



**NO KID
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GEORGIA

Happy Helpings Summer Summit

February 4, 2026



Today's Presenters

Demetria Thornton,
Application Services Manager



Shericka Blount
Applications Specialist Coordinator



Leatha L. Bryant, CMP
Lead Technical Assistance Coordinator & Trainer
Region 4 - Southwest Georgia



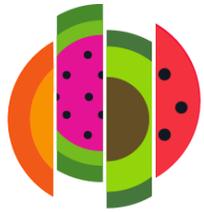
Julie S. Edwards
Technical Assistance Coordinator & Trainer
Region 2 – East Region



Training Objectives

To provide our partners with the most recent, newly released and/or subject relevant DECAL and USDA memos/policies.

To provide clarification of the presented memos/policies.



Nutrition Services

DECAL



Vision Statement

Working together with our partners *to eradicate hunger and ensure nutritious meals for all Georgians!*



Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf> from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
email: program.intake@usda.gov



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Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program

Purpose

This training provides guidance and clarity on Rural Non-Congregate and Program flexibilities that are available for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites in rural areas that do not have congregate meal services.

Legal Authority: 7 CFR 225



Definitions of Congregate and Rural Non-Congregate Feeding in Summer Food Service Program



Definitions

“Areas in which poor economic conditions exist”

- The attendance area of a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program;
- A geographic area where, based on the most recent census data available or information provided from a department of welfare or zoning commission, at least 50 percent of the children residing in that area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program;



Definitions

“Areas in which poor economic conditions exist”

- A geographic area where a site demonstrates, based on other approved sources, that at least 50 percent of the children enrolled at the site are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.
- A closed enrolled site in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children at the site are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.



<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>



Definitions

“Congregate meal service”

- A food service at which meals that are provided to children are consumed on site in a supervised setting.



Definitions

“**Experienced site**” means a site which, as determined by the State agency, has successfully participated in the Program in the prior year.

“**FNSRO**” means the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

“**Good Standing**” means the status of a program operator that meets its Program responsibilities, is current with its financial obligations, and, if applicable, has fully implemented all corrective actions within the required period of time.



Definitions

"Guardian"

- A legal guardian of a minor, where the guardian has power over the minor the same as a parent, standing in the place of the parent per O.C.G.A. 29-2-21(a);
- A state-regulated foster parent; or
- An adult who maintains a caregiver relationship with a child on the day of meal service. These adults can be relatives or other adults who provide supervisory care for children on the meal service day. The child does not need to share a residence with the guardian; however, the guardian must provide supervisory care for the child at the child's residence or the guardian's residence on the meal service day.

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>



Definitions

- **“Income standards”** means the family-size and income standards prescribed annually by the Secretary of Agriculture for determining eligibility for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.
- **“Meal service day”** means any day a meal is to be picked up from a SFSP site for delivery to a SFSP child participant.
- **“New Site”** means a site which did not participate in the Program in the prior year, an experienced site that is proposing to operate a non-congregate meal service for the first time, or, as determined by the State agency, a site which has experienced significant staff turnover from the prior year.



Definitions

“Non-congregate meal service”

- A food service at which meals are provided for children to consume all of the components off site. Non-congregate meal service must only be operated at sites designated as “Rural” with no “Congregate meal service,” as determined in § 225.6(h)(3) and (4).



<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>



Definitions

“Conditional Non-congregate”

- A site which qualifies for Program participation because it conducts a non-congregate meal service for eligible children in an area that does not meet the definition of “areas in which poor economic conditions exist” and is not a “Camp”.



<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>



Definitions

“Rural”

- Any area in a county which is not a part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area based on the Office of Management and Budget's Delineations of Metropolitan Statistical Areas;
- Any area in a county classified as a non-metropolitan area based on USDA Economic Research Service's Rural-Urban Continuum Codes and Urban Influence Codes;
- Any census tract classified as a non-metropolitan area based on USDA Economic Research Service's Rural-Urban Commuting Area codes;



Definitions

“Rural” *cont’d*

- Any area of a Metropolitan Statistical Area which is not part of a Census Bureau-defined urban area;
- Any area of a State which is not part of an urban area as determined by the Secretary;
- Any subsequent substitution or update of the classification that Federal governing bodies create; or
- Any “pocket” within a Metropolitan Statistical Area which, at the option of the State agency and with FNSRO approval, is determined to be rural in character based on other data sources.



