

DID YOU KNOW?

580,000

Americans are homeless on a typical night

37%

Increase in UNSHELTERED population in St. Louis County since 2007

3,364

Turnaways at AEOA shelters since 2019

Lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest factors behind contributing to homelessness.

\$24.90

Average hourly wage needed to afford modest a two-bedroom rental home



20%

of homeless individuals are children

7,917

Minnesotans experienced homeless on a single night in January 2022

59%

Americans are one paycheck away from being homeless

606

people experiencing homelessness in St. Louis County on a typical night

63%

People served in AEOA shelters became successfully housed since 2019

40,000

Veterans are homeless on any given night

For many people and families, domestic violence is the primary cause of their homelessness



Sources:

moveforhunger.org
Feeding America 2021
endhomelessness.org
Charles Schwab 2019
HUD Exchange

AEOA
ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



WE ARE
*Stronger
Together*

Who are we?

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) is a private, nonprofit Community Action Agency with over 58 years as a major provider of self-sufficiency services to low-income and disadvantaged persons throughout Northeastern and Central Minnesota. The mission of AEOA is to strengthen communities by providing opportunities for people experiencing social and economic challenges. AEOA especially aims to serve historically marginalized, high-barrier populations, such as people experiencing homelessness, people of color, Veterans, women, young parents, previously incarcerated, LGBTQA+, and people with a physical and/or mental disability.

What are we doing?

Will be improving and relocating our emergency homeless shelter to a more centralized location which will be able to better serve more people.

Where is it located?

2313 E 3rd Ave. Hibbing, MN 55746

When will it open?

Our goal is to own the building by the end of the year. The facility will be opened in phases which will allow AEOA to provide shelter to residents as soon as possible during renovations.

Why are we doing this?

AEOA has been renting 18 rooms from the Rodeway and 2 scatter shelter sites in Hibbing which have been serving as an emergency shelter in this community. With these sites and Bill's House, we still had to turn away 3,364 people in the last 3 years. This new shelter will be an investment in the community which will provide supportive services to community members, including families that are escaping domestic violence and veterans.

With 56 rooms the new shelter benefits the community by providing a safe and stable place to stay for those that are not homed and would likely be sleeping on the streets. The shelter will be secured and staffed 24/7.

When individuals stay at our shelter, alcohol and drugs will not be permitted on the premises. and they will be provided services to support them to prosperity. Over the last 3 years 63% of clients that stayed in our shelters became successfully housed.

SERVICES PROVIDED

AEOA holds a “no wrong door” philosophy and works to connect clients to as many programs as possible to ensure their personal success. We have a strong and proud history of collaboration within the region and have developed many partnerships with service providers and public entities across the Agency's service area. Our history and capacity, combination of internal resources and our referral network combine to position us as the regional "go-to" Agency for emergency needs, food support, family support services, employment training, and transportation services.

Residents at our shelter are provided with countless resources to strengthen and support them to be able to become self-sufficient. These resources may include but are not limited to:

- On-going case management
- assistance filling out SNAP Application
- MNsure Navigation (provide health insurance)
- Chemical dependency services
- Expedited diagnostic assessment for mental health services
- Assistance with Section 8 Housing Application
- Access to local landlord list
- Access to food shelves
- Financial assistances for first month's rent deposit
- Legal Aid for any warrant resolutions
- Adult Basic Education (GED preparation)
- Head Start
- Assistance filing out financial assistance application
- Home buyer classes and down payment assistance
- English Language Learning program
- Tax Preparations services
- Arrowhead Transit
- Employment Services (resume assistance and interview preparation.)



SUCCESSFUL STORIES



Calvin is a single male who was residing at Bill's House (shelter in Virginia). He left the shelter and went out of state. He later came back and had a warrant for his arrest. Shelter staff were able to support him to work with a public defender who worked with him in getting the warrant quashed. Calvin engaged with shelter staff at Bill's House daily. Through our HSASMI grant, our staff connected him with substance use and mental health services as well as legal assistance which led to him winning an appeal at the HRA for housing. He now has stable housing, has his drivers license and has re-engaged with his family. Calvin is thriving.

Kari and her small son came to our shelter via Safe Haven shelter in Duluth. Despite the challenges she worked hard at finding housing with her Section 8 voucher. With the help of her Housing Case Manager, she found a unit for her and her son. AEOA was able to help her pay the security deposit on her unit. While in her new, place she went to school and graduated, gained full custody of her daughter, and also found a job in the field of her degree. She and her children have just bought a house!



Jessica is a single female who was residing at the Hibbing Shelter. Staff assisted Jessica to set up goals and complete applications for SNAP, General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, and housing. Budgeting was a priority for Jessica, so she would have funding to cover move-in costs. Jessica was approved for a 1-bedroom apartment with the Hibbing HRA. Emergency Assistance was enough to cover the move-in costs through the HRA, and they also donated a bed to Jessica. Jessica stated that having resources available and the help to get things sent in was great for her. Jessica also said that having somewhere consistent to be and not worrying about where she will sleep the next night was one of the main things that made her successful. Staff will help her complete the furniture program and Comforts of Home through United Way when she is ready at her new apartment.

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