AEOA strengthens communities by providing opportunities for people experiencing social and economic challenges.

We help the homeless find shelter, the jobless become employed, senior citizens remain independent, and the very young succeed in school. Last year, AEOA provided the following...

- AEOA’s Energy Assistance Program provided support to 8,791 households, including 2,645 crisis situations;
- Senior Nutrition provided 466,690 nutritious meals to seniors, roughly averaging 1,880 meals per day. Of those meals, 233,404 were delivered to older people who are homebound;
- Rural Rides provided 49,446 work-related rides to 604 people to obtain or maintain employment;
- Head Start provided child development and comprehensive support to 414 low-income children, aged birth to five, and their families;
- Housing Services assisted approximately 305 households that were homeless or at-risk of homelessness to find or maintain stable housing. Foreclosure counseling was provided to 75 households;
- One thousand three hundred twelve (1,312) people on Public Assistance were helped to meet employment-related needs. One hundred eighty (180) received their GEDs;
- One hundred twenty (120) households became first-time homebuyers;
- Two hundred (200) homes were weatherized;
- Arrowhead Transit provided 462,870 rides to passengers, totaling 1,589,443 miles.

Did you know:
- AEOA employs over 350 staff
- Maintained an average budget of over $30 million for the past three years
- Is one of Minnesota’s 100 largest non-profit agencies

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It’s a SNAP—Helping Low-Income Seniors Access Food

“I can now buy fresh fruit; it gave me something to eat for Easter dinner; made a difference in being able to eat some things I want, rather than skimping on everything. A nice blessing!”

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps put healthy foods within reach of low-income households. In addition, the program supports work and provides economic benefits to communities. Unfortunately, too many low-income people who are eligible for the program don’t participate.

Outreach and education are powerful tools in overcoming barriers to SNAP participation. AEOA’s Senior Services SNAP project has had tremendous success in assisting eligible seniors in making application for and enrolling in SNAP.

Over a nine-month time period, Kirsten Ryden, AEOA’s SNAP Outreach staff person, was able to provide educational presentations to over 300 seniors. Over 600 people received information in the mail or through brochures. She assisted 77 low-income people in filling out an application; and of those, 90% were approved for benefits. These results far surpassed our anticipated twelve-month projections of 150 educated through presentation, 30 assisted with application completion, and 25 being successful in receiving benefits.

AEOA Foundation Fund

“I fell on hard times because I was sick. I was out of work from November-June because of blastomycosis. I need tires to get to work and to keep my employment.”

This past year, the AEOA Foundation Fund helped more people than ever before, even though we restricted spending to car repair, limited homeless prevention, and medical concerns. Over 30 people received assistance that averaged $350 per person, and we spent approximately $12,000.

Vehicle repair was by far the greatest request. Most repairs were needed for work-related concerns, and the most frequent repairs were for brakes and tires.

Primary among medical concerns was paying for anesthesia for oral surgery for people over the age of 21. This cost isn’t covered by Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare.

“I do not believe that I could go through this procedure without something. Both of my wisdom teeth have to be split in half before they are removed, as the roots curve to each side.”

The AEOA Foundation Fund helps when there is no where else to turn.
Households with incomes between $40,000 and $80,000 can qualify

Northeastern Minnesota has some of the oldest housing stock in the state—some well over 70 years old. These old houses cost more to maintain and they aren’t as energy-efficient. Housing preservation is a priority to maintain affordable single-family housing opportunities.

That is where the Home Energy Improvement Program comes in. AEOA received $500,000 in funding from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) to provide homeowners and small landlords with assistance to improve the quality of their housing across the IRRRB service area. AEOA partners in this rehabilitation program include KOOTASCA Community Action and Lakes & Pines Community Action Council.

Eligible program improvements must result in energy conversation and efficiency. These improvements include window, door, siding, roofing and water heater replacements; furnace and ductwork replacements or upgrades; wall and ceiling insulation upgrades; and wind, solar, or geothermal installations. Fifty-five (55) loans have gone out to improve housing within 22 communities, expending $300,000.

Putting a Gender Lens on Workforce Development in Lake County

Providing skills training for low-income women workers to fill employer need

We know that a majority of people on Public Assistance are single-mom households. We also know that these women frequently enter Public Assistance due to the loss of a low-wage, low-skilled job. Yet, the jobs they are placed in following employment training are often likewise low-wage and low-skilled work. It doesn’t have to be that way. There are good-paying and in-demand non-traditional employment opportunities which skills training can prepare these women for. AEOA is engaging women and girls to consider the trades. These occupations pay living wages and represent the least gender-diverse positions in the region.

This year in Lake County, AEOA worked in a partnership with a community coalition including the Two Harbors Area Chamber of Commerce and employers, Mesabi Range Community & Technical College, the Lake Superior School District, and the IRRRB to bring post-secondary education in welding and millwright training to the North Shore. Forty-six percent (46%) of all workers in Lake County are women. In manufacturing, however, only 11% are women. AEOA received an Adult Workforce Education Grant from DEED to help under-represented students, including women, access this training. In addition, the Agency received funding from the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota to work toward social change, focusing on economic justice for women. Four women enrolled in the first welding cohort. In the course of this work, the Lake Superior School District discovered that girls seldom took advanced industrial technology classes. With the help of AEOA, the School District applied for and received funding from the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota to offer an all-girls shop class and employ additional strategies to engage girls in accessing the trades post highschool; and in so doing, building the local workforce needed by industry.

“This has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done—from being a high school drop-out to finishing college with highest honors!”