Definitions

- **“School Food Authority (SFA)”** means the governing body which is responsible for the administration of one or more schools, and which has the legal authority to operate a lunch program in those schools.
- **“Self-preparation sponsor”** means a sponsor which prepares the meals that will be served at its site(s) and does not contract with a food service management company for unitized meals, with or without milk, or for management services.



Definitions

“Site”

- The place where a child receives a program meal. A site may be the indoor or outdoor location where congregate meals are served, a stop on a delivery route of a mobile congregate meal service, or the distribution location or route for a non-congregate meal service. However, a child's residence is not considered a non-congregate meal site for Program monitoring purposes.



Definitions

“Sponsor”

- Public or private nonprofit school food authority,
- Public or private nonprofit residential summer camp,
- Unit of local, municipal, county or State government,
- Public or private nonprofit college or university currently participating in the NYSP, and/or
- Private nonprofit organization which develops a special summer or other school vacation program providing food service.



Definitions

“Unanticipated school closure”

- Any period from October through April (or any time of the year in an area with a continuous school calendar) during which children who are not in school due to a;
 - natural disaster,
 - building repair,
 - court order,
 - labor-management disputes, or,
 - when approved by the State agency, similar cause, may be served meals at non-school sites through the Summer Food Service Program.



<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>

Rural Non-Congregate Meal Site Eligibility

Criteria 1: The site must be located in an area designated as rural.

Criteria 2: The site must be located where there is no congregate meal service available to SFSP participants.

Criteria 3: The site meets the definition of an area in which poor economic conditions exist as per Program regulations at 7 CFR 225.2.



Criteria 1: Determining a Site's Rural Status

It is important to note that the definition of 'rural' as per 7 CFR 225.2 also includes the following:

Any area of a State which is not part of an urban area as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture;

Any subsequent substitution or update of the aforementioned classification schemes that Federal governing bodies create; or

