

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

Revised February 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: <b>CACFP</b></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"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operators are only eligible for reimbursement for meals actually served. Supporting documentation for all meals served must be maintained on file.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiver in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This waiver is set to expire May 11, 2023.</li> </ul>

## Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors: CACFP</p>	<p>This waiver allows CACFP sponsors to conduct required monitoring visits offsite (e.g., through a desk audit).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This waiver <u>only</u> waives the requirement that monitoring visits be conducted on-site. All other monitoring requirements remain in effect and are not waived under this waiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiver in effect until 30 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This waiver is set to expire June 10, 2023.</li> </ul>

## Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Non-Congregate Meal Service: <b>CACFP</b></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"> <li>• This waiver only allows the meals to be consumed off-site. Meals cannot be dropped off.</li> <li>• Children can only pick-up meals for themselves. Children cannot pick-up meals for siblings or other children.</li> <li>• Operators must remain on site during mealtimes indicated in the application and conduct POS (point of service) meal counts.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires June 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> 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"> <li>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).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 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"> <li>• Operators must complete &amp; submit the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and must be <b>approved</b> prior to utilizing this waiver.</li> <li>• The sponsor must obtain a verification method to distribute meals to parents.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• valid identification of child and adult</li> <li>• a parent/guardian pick-up roster.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parents/guardians can only pick-up meals for their own children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires June 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> 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"> <li>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).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires June 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>Note for CACFP:</b> 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"> <li>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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 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"> <li>• Non-Congregate Feeding</li> <li>• Meal Service Times</li> </ul> <p><b>CACFP</b></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><b>Note:</b> 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"> <li>• Operators must select the home meal delivery method on the <b>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</b> to utilize this flexibility.</li> <li>• This meal distribution method requires additional requirements and/or certification.</li> <li>• It is critical that operators protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process.</li> <li>• The procedures listed in the COVID-19 FAQ document must be followed for home meal delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires June 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p><b>Note (CACFP and SFSP):</b> 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"> <li>1. <b>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).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 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

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Area Eligibility: Happy Helpings &amp; 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"> <li>Operators must contact their assigned Application Specialist to be considered officially <b>approved</b> for this waiver.</li> <li>Camps cannot use the area eligibility waiver. Camps must continue to collect IES Forms to support the free and reduced meals claimed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happy Helpings – September 30, 2022</li> <li>CACFP – Expires School Year 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <b>USDA Flexibility for CACFP:</b> 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><b>***<u>These options are not available for sites located in the attendance area of schools that operated NSLP in SY 2021-2022.</u></b></p>

# Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures



## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p><b>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures - Non-Congregate Meal Service:</b></p> <p>May be utilized when Meal Services are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency for a similar unanticipated school closures.</p> <p>Effective March 14, 2023</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</p>	<p>The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the unanticipated school closures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAL <b>may not</b> approve a waiver for a local Program operator for more than 10 consecutive operating days without approval from FNS. In situations that may warrant longer approval periods, the FNS Southeast Regional Office will work closely with DECAL to determine if an extension is needed.</li> <li>• This waiver only allows the meals to be consumed off-site. Meals cannot be dropped off.</li> <li>• Children can only pick-up meals for themselves. Children cannot pick-up meals for siblings or other children.</li> <li>• Operators must remain on site during mealtimes indicated in the application and conduct POS (point of service) meal counts.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul>

## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p><b>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures - Parent/Guardian Pick-Up:</b></p> <p>May be utilized when Meal Services are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency for a similar unanticipated school closures.</p> <p>Effective March 14, 2023</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</p>	<p>Under this waiver, program operators in a state with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their eligible children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAL <b>may not</b> approve a waiver for a local Program operator for more than 10 consecutive operating days without approval from FNS. In situations that may warrant longer approval periods, the FNS Southeast Regional Office will work closely with DECAL to determine if an extension is needed.</li> <li>• Operators must complete &amp; submit the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and must be <b>approved</b> prior to utilizing this waiver.</li> <li>• The sponsor must obtain a verification method to distribute meals to parents.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• valid identification of child and adult</li> <li>• a parent/guardian pick-up roster.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parents/guardians can only pick-up meals for their own children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul>

## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p><b>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures - Meal Service Times:</b></p> <p>May be utilized when Meal Services are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency for a similar unanticipated school closures.</p> <p>Effective March 14, 2023</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</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"> <li>• DECAL <b>may not</b> approve a waiver for a local Program operator for more than 10 consecutive operating days without approval from FNS. In situations that may warrant longer approval periods, the FNS Southeast Regional Office will work closely with DECAL to determine if an extension is needed.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul>

## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p><b>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures - Meals Served at School Sites:</b></p> <p>May be utilized when Meal Services are limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or when approved by the State agency for a similar unanticipated school closures.</p> <p>Effective March 14, 2023</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</p>	<p>The waiver waives the requirement that limits the operation of SFSP during an unanticipated school closure to non-school sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAL <b>may not</b> approve a waiver for a local Program operator for more than 10 consecutive operating days without approval from FNS. In situations that may warrant longer approval periods, the FNS Southeast Regional Office will work closely with DECAL to determine if an extension is needed.</li> <li>• Under this waiver, SFSP sponsors may serve meals at school sites during unanticipated school closures.</li> <li>• FNS also extended this flexibility to SSO for the duration of this waiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul>

## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures (When Meal Services are Impacted by COVID-19) - Non-Congregate Meal Service:</p> <p>Effective October 1, 2022</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</p>	<p>The requirement that meals be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site is waived during the unanticipated school closures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This waiver only allows the meals to be consumed off-site. Meals cannot be dropped off.</li> <li>• Children can only pick-up meals for themselves. Children cannot pick-up meals for siblings or other children.</li> <li>• Operators must remain on site during mealtimes indicated in the application and conduct POS (point of service) meal counts.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expires April 30, 2023</b></li> </ul> <p>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"> <li>1. <b>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).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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 SFSP sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 at a SFSP site. Supporting documentation could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>



## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

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<p>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures (When Meal Services are Impacted by COVID-19) - Parent/Guardian Pick-Up:</p> <p>Effective October 1, 2022</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</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"> <li>• Operators must complete &amp; submit the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and must be <b>approved</b> prior to utilizing this waiver.</li> <li>• The sponsor must obtain a verification method to distribute meals to parents.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• valid identification of child and adult</li> <li>• a parent/guardian pick-up roster.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parents/guardians can only pick-up meals for their own children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p>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"> <li>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).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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 SFSP sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 at a SFSP site. Supporting documentation could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>

## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures (When Meal Services are Impacted by COVID-19) - Meal Service Times:</p> <p>Effective October 1, 2022</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p>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"> <li>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).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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 SFSP sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 at a SFSP site. Supporting documentation could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>

## Unanticipated School Closure Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures (When Meal Services are Impacted by COVID-19) - Meals Served at School Sites:</p> <p>Effective October 1, 2022</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</p>	<p>The waiver waives the requirement that limits the operation of SFSP during an unanticipated school closure to non-school sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under this waiver, SFSP sponsors may serve meals at school sites during unanticipated school closures.</li> <li>FNS also extended this flexibility to SSO for the duration of this waiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul> <p>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"> <li>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).                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDC <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=Georgia&amp;data-type=CommunityLevels&amp;null=Risk</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>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 SFSP sponsor reporting a documented case of COVID-19 at a SFSP site. Supporting documentation could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.</li> </ol> <p>The waiver will be effective for <b>30 days</b> 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 or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted. Waiver approval will be effective for 30 days.</p>

## Unanticipated School Closure and Home Meal Delivery

Waiver(s)	Purpose	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Happy Helpings during Unanticipated School Closures (When Meal Services are Impacted by COVID-19) -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Congregate Feeding</li> <li>• Meal Service Times</li> </ul> <p>Effective October 1, 2022</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For the purpose of this waiver, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.</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><b>Note:</b> 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"> <li>• Operators must select the home meal delivery method on the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> to utilize this flexibility.</li> <li>• This meal distribution method requires additional requirements and/or certification.</li> <li>• It is critical that operators protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process.</li> <li>• The procedures listed in the COVID-19 FAQ document must be followed for home meal delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expires April 30, 2023</li> </ul>

# Happy Helpings Available Waivers (SFSP)



## Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Food Service Management Company (FSMC)                      Contract Duration:  <b>Happy Helpings</b></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"> <li>• If approved, operators will be contacted by DECAL for further instructions.</li> <li>• Operators are still required to adhere to program operations listed in the GA ATLAS application.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expires June 30, 2023</b></li> </ul>

## Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites: <b>Happy Helpings</b></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"><li>• Operators must contact their assigned Application Specialist to be officially <b>approved</b> for this waiver.</li><li>• Camps cannot use the area eligibility waiver. Camps must continue to collect IES Forms to support the free and reduced meals claimed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>April 30, 2023</b></li></ul>

## 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"> <li>• This waiver only allows the meals to be consumed off-site. Meals cannot be dropped off.</li> <li>• Children can only pick-up meals for themselves. Children cannot pick-up meals for siblings or other children.</li> <li>• Operators must remain on site during mealtimes indicated in the application and conduct POS (point of service) meal counts.</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expired September 30, 2022</li> </ul>



## Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Parent Pick-Up: Happy Helpings</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"> <li>• Operators must complete &amp; submit the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> and must be <b>approved</b> prior to utilizing this waiver.</li> <li>• The sponsor must obtain a verification method to distribute meals to parents.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• valid identification of child and adult</li> <li>• a parent/guardian pick-up roster.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parents/guardians can only pick-up meals for their own children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expired September 30, 2022</li> </ul>

## Waiver Implementation Guidance

Waiver	Purpose of Waiver	Important items to keep in mind	Extension/Expiration Date
<p>Meal Service Times:  <b>Happing Helpings</b></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"> <li>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.</li> <li><b>Note:</b> 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Expired September 30, 2022</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> 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"> <li>• Non-Congregate Feeding</li> <li>• Meal Service Times</li> </ul> <p><b>Happy Helpings</b></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><b>Note:</b> 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"> <li>• Operators must select the home meal delivery method on the <i>USDA Waiver Request Addendum</i> to utilize this flexibility.</li> <li>• This meal distribution method requires additional requirements and/or certification.</li> <li>• It is critical that operators protect the confidentiality of children and their households throughout this process.</li> <li>• The procedures listed in the COVID-19 FAQ document must be followed for home meal delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expired September 30, 2022</b></li> </ul>