AEOA does not operate Head Start programming in Itasca County.

**EMPLOYMENT and TRAINING**

**Adult Basic Education (ABE)** - Emily Sundeen at (218) 259-0285  
**Adult Scholarship Program** - Tawnya Maras at (218) 322-6504  
**CareerForce** - Jeremiah Olson at (218) 327-6758  
**Diversionary Work Program (DWP)** - Jeremiah Olson at (218) 327-6758  
**Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM)** - Tracy Chase at (218) 259-4524  
**Free at Last & Freestyle** - Jennifer Mulligan at (218) 322-6505  
**LIFE for Homeless Youth** - DeAnna Winge at (218) 322-6503 or Heidi Varin at (218) 322-6506  
**Minnesota Dislocated Worker program (DW)** - Jeremiah Olson at (218) 327-6758  
**Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)** - Jeremiah Olson at (218) 327-6758  
**Minnesota Family Resiliency Program (MFRP)** - Jeremiah Olson at (218) 327-6758  
**New Employment Opportunity Network (NEON)** - DeAnna Winge at (218) 322-6503  
**Senior Community Service Employment (SCSEP)** - Anna Palo (218) 735-6849  
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** - Jeremiah Olson at (218) 327-6758  
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Outreach)** - Emily Sundeen at (218) 259-0285  
**YouthBuild** - DeAnna Winge at (218) 322-6503 or Randy Seaman at (218) 750-1893

**HOUSING SERVICES**

**Business Energy Retrofit Program (BER)** - Vince Meyer at (218) 735-6828  
**Downtown Building Rehab (DBR)** - Vince Meyer at (218) 735-6828

**SENIOR SERVICES**

**Nutrition: Senior Dining & Meals on Wheels** - Senior and Nutrition Services at (218) 735-6899  
**Senior Carnival/Expo** - Senior and Nutrition Services at (218) 735-6899  
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Outreach)** - Tracy Chase at (218) 259-4524 or email tracy.chase@aeoa.org or Marilyn Ocepek at (218) 748-7325 or email marilyn.ocepek@aeoa.org

**TRANSIT**

**Dial-a-Ride** - (800) 862-0175  
**Scheduled Services** - Visit www.arrowheadtransit.com or call (800) 862-0175  
**Volunteer Driver Program** - Nikki Jasura at (218) 735-6854 or Scott Olson at (218) 735-6886

Planning – KE 10/08/2021
**PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

**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 in-person and on-line.

**Adult Scholarship Program**
The Adult Scholarship Program is a scholarship offered through the support of the Blandin Foundation for adults 25 years of age and older who are Itasca County residents and are at, or below, 275% of the federal poverty guidelines. This scholarship assists adults with financial support to pursue post-secondary degrees that are in career areas that have labor market potential in the Itasca County area.

**CareerForce**
As a partner with CareerForce, AEOA provides under-employed and unemployed individuals with information on coping with unemployment, seeking and applying for employment, maintaining employment, as well as providing information on training opportunities and other forms of employment and training assistance. Job Clubs offer an opportunity for job seekers to network with other job seekers and to share experiences in their search for employment.

**Diversionary Work Program (DWP)**
DWP is a four-month program that helps low-income Minnesota families find a job. The program is aimed at helping participants obtain employment quickly and preventing them from needing additional public assistance services. Most families are enrolled in this program when they first apply for County assistance and can only be referred to AEOA by a County Financial Worker.

**Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM)**
The FAIM program is a matched savings project to help low-wage earners build assets through purchase of a home, pursuit of higher education, or launching a small business. Eligible participants can place up to $40 a month from their earned income into Family Asset Accounts which will be matched 3:1. Income limits apply, and participants are provided financial literacy and asset-specific education in either homeownership, college preparation, or business development.

**Free at Last & Freestyle**
The Free at Last and Freestyle programs are for at-risk youth who have been in County approved out of home placement. Freestyle is for youth that are 14 and 15 years of age, while Free at Last is for youth age 16 up to age 21. These programs focus on teaching independent living skills through experiential education, teamwork, and individual counseling. Participants attend weekly group meetings, take part in community service projects, and attend outdoor challenge activities. Youth that are homeless are also assisted.

**LIFE for Homeless Youth**
The LIFE program is a transitional housing program for homeless youth between the age of 18 and 24. Eligible youth are offered a menu of services to build a plan that will help stabilize their housing.
situations. Some of these services may include rental assistance, security deposits, utility assistance, moving expenses, and case management.

**Minnesota Dislocated Worker program (DW)**
DW helps workers who lost their job through no fault of their own find a new career. An individual typically must qualify for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to be eligible. DW staff work with the unemployed worker to re-enter the workforce in a stable job within a high-demand occupation. For eligibility to this program, you must be 18 years of age or older, worked six of the last 36 months, and have written documentation of your employment separation.

**Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)**
MFIP is the state’s public assistance program for low-income families with children. The program focuses on the overall family’s well-being and provides resources to move to employment quickly, whether this be through up-skilling or through help with interview and job search skills. Referral to this program can only be provided to AEOA by a County Financial Worker.

**Minnesota Family Resiliency Program (MFRP)**
MFRP is a program provided to individuals who have transitioned from a relationship through separation, divorce, death, or disability. You must have provided unpaid household services for at least two years, have lost your primary source of income, and now find that you must support yourself or your family. Employment Counselors help individuals seek employment, assist in budgeting, teach stress management skills, and provide guidance and support, among other things. There are limited financial resources to assist clients with training costs, transportation, childcare, and housing assistance.

**New Employment Opportunity Network (NEON)**
The New Employment Opportunity Network (NEON) program will help parents, ages 16 to 24, obtain short-term training needed to move into a career. Assistance is available for training, transportation, and other needs during the program.

**Senior Community Service Employment (SCSEP)**
SCSEP is designed to promote part-time, temporary employment through which program participants are engaged in community service and receive work experience and job skills that can lead to unsubsidized employment. It is AEOA’s goal to enhance employment opportunities for older individuals and to promote older workers as a solution for businesses seeking a trained, qualified, and reliable workforce. This program serves individuals age 55 and over and has income eligibility guidelines.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps, is a program provided to adults with or without children who are seeking employment. AEOA Employment Counselors help SNAP clients in gaining the appropriate skills and abilities to obtain employment to gain self-sufficiency.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Outreach)**
The Adult Education program provides screening to community members to help them determine if they are eligible for SNAP services. That goal is to help people make an informed decision about what hunger resources are available to them to ensure an overall successful transition from poverty to self-sufficiency.

**YouthBuild**
The YouthBuild program is for individuals between the age of 16 and 24 who have dropped out of school or are in an alternative school setting and are interested in developing skills in the construction field. Participants receive hands-on training in construction and carpentry skills while working toward their
GED or high school diploma. Construction projects focus on low-income housing and non-profit organizations.

**HOUSING SERVICES**

**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.

**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.

**SENIOR AND NUTRITION SERVICES**

**Nutrition: Senior Dining & Meals on Wheels**
AEOA’s Nutrition services provide a full spectrum of services for seniors to live healthy and independently. In addition to nutritious meals, the service includes nutrition screening, assessment, and education. A Registered Dietitian completes a nutritional analysis and approves the cycle menus. Meals comply with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans and provide a minimum of one-third of the dietary reference intakes established by the Food and Nutrition Board. The program specifically targets older adults 60 years of age or older with the greatest economic or social need, with attention to disabled, low-income, and minority individuals, as well as older adults in rural communities, older adults with limited English proficiency, and older adults at risk of institutional care.

a. **Bundled Service Program**—For dining patrons 60 years of age or older who live in remote areas, AEOA’s Bundled Services program makes twice-a-month deliveries to seniors that offers prepared meals that are frozen, food shelf commodities, and Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) food box. Bundled Services also serves as a safety net for participants as telephone contacts, and check-ins offer opportunities to convey their day-to-day concerns.

b. **Senior Dining**—Dining services are offered at numerous locations such as senior housing, community or senior centers, and some restaurants for individuals 60 years of age or older. Dining patrons enjoy the company of peers, great conversation, and meals that provide over 40% of the daily intake of most key ingredients. Dining is open to all individuals 60 years of age or older with the opportunity for a reduced rate. Call (218) 735-6899 for dining locations.

a. **Meals on Wheels**—Also known as Home Delivered Meals, this is a service for dining patrons 60 years of age or older who have been assessed and are deemed “homebound.” Once prepared, the meals are packed for home delivery by volunteers. Service is available at a discounted rate. For many home-delivered meals recipients, the volunteer delivering the meal may be the recipient’s only human contact of the day.
Senior Carnival/Expo
Annually, AEOA hosts an All-County Senior Carnival/Expo. This event is held in June. The event attracts hundreds of seniors of all ages from the seven-county region. The day is filled with fun and games, exhibitors, demonstrations, and entertainment. The event is decorated in a festive carnival theme so that attendees feel like they are attending an old-fashioned carnival.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Outreach)
AEOA’s Senior Services staff and the Adult Basic Education program provides screening to community members to help them determine if they are eligible for SNAP services. The goal is to help people make an informed decision about what hunger resources are available to them to ensure an overall successful transition from poverty to self-sufficiency.

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.

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 ten counties including Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Cook, Isanti, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, and St. Louis, and can perform medical rides in other counties in Greater Minnesota as requested by the insurance companies.