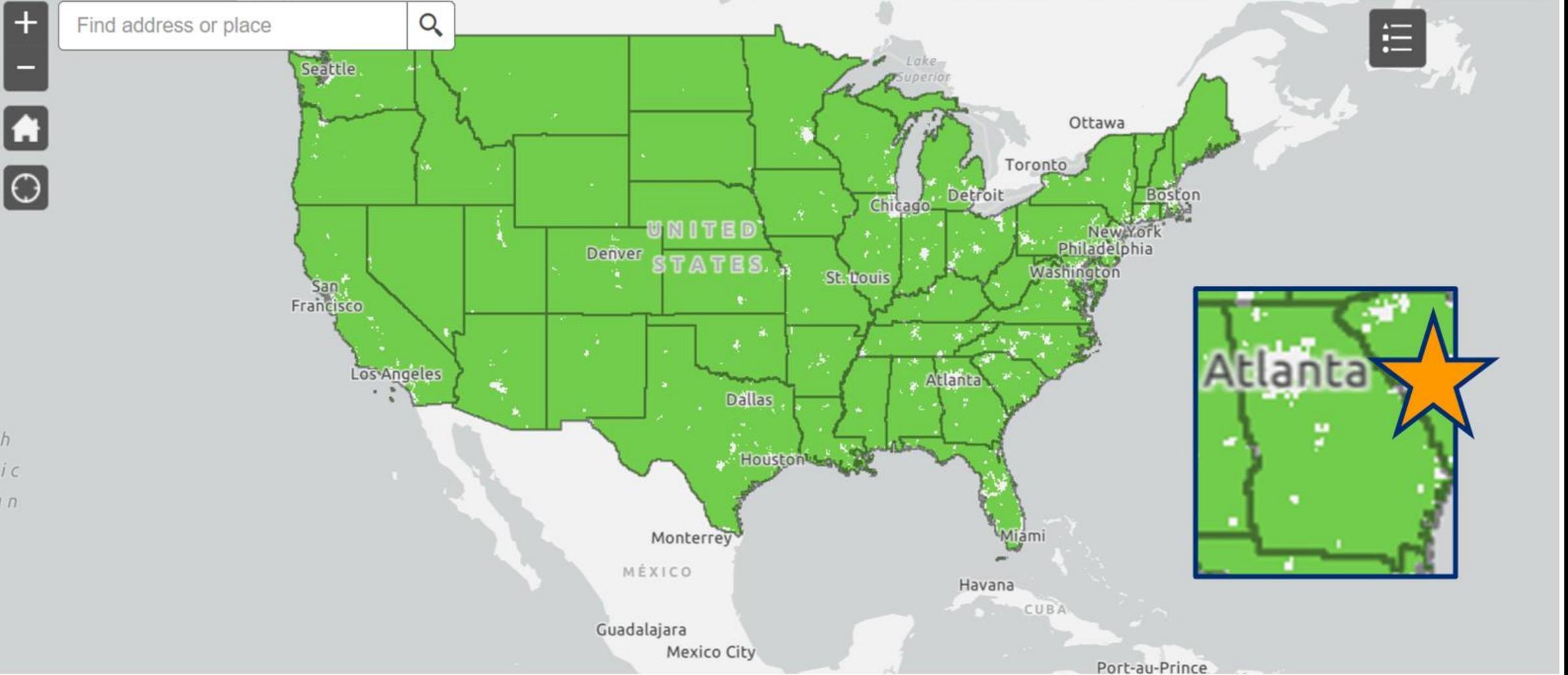
Any "pocket" within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which, at the option of the State agency and with FNSRO approval, is determined to be rural in character based on other data sources.



BRIGHT FROM THE START

FNS Rural Designation Map

Click here for more information about rural designations in the SFSP and SSO



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/rural-designation>



Criteria 2: An Area with No Congregate Meal Service Available to Children

Sponsors applying for rural non-congregate meal services must determine if the site is in an area where there is no congregate meal service, specifically the sponsor should determine if there is another approved SFSP site within 1/4 mile of the proposed non-congregate site; and if any sites within that specified area are serving congregate meals.

If the nearby site is a closed enrolled site, a camp, or has barriers that would prevent participants from accessing those congregate meals (e.g., participants would have to cross a busy highway to access a congregate meal site), then the proposed site may be approved for non-congregate meal service.



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Criteria 3: Meeting the Definition of an “area in which poor economic conditions exist”

If the rural area meets the definition of an ‘area in which poor economic conditions exist’ (noted in the Definition section above), meals for all children may be claimed for reimbursement.

If the rural area does not meet the definition of an ‘area in which poor economic conditions exist,’ only the meals served to children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meal.



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Conditional Non-Congregate

Meets Criteria #1

Rural Designation

Meets Criteria #2

No congregate
meal services in
proposed area

Criteria #3

Does NOT meet
Poor Economic
Area

May only be reimbursed for free and reduced eligible meals.



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Conditional Non-Congregate, *cont'd*

Individual Eligibility
Information from School
Data

Income Eligibility
Statements (IES forms)



Department of Education
New York State
Division of Community Schools
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Conditional Non-Congregate, *cont'd*

May charge children who do not qualify for free or reduced

Notify DECAL and following pricing policy statement standards

Establish hearing procedures



BRIGHT FROM THE START
NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Delivery Types



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Delivery Methods

Meal Pick-Up at a Site Location

This non-congregate meal service delivery method is designed to provide packaged meals that are taken home for children to eat later. Examples of meal pickup include “grab and go,” curbside service, or take-home backpacks.

