

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
June 5, 2020

**Contact**
Angie Doss
Chief External Relations Officer
adoss@sunbeamfamilyservices.org
Office: (405) 5098-2311 Mobile: (619) 347- 4057

[Download a photo from the 2019 distribution event.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sunbeamfamilyservices/48425374812/in/album-72157710014738727/)

**Application Deadline Extended to June 15 for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Fall School Supply Assistance**

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Due to COVID-19, Sunbeam Family Services has extended the application deadline to June 15 for its annual fall backpack and school supply assistance event for grandparents. This event is for grandparents, ages 55 and older, who are raising their grandchildren and live in Oklahoma, Cleveland, Canadian or Logan County. To qualify, parents cannot live in the same home as their children. The backpack and supply distribution will still take place on July 27.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren school supply program at Sunbeam provides pre-qualified grandparents with backpacks filled with grade-specific school supplies for their grandchildren. This helps eliminate the financial burden of back to school expenses and ensuring their grandchildren are prepared for the upcoming school year. This year, 400 children will benefit from the school supply assistance program.

Grandfamilies need support more than ever,” said Talena Ford, Caregiver Fundamentals Project Manager. “This year we will not only have school supplies in each backpack given out, but resources that are current and applicable for each grandfamily.”

This program is made possible through the collaboration of Sunbeam, local law enforcement agencies and the Older Americans Act. Oklahoma is one of the top states in the nation for grandparents raising their grandchildren. According to the US Census Bureau, grandparent-headed households are more likely to be without health insurance, more likely to receive public assistance and more likely to fall below the poverty line than parent-headed households.

Launched in 2003, Sunbeam’s “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” program empowers grandparents by offering support groups, school supply assistance, holiday assistance, and other resources.

Qualified grandfamilies can find a link to the application at sunbeamfamilyservices.org/GRG or call (405) 609-6551 for more information.

###

**About Sunbeam Family Services**

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma’s longest serving nonprofits and is one of the original United Way of Central Oklahoma Community partners. Sunbeam’s mission is to provide help, hope and the opportunity to succeed through Early Childhood, Counseling, Foster Care and Senior Services. To learn more, call (405) 528-7721, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**About Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**
 The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program, a program of Sunbeam’s Caregiver Fundamentals Program, makes no distinctions on the grounds of race, color, gender, age, ancestry, national origin, religion, or disability. A portion of the project costs are met by state and federal OAA funds from Areawide Aging Agency and OKDHS Aging Services Division. There are no costs to participants; however, donations are accepted. Suggested donation per services: Information Services, $1/activity; Access Assistance, $1/activity; Support Group, $2.50/meeting; Respite, $2.50/visit; School Supplies, $5/family; and Training Seminars, $5/seminar.