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: Paul Carlson
Department Directors: Julie Greenly (Employment & Training); Jim Glancy (Fiscal Services); Skip Ferris (Head Start); Cathy Pazzelli (Human Resources); Scott Zahorik (Housing Services and Assistant Executive Director); 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 is one representative of Aitkin County on the Board.

Number of staff members: Three (3) employees work in Aitkin County

Contact information: Birch Street Center, 20 3rd Street NE, Aitkin, MN 56431
(218) 735-6123, 800-243-3209; http://www.aeoa.org

In Aitkin County, AEOA served...

- Last year, approximately 80 people who were low-income, on public assistance, or were dislocated workers were assisted with employment- and/or education-related needs.
- Adult Basic Education provided service to 40 Aitkin County residents. This could include basic skills improvement, GED preparation, college and career readiness, employment skills, digital literacy, life skills, and English language learning.
- Senior Employment Programs provided nine (9) individuals with an opportunity to build a pathway into employment for our low-income, older citizens, ages 55 and older. Entering the workforce, they learn and apply new skills while earning a paycheck.
- The Business Energy Retrofit program assisted one (1) community business owner in achieving energy related improvements.
- Senior Nutrition provided 10,539 nutritious meals to seniors, roughly averaging 42 meals per day. Of those meals, 8,318 were delivered to older people who are homebound.
- Arrowhead Transit provided 13,458 rides to Aitkin County passengers, totaling 45,458 miles.
- Rural Rides provided 4,278 work-related rides to obtain or maintain employment.
- The Volunteer Driver Program had 19 volunteers and provided 833 rides.

AEOA is committed to continuing our strong partnership with Aitkin County. We are proud of the work we do to help struggling households meet their basic needs met; homebound seniors live in their own homes; and to help people find work and have the transportation to get there. We currently have three (3) people working in Aitkin County who contribute to the local economy and are very dedicated to the services they provide.