Home Delivery

Home delivery is a non-congregate meal service delivery method designed to deliver meals directly to homes of eligible children. Children do not have to be present for home delivery as long as the sponsor has obtained the parent or guardian’s written consent to deliver meals.



Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Delivery Methods

Eligibility of Homes

- Individual Eligibility Information from School Data. A non-SFA sponsor that wishes to use NSLP/SBP individual student data to identify eligible children for participation in home delivery must secure an MOU or written statement with the State agency or SFA per 7 CFR 225.14(d)(8).
- Income Eligibility Statements (IES forms) completed by parents and/or guardians. Per 7 CFR 225.15(f), the IES form or Household Application is used to determine the free or reduced-price meal statuses of individual children.





Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Delivery Methods

Ineligible Homes

- Failure to maintain individual eligibility school data or IES forms to support each child's eligibility (if home is not located in an area eligible location);
- The delivery of meals to children's households that do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals (if home is not located in an area eligible location);
and/or
- Failure to adhere to all other home delivery meal service model requirements.



Home Meal Service Delivery



Non-Discrimination Statement

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mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Delivery Methods, *cont'd*

Additional Requirements for the Home Delivery Meal Service Model

- Identify and invite households of only eligible children to participate in the meal delivery service;
- Obtain and maintain written consent from the eligible participant's parent or guardian that the household wants to receive delivered meals.
Written consent could include hard copy documentation, emails, or other electronic means of communication.

Home Meal Delivery



Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Delivery Methods, *cont'd*

Additional Requirements for the Home Delivery Meal Service Model

- Confirm and maintain documentation supporting the household's current contact information, the number of eligible children in the household, and how many meals are delivered to each home;
- Not exceed the maximum number of meals per child per day;
- Protect the confidentiality of participants and their households throughout the process in accordance with confidentiality and disclosure provisions in the National School Lunch Act and 7 CFR 225.15(f)-(l).

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>



Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Options

Parent and Guardian Pick-up

- An adult that is not providing supervisory care for a child on the meal service day. Examples of adults that would not be considered guardians are as follows:
 - An adult who picks up meals at a SFSP site to deliver to neighboring children when the adult is not providing supervisory care for those children; or
 - A grandparent who picks up meals for a grandchild and delivers those meals to a grandchild's home where a parent or other adult caregiver is providing supervisory care for the child on that day.



Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Options, *cont'd*

Parent and Guardian Pick-up

- Childcare providers of formally enrolled children. The following would be prohibited from picking up and distributing meals to groups of enrolled children:
 - A DECAL licensed day care home provider who provides care for enrolled children.
 - A DECAL licensed childcare center that provides care for enrolled children.
 - An informal care provider that is registered with the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program.



Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Options, *cont'd*

Parent and Guardian Pick-up

- Childcare providers of related or unrelated groups of children for which parents agree to the care. The following examples would be prohibited from picking up and distributing meals to groups of related or unrelated children:
A camp with or without a DECAL exemption;
 - Vacation bible schools;
 - Summer tutoring services; or
 - Athletic/auxiliary summer training events and/or recreational sports activities (e.g., football, cheerleading, and band camps, and recreation league sport teams).



Non-Congregate Meal Service Options, *cont'd*

DECAL recommends that sites implement one of the two following verification processes:

- Ask the parent/guardian to present forms of valid child or adult identification (ID). Valid forms of ID may include, but are not limited to, school identification card, participant's passport, government-issued child identification card, or any document proving parent/guardian identity and relationship to the child or adult, such as an adoption decree; doctor, clinic, or hospital record; religious record; or day care center record; or



Non-Congregate Meal Service Options, *cont'd*

DECAL recommends that sites implement one of the two following verification processes:

- A daily parent/guardian pickup roster used to collect the parent and/or guardian name, number of participants in the household, and names of participants in the household. For adults that meet the definition of 'guardian' but are not legal guardians of minors or state-regulated foster parents, sponsors should collect the guardian's name and the names of the participants for which the guardian is providing supervisory care.



