

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 19, 2020

**Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
ANNOUNCES PROGRAM SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS**

Virginia, MN - As of March 19, 2020 the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), has made several program service adjustments in order to keep the safety and health of our customers, employees, and community in the forefront.

As of today, the following program adjustments are in place.

Previously announced:

- Head Start classrooms have closed under the Governor's guidance for schools.
- Tax-Aid sites are closing.
- The Minnesota Power Conservation Improvement Program is closed until further notice.

Program adjustments as of March 19, 2020

- AEOA owned buildings are closed to the public at this time. A number of other buildings in which AEOA provides service are also closed to the public. If you must come for an in-person appointment or to drop off needed documents, call ahead for directions on how to do so.
- For up-to-date information on your local food shelf and other services see AEOA's main webpage www.aeoa.org
- Senior Nutrition congregate and community-based dining will be shifting to pick-up or take out where feasible. For your local information call 1-800-662-5711, extension 6899.
- The Weatherization Program has been shut down until further notice.
- All AEOA operated Adult Education (ABE) classrooms have been closed under the Governor's guidance for schools. E-learning and distance learning options are in place for students where feasible.
- All Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants are being placed on emergency sick leave at this time and are to no longer report to their host agency.
- Donations to Bill's House homeless shelter need to be coordinated ahead of time. Individuals wishing to donate should call 218-741-2063 prior to bringing in donations for directions on how to do so. AEOA's shelters are no longer able to take prepared food until further notice. All food donations must be in unopened containers.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold, AEOA will be making additional program adjustments to meet the needs of the community and those we serve. Any updates will be placed on our Agency website (www.aeoa.org) as they become available. We understand these adjustments may create hardships for those seeking assistance and we request patience as our staff works diligently to implement our services.

AEOA requests the following of those in our communities:

- We request that customers call before they come to our offices and stay home if they are sick.
- Many of AEOA's service volunteers are elderly and should self-quarantine. If you are healthy, please consider volunteering to assist our programs such as delivering food to the elderly or others with compromised immune systems. To do so call 1-800-662-5711, extension 6899.

Please know we are screening volunteers and request that you self-screen before calling. Do not volunteer if you or a loved one have traveled into an area where the COVID-19 virus is present or have shown signs of any illness in the last fourteen (14) days.

Scott Zahorik
AEOA Executive Director