**West Alabama Regional Commission- Area Agency on Aging**

**Alabama Cares Grandparent Program**

**Eligibility:**

* Grandparent/Relative Caregiver ( age 55 + ) caring for child/children age 18 and younger
* Grandparent/Relative Caregiver ( age 55 + ) caring for child/children with a severe disability
* **\* Priority\*** shall be given to grandparents or older individuals who are relative caregivers providing care for children with severe disabilities.

**Terms:**

* Child- An individual who is not more than 18 years of age.
* Grandparent or other relative caregiver of a child: a grandparent, step grandparent or other relative of a child by blood or marriage, who is 55 years of age or older and-

\* A. Lives with the child

\* B. Is the primary caregiver of the child because the biological or adoptive parent/parents are unable or unwilling to serve as the primary caregiver of the child

\* C. Has a legal relationship to the child, such as legal custody or guardianship, or is raising the child informally

**Income:**

* This program is not income based- However cost share and donations are accepted.

**5 Service Categories**:

* **A. Caregiver Information**- Provide public and individual with information on resources and services available.
* **B. Caregiver Access Assistance**- Assist grandparents in obtaining access to the service and resources available within their community. This service links individuals to the services and opportunities that are available within their community.
* **C. Caregiver Education**- Counseling/education to Grandparents to assist them in making decisions and solving problems relating to their grandparent role.
* **D. Caregiver Respite**- \* Grandchild must live with Grandparent/relative caregiver to qualify for this service\* Offer temporary, substitute support or living arrangements for child in order to provide a brief period of relief or rest for grandparent caregiver.
* **E. Caregiver Supplemental Service**- \* Grandchild must live with grandparent/relative caregiver to qualify for this service\* Services provided on a limited basis to complement the care provided by grandparent/relative.

**All referrals or questions contact Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**

**205-333-2990 or 1-800-AGE-LINE**