Multi-Day Meal Distribution

- **Multiple unitized meals** (up to 10 days with DECAL approval).
- **Bulk food items**
 - Require minimal preparation.
 - Require components in minimum amounts.
 - Must be easily identifiable food items.
 - Must include menus indicating food item(s) and portion sizes.
 - Should not exceed the # of meals that could be provided over a 5-calendar day period. (even if only offering one component in bulk)



Rural Non-Congregate Feeding Recordkeeping

Sponsors and sites must maintain and make available upon request all SFSP supporting documentation, to include but not limited to:



- Delivery and pick-up receipts;
- Delivery schedules;
- Documentation to support sufficient milk purchases;
- Meal count records/meal count consolidation records/daily meal count records;

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>

Rural Non-Congregate Feeding Recordkeeping

Sponsors and sites must maintain and make available upon request all SFSP supporting documentation, to include but not limited to:

- Financial records;
- Purchase receipts/invoices supporting all SFSP expenses;
- Documentation supporting site eligibility; and
- Individual child eligibility documentation supporting claims for reimbursement, such as individual school data or IES forms, when applicable.

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>



DECAL Approval - Application and Recordkeeping Requirements for Rural Non-Congregate Sites



Approval to Serve Rural Non-Congregate Meals



GA ATLAS Site Application



Indicate in the site application in GA ATLAS under item #20 that the geographic location is “rural”.

NOTE: Documentation supporting the site’s rural designation must be submitted.



15580 Status: Active TTA Test Sponsor DBA: No address on file for this year FEIN: 11-1111111 County:	0005 Status: Active SUMMER SUPERSTAR CAMP SITE 123 Baby Shark Way Smyrna, GA 30080 EIN:
--	--

Version: Original

Effective Date

1. Requested Application Effective Date: 10/1/2022 Approved Application Effective Date: Oct 2022

Street Address

2. Address Line 1: 123 Baby Shark Way
Address Line 2:

3. City: Smyrna

4. State: GA Zip: 30080

5. County: Cobb (033)

Site Contact

Person in charge of this site on a daily basis.

Name	Salutation	First Name	Last Name
6. Name: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Miss	Summer	Sunshine
7. Date of Birth:	05/05/1995 (mm/dd/yyyy)		
8. Email Address:	Summer.Sunshine@gmail.com		
9. Facility Phone:	(555) 111-5555	Ext:	Fax:
10. Cell/Alt Phone:			
11. Title:	Site Supervisor		

General Site Information

12. Operation Dates: Start: 10/01/2022 End: 03/31/2023

13. Enter the number of days the Site will operate each month:

OCT 2022	NOV 2022	DEC 2022	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023	APR 2023	MAY 2023	JUN 2023	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	SEP 2023
15	15	15	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0

14. During normal operating dates, indicate any days this site will not serve meals:

Test

15. Check meal type(s) to be served at this site:

Breakfast AM Snack Lunch PM Snack Supper

16. Has the site ever participated in the Summer Food Service Program under this Institution? Yes No

17. Do you provide child care for infants under 12 months old? Yes No

18. Is this an outdoor or mobile site? Yes No

19. Location Type: Recreation Center
Describe the Other location type:

20. Geographic Location: Urban

21. Will you be using the first week site visit waiver for this site? Yes No

GA ATLAS Site Application (cont.)



Indicate in the site application in GA ATLAS under item #22 that the sponsor would like to serve non-congregate meals at that site.

Site Eligibility

22. This rural site would like to serve non-congregate meals. Yes No
23. Did this site operate last year? Yes No
- If No, enter pre-operational site visit date below.
24. Date of the Institution's pre-operational site visit, if applicable.
25. Are there other SFSP or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sites located in the same district as this site? Yes No

List the name of the institution and the name of the site that is within one-fourth mile.
(If the site is under your sponsorship, you only need to list the site's name.)

