Koochiching County Services

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 Koochiching County on the Board.

Number of staff members: Twenty (20) employees work in Koochiching County

Contact information: International Falls WorkForce Center, Rainy River Community College, 1501 Highway 71, Room SC128, International Falls, MN 56649; (218) 283-9427; Forestland Annex, Lower Level, 1000 5th Street, International Falls, MN 56649; (218) 283-6271; http://www.aeoa.org

In Koochiching County, AEOA served...

- Adult Basic Education provided service to nine (9) Koochiching 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 122 people who were low-income, on public assistance, or were dislocated workers were assisted with employment and/or education-related needs.
- Senior Employment Programs provided 10 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.
- Youth Programs provided 18 youth with a connection to a variety of services which include: teaching at-risk youth independent living skills through experiential education, teamwork and individual counseling; and services to build a plan to help stabilize their housing situations through rental assistance, security deposits, utility assistance, moving costs and case management.
- Senior Nutrition provided 30,652 nutritious meals to seniors, roughly averaging 122 meals per day. Of those meals, 8,863 were delivered to older people who are homebound.
- Arrowhead Transit provided 39,307 rides to Koochiching County passengers, totaling 116,423 miles.
- Rural Rides provided 7,992 work-related rides to obtain or maintain employment.
• The Volunteer Driver Program had 14 volunteers and provided 1,166 rides.

AEOA is committed to continuing our strong partnership with Koochiching 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 20 people working in Koochiching County who contribute to the local economy and are very dedicated to the services they provide.