



Programs in Cass County October 2020

AEOA does not operate Head Start, Housing, Senior, or Transit programming in Cass County at this time.

EMPLOYMENT and TRAINING

Adult Basic Education (ABE)—AEOA’s Adult Education program provides a full spectrum of learning options for community members who are age 17 years or older and are not enrolled in or required to be enrolled in any school in the K-12 system. In addition, the individual must lack a secondary high school credential and/or function below the 12th grade level in any of the basic academic areas including reading, math, and ability to read, write and understand English. ABE services include: basic skill and computer training, GED preparation, English language learning (ELL), college and career preparation, and industry-specific training (i.e., entrepreneur training, carpentry pre-apprenticeship, ServSafe food manager certification, para-professional certification). Services are available primarily on-line. Contact Emily Sundeen at (218) 259-0285 for assistance.



Programs in Crow Wing County October 2020

AEOA does not operate Employment and Training, Head Start, Senior, or Transit programming in Crow Wing County at this time.

HOUSING

Business Energy Retrofit Program (BER)—The Business Energy Retrofit Program is designed to educate and help assist businesses within the Taconite Assistance Area with energy-efficient decisions and aid in financing the energy retrofit project. The BER program will support and provide the business up to \$20,000 in eligible retrofit expenses or one-third of the total project up to \$60,000. Applicants are required to obtain bids from local contractors and submit with AEOA's application. Businesses interested in participating in the BER program should contact Vince Meyer at (218) 735-6828.

Downtown Building Rehab (DBR) – The Downtown Building Rehabilitation Program (DBR) is designed to help aid in financing code compliant construction and remodeling projects on main streets in downtowns. The DBR Program will support and provide 1/3 project cost up to \$50,000 in eligible expenses. Up to 10% of awarded grant funding may be utilized for professional services such as an architect or engineer. Applicants are required to obtain prevailing wage compliant bids from local contractors and submit with AEOA's application. For more information, contact Vince Meyer at (218) 735-6828.



Programs in Pine County October 2019

AEOA does not operate Employment and Training, Head Start, Housing, or Senior Services programming in Pine County.

TRANSIT

Dial-a-Ride— Arrowhead Transit’s Dial-a-Ride is an on-demand system that provides transportation to individuals in our service areas. Passengers only need to call our dispatch at 800-862-0175 and select the number for their county or city. All transit buses are ADA accessible and drivers are trained to assist passengers on and off the buses. To participate in Arrowhead Transit’s Dial-a-Ride service, dial 800-862-0175 for Pine County.

Scheduled Services—Arrowhead Transit has scheduled stops and provides a Dial-A-Ride Service in many areas. For information on Arrowhead Transit Services in your area, visit www.arrowheadtransit.com or dial 800-862-0175.

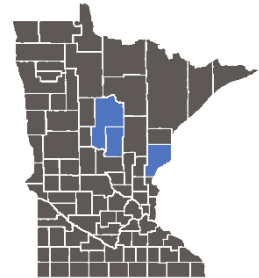
Volunteer Driver Program – The Volunteer Driver Program assists individuals on Medical Assistance to get to and from medical appointments. Arrowhead Transit has contracts with four major insurance companies and with various counties in the area. The Volunteer Program encourages the individual to contact their insurance provider to see if they qualify for the program. The Volunteer Driver Program operates in eight counties including Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis, and can perform medical rides in other counties in Greater Minnesota as requested by the insurance companies. To learn more about the Volunteer Driver Program, please contact Colette Hanson at (218) 735-6814 or Martin Lepak at (218) 410-9755.



Cass, Crow Wing, and Pine County Services

Mission:

AEOA's mission is to strengthen communities by providing opportunities for people experiencing social and economic challenges. AEOA provides services to community members through five major departments including Employment and Training, Head Start, Housing, Senior Services, and Arrowhead Transit. Not all departments operate programs in every county within AEOA's service area.



Key staff and board members:

Executive Director: Scott Zahorik

Department Directors: Jan Francisco (Employment & Training); Emily Celley (Fiscal Services); Skip Ferris (Head Start); Cathy Pazzelli (Human Resources and Assistant Executive Director); Dave Johnson (Housing Services); Beth Peterson (Planning); Marilyn Ocepek (Senior Services); Jack Larson (Arrowhead Transit).

AEOA Board: The Agency is governed by a 27-member board, representing an equal cross-section of low-income individuals, public officials, and private sector parties. Currently, there are no representatives of Cass, Crow Wing, or Pine County on the Board.

Board Officers: Jeff Kletscher (Chair), Kevin Adey (Vice-Chair); Laura Perry (Second Vice-Chair); Dana Waldron (Secretary); Tom Cvar (Treasurer)

Number of staff members: Twelve (12) employees work in Cass, Crow Wing, and Pine County

Contact information: (Pine County) 204 Eagle Drive, Sandstone, MN 55072; 800-862-0175 option 3;
<http://www.aeo.org>

In Cass, Crow Wing, and Pine County, AEOA served...

- Adult Basic Education provided service to 6 Cass County residents. This could include basic skills improvement, GED preparation, college and career readiness, employment skills, digital literacy, life skills, and English language learning.
- The Business Energy Retrofit program assisted two (2) Crow Wing County community business owners in achieving energy related updates.
- The Downtown Building Rehabilitation program assisted one (1) community business owners in achieving code & accessibility related improvements.
- Arrowhead Transit provided 103,875 rides to Pine County passengers, totaling 517,722 miles.
- The Volunteer Driver Program had 11 volunteers and provided 3,067 rides. The program also served other counties in Greater Minnesota and had 15 volunteers that provided 5,332 rides in those counties.

AEOA is committed to continuing our strong partnerships within Cass, Crow Wing, and Pine County. We are proud of the work we do to help struggling households meet their basic needs met; to help people find work and have the transportation to get there. We currently have twelve (12) people working in Cass and Pine County who contribute to the local economy and are very dedicated to the services they provide.