The site within one-fourth mile is under my sponsorship: Yes No

Sponsor Name:

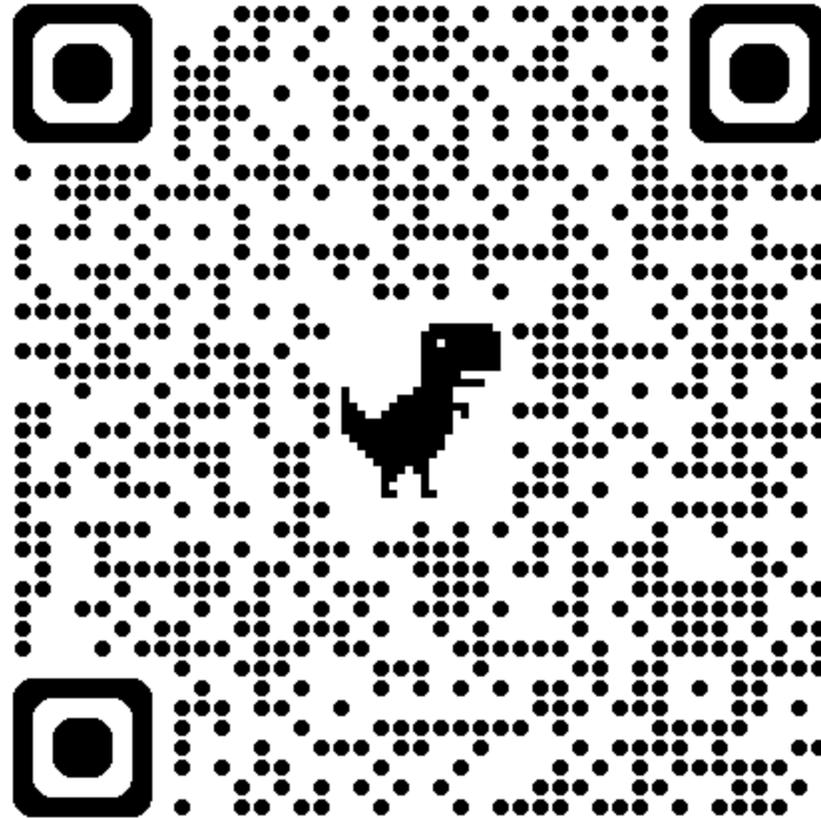
SFSP Site Name:

SSO Site Name:

Explain how the two or more sites will not serve the same group of children for the same type of meal service.



Rural Non-Congregate Option Application and Instruction Guide



Resources

Rural Non-Congregate Meal Services in the Summer Food Service Program

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/RuralNonCongregateMealServicesSFSPMemo.pdf>