Helping homeowners and landlords with four units or less save 25%-35% of project costs. Grants between $2,500 and $10,000

Three thousand four hundred thirty-four (3,434) men are employed in the mining industry, but there are only 290 women in mining.
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Celeste White
Community Sector

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY
2013 ANNUAL BUDGET
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF 6/30/13 = $31,735,997
AEOA Programs and Services

Central Services: To guide, support, and unify AEOA services to maximize resources and ensure progress and accountability in carrying out the mission of the Agency

- Administration
- Fiscal Services
- Information Technology
- AEOA Foundation Fund
- Human Resources
- Planning

The mission of Employment & Training is to enhance the employability and skills of individuals so that they may achieve their life goals.

- Minnesota Family Investment Program
- Diversionary Work Program
- Food Support Employment & Training Program
- Adult Scholarship Program
- Adult Basic Education
- Job Skills Training
- Lives in Transition
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Dislocated Worker Program
- YouthBuild
- Free at Last
- Vocational Evaluation
- Work Experience Program
- Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota

Arrowhead Head Start works in community partnerships to provide comprehensive support to young children and families in need on their journey toward social and economic growth; together, we build a stronger future.

- Center-base
- Early Head Start Center
- Center/Home Combination
- Head Start Home-base
- Early Head Start Home Base
- In-home Counseling

The mission of Housing Services is to build communities by helping people meet their basic living needs; have affordable, quality housing; and to improve their quality of living.

- Single-family Rehabilitation Loans
- Multi-family Rental Rehabilitation Loans
- Homeownership Education & Financial Assistance
- Energy Assistance
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program
- Housing Technical Assistance for Communities
- Home Energy Improvement Program
- Homeless Programs & Shelters
- Housing Development
- Energy Conservation Education
- Weatherization
- Business Energy Retrofit Program

Senior Services helps older adults meet the demands of daily living while providing opportunities to improve the quality of their lives.

- Senior Nutrition Services
  - Senior Dining
  - Meals on Wheels
  - Bundled Services
  - SNAP Outreach & Application Assistance
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
  - Bone Builders Exercise Classes
- Northland Volunteer Services
  - Tax Aid Program
  - Cruisin’ to Wellness
- Food & Clothing Shelves
- Annual Senior Carnival

Arrowhead Transit provides affordable, safe, accessible public transportation and supports independent living and self-reliance.

- Arrowhead Transit
- Volunteer Driver Program
- Veteran’s Transportation
- Medical Transportation
- Rural Rides
AEOA Area Offices

Aitkin Office
321 Minnesota Avenue North
Aitkin, MN  56431
800-243-3209
(218) 927-7046;
(Fax) 927-5624

Cloquet WorkForce Center
Suite 140
14 North 11th Street
Cloquet, MN  55720
(218) 878-5000;
(Fax) 878-4409

Duluth WorkForce Center
402 West First Street
Duluth, MN  55802
(218) 302-8400;
(Fax) 723-4734

Duluth Energy Assistance/Weatherization
Housing Resource Connection
12 East Fourth Street
Duluth, MN  55805
(218) 623-3011

Ely Office
St. Louis County Government Service Center
320 Miners Drive East
Ely, MN  55731
(218) 365-3359 or 365-3137

Grand Marais Office
PO Box 331
Grand Marais, MN  55604
(218) 387-1134

Grand Rapids WorkForce Center
1215 SE Second Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN  55744
(218) 327-6746;
(Fax) 327-4179

Grand Rapids Service Center
421 SE 13th Street
Grand Rapids, MN  55744
(218) 327-1138;
(Fax) 327-0283;
800-642-6143 (Transit);
(218) 326-3505 (Transit)

Hermantown Family Resource Center
5028 Miller Trunk Highway
Duluth, MN  55811
(218) 729-5509 or 729-5510;
(Fax) 729-0370

Hibbing Office
2125 Second Avenue East
Hibbing, MN  55746
(218) 263-8487;
(Fax) 263-8235

Hibbing WorkForce Center
3920 13th Avenue East
Hibbing, MN  55746
(218) 262-6777;
(Fax) 262-7316

International Falls Office
Forestland Annex, Lower Level
1000 Fifth Street
International Falls, MN  56649
(218) 283-6271

International Falls WorkForce Center
Rainy River Community College
Room SC128
1501 Highway 71
International Falls, MN  56649
(218) 283-9427;
(Fax) 283-4042

Two Harbors Office
Norlen Industrial Park
2124 Tenth Street
Two Harbors, MN  55616
800-223-1850
(218) 834-2280;
(Fax) 834-5269

Virginia Central Office
702 Third Avenue South
Virginia, MN  55792-2797
800-662-5711;
(218) 749-2912;
(Fax) 749-2944

Virginia WorkForce Center
820 Ninth Street North
Virginia, MN  55792
(218) 748-2200;
(Fax) 748-2280

Adult Basic Education Learning Center
Room #18
327 First Street South
Virginia, MN  55792
800-662-5711, Ext. 6836;
(218) 749-4352;
(Fax) 749-4336

Arrowhead Transit
1001 Arrowhead Drive
Gilbert, MN  55741
(218) 741-0724;
(Fax) 741-5715

Arrowhead Weatherization
1001 Arrowhead Drive
Gilbert, MN  55741
(218) 749-2912;
(Fax) 748-7333

Virginia Youth Foyer
302 12th Street South
Virginia, MN  55792
(218) 735-6868

702 Third Avenue South, Virginia, MN  55792-2797
(218) 749-2912 ◊ 1-800-662-5711
http://www.aeoa.org