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 are two representatives of Cook County on the Board.

Number of staff members: Six (6) employees work in Cook County

Contact information: 15 North Broadway Avenue, Grand Marais, MN 55604 (218) 387-4547;
http://www.aeoa.org

In Cook County, AEOA served...

- Adult Basic Education provided service to eight (8) Cook County residents. This could include basic skills improvement, GED preparation, college and career readiness, employment skills, digital literacy, life skills, and English language learning.
- Last year, approximately 35 people who were low-income, on public assistance, or were dislocated workers were assisted with employment-related needs.
- Senior Employment Programs provided one individual 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.
- Housing Services assisted four (4) individuals who were homeless in the past year.
- AEOA’s Energy Assistance Program provided support to 192 households, including 75 crisis situations; and eight (8) energy-related repairs were provided.
- The Business Energy Retrofit program assisted five (5) community business owners in achieving energy related improvements.
- Arrowhead RSVP had 125 volunteers who donated over 9,978 hours, serving 16 Cook County non-profits, running the gamut from cultural heritage work to assisting natural resources organizations.
- RSVP Bone Builders in Cook County had one (1) site in Tofte with three (3) volunteers who served 201 hours leading Bone Builders classes.
- Senior Nutrition provided nutritious meals to seniors, roughly averaging 24 meals per day. Of those meals, 3,256 were delivered to older people who are homebound.

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• The Food Shelf served 381 individuals, providing over 49,617 pounds of food over 1,021 visits in calendar year 2018.
• Arrowhead Transit provided 18,946 rides to Cook County passengers, totaling 82,379 miles.
• Rural Rides provided 982 work-related rides to obtain or maintain employment.
• The Volunteer Driver Program had three (3) volunteers and provided 20 rides.

AEOA is committed to continuing our strong partnership with Cook 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 six (6) people working in Cook County who contribute to the local economy and are very dedicated to the services they provide.