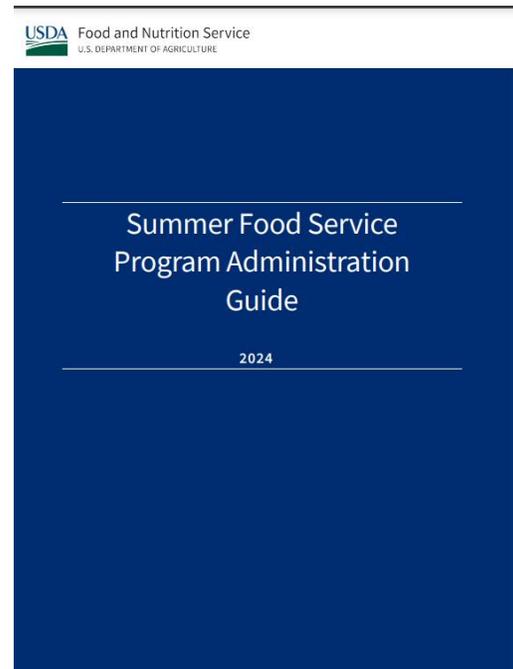
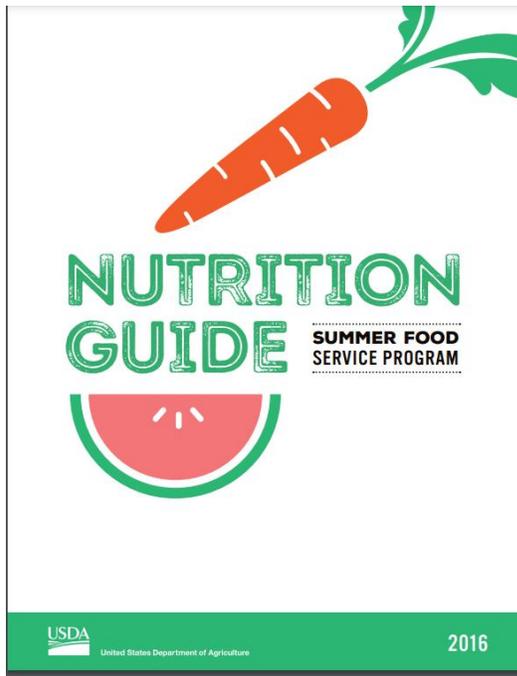
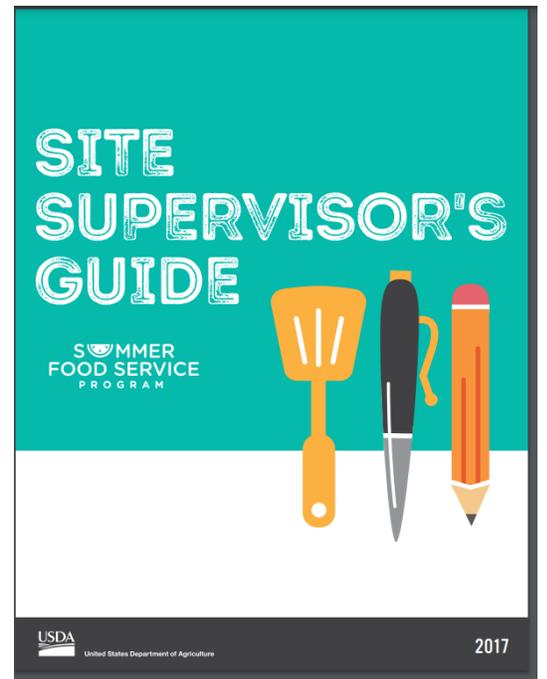
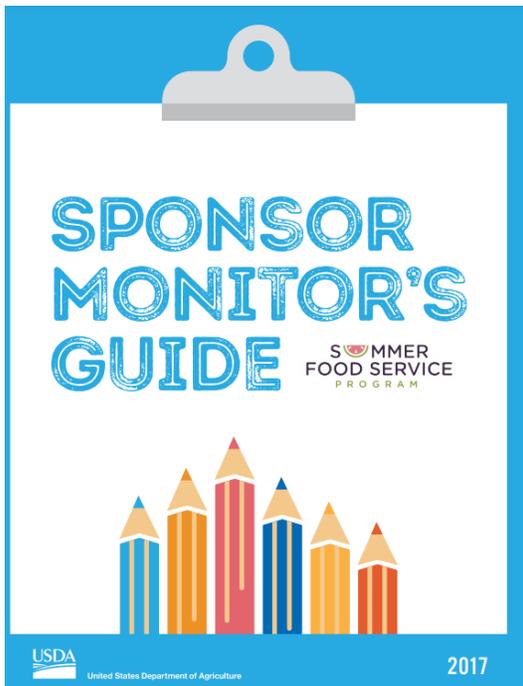
Bright from the Start website

<https://www.decal.ga.gov/BftS/FormList.aspx?cat=SFSP>

Federal Code of Regulations – part 225 Summer Food Service Program

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-II/subchapter-A/part-225#225.2>





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Code of Federal Regulations

A point in time eCFR system



Title 7



Displaying title 7, up to date as of 1/17/2025. Title 7 was last amended 1/17/2025. [i](#)

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○ **PART 225—SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

Authority: Secs. 9, 13 and 14, Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1758, 1761 and 1762a).

