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by (1) a public state, local, or county official; (2) a school superintendent or principal; or (3) a Center Director reporting a documented case of COVID-19 within the child and/or adult care facility, or SFSP site. <p>The waiver will be effective for 30 days upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>

Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Meal Service Times: CACFP</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2022</p>	<p>The requirement that meals must follow meal service time requirements is waived during the public health emergency. This waiver may include multiple meal distribution and/or home meal delivery if requested on the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and approved by DECAL. Also, the waiver waives the amount of time that must elapse between the beginning of one meal to the next and duration of the meal service. Multiple meals allow for more than one [1] meal to be given at the same time if the operator is operating multiple meal services. This also allows the operator to distribute multiple meals on certain days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators are still required to adhere to program operations listed in the GA ATLAS application, including adhering to approved mealtimes in Site Applications even with this waiver approval. Note: To serve multiple meals for several days at one time (ex. serving 5 lunches at one time for the week), the sponsor must also request and receive approval for the Non-Congregate waiver. If the meals are to be picked up by parents or guardians, in addition to requesting and receiving approval for the Non-Congregate waiver, sponsors must request and receive approval for the Parent/Guardian Pickup waiver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expires June 30, 2023 <p>Note for CACFP: Beginning July 1, 2022, this waiver will be available for request, but under new requirements. Waiver requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria. The Site:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=Risk; and/or GA DPH https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports Received official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of widespread COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by (1) a public state, local, or county official; (2) a school superintendent or principal; or (3) a Center Director reporting a documented case of COVID-19 within the child and/or adult care facility. <p>The waiver will be effective for 30 days upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>

Home Meal Delivery

Waiver(s)	Purpose	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Congregate Feeding • Meal Service Times <p>CACFP</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2022</p>	<p>The home meal delivery method may be utilized with an approved non-congregate waiver. A mealtimes waiver may also be necessary to deliver meals outside of mealtimes indicated in the GA ATLAS Site Application.</p> <p>Note: If all requirements are not followed for the home meal delivery method, DECAL can unapproved utilization of this home meal delivery flexibility method.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators must select the home meal delivery method on the USDA Waiver Request Addendum to utilize this flexibility. • This meal distribution method requires additional requirements and/or certification. • It is critical that operators protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process. • The procedures listed in the COVID-19 FAQ document must be followed for home meal delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expires June 30, 2023 <p>Note (CACFP and SFSP): This flexibility that must be used along with an approved Non-Congregate waiver will be available for request, but under new requirements. Requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria. The Site:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&data-type=CommunityLevels&null=Risk; and/or • GA DPH https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports 2. Received official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of widespread COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by (1) a public state, local, or county official; (2) a school superintendent or principal; or (3) a Center Director/SFSP Sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 within the child and/or adult care facility, or SFSP site. <p>The waiver will be effective for 30 days upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days,</p>

Area Eligibility

Happy Helpings & CACFP



Waiver Implementation Guidance

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<p>Area Eligibility: Happy Helpings & CACFP</p>	<p>This waiver allows schools and at-risk afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to claim all NSLP Afterschool Snack Service, CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program, and SFSP meals and snacks at the free rate.</p> <p>This waiver also allows day care homes participating in the CACFP to claim all meals served to enrolled children at the Tier 1 rate, regardless of their location.</p> <p>This eligibility waiver only applies to At-risk and daycare homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators must contact their assigned Application Specialist to be considered officially approved for this waiver. Camps cannot use the area eligibility waiver. Camps must continue to collect IES Forms to support the free and reduced meals claimed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Happy Helpings – September 30, 2022 CACFP – Expires School Year 2025 <p>Note: USDA Flexibility for CACFP: If a site previously qualified as area eligible prior to the pandemic and no longer qualifies using current or previous year’s school data, operators may use <u>FY 2020</u> (October 2019) school data to determine eligibility. SFAs may use Community Eligibility Provision Data (CEP).</p> <p>This data can be used to qualify sites through school year 2024-2025 for CACFP.</p> <p>***<u>These options are not available for sites located in the attendance area of schools that operated NSLP in SY 2021-2022.</u></p>