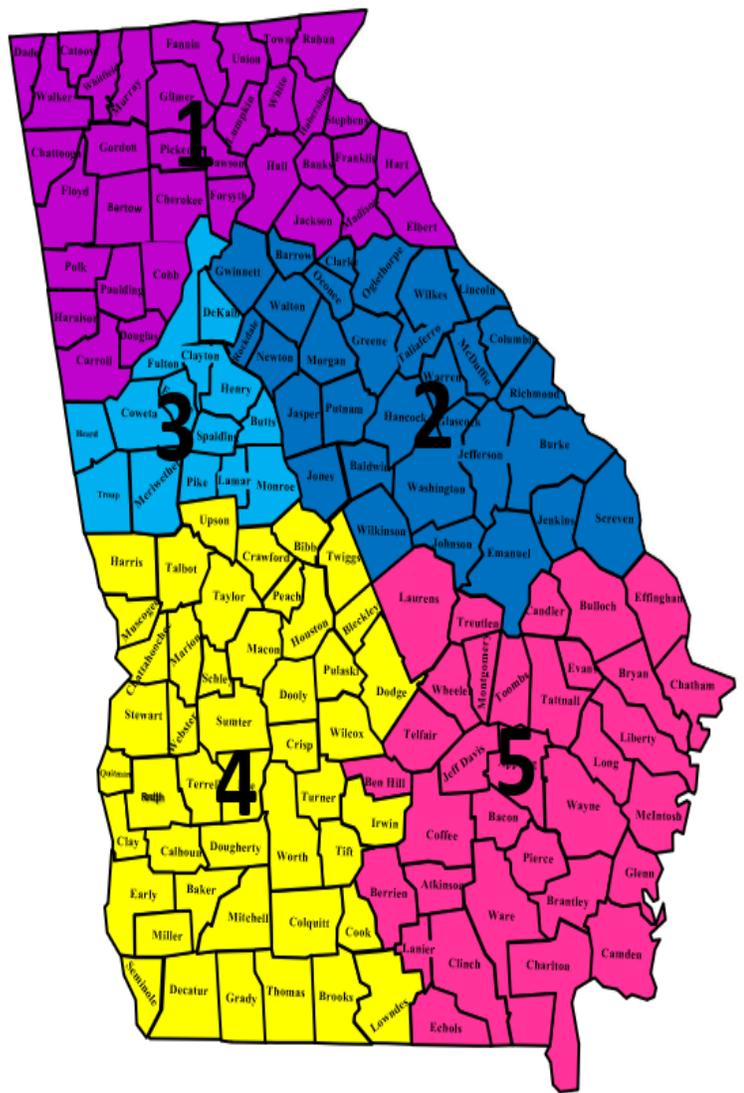
Source: 54 FR 18208, Apr. 27, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

○ **Subpart A—General**

○ **§ 225.1 General purpose and scope.**

This part establishes the regulations under which the Secretary will administer a Summer Food Service

Regional Map for Technical Assistance (TA) Coordinators



Training and Technical Assistance Unit

Name	Title	Phone	Region
Julie Edwards	TA Coordinator	404-796-1205	East
LaKisha Battle	TA Coordinator	478-314-2806	Southeast
Leatha Bryant	Lead TA Coordinator	404-998-0721	Southwest
Rhonda Kelley	TA Coordinator	470-859-9376	North/Northwest
Emilia Emmanuel	TA Coordinator	678-337-9759	Metro West
Nkem Ijeh	Trainer	404-973-4099	
Grushan Blake	Training Manager	404-651-7426	



You may also email the NutritionTA Mailbox at NutritionTA@decals.ga.gov

A close-up photograph of a computer keyboard. The central focus is on two keys: a blue key with the word "Questions" in white, italicized font, and a green key with the word "Answers" in white, italicized font. The keys are slightly raised and have rounded edges. Surrounding these keys are several white keys, including one with a black "C" and another with a black "D". The lighting is bright, creating soft shadows and highlights on the keys' surfaces.

Questions

Answers

Have a Great Afternoon!

