Lake 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 are three representatives of Lake County on the Board.

Number of staff members: Seventeen (17) employees work in Lake County

Contact information: Norlen Industrial Park, 2124 10th Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616
(218) 834-2280; http://www.aeo.org

In Lake County, AEOA served...

- Adult Basic Education provided service to 18 Lake 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 four (4) 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 one (1) 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.
- Head Start provided child development and comprehensive support to 21 low-income children ages birth to five and their families.
- Housing Services assisted 14 individuals who were homeless in the past year.
- Housing Rehabilitation was performed on a total of four (4) homes to improve the condition of the homes.
- AEOA’s Energy Assistance Program provided support to 312 households, including 127 crisis situations; and 12 energy-related repairs were provided.
- Weatherization services were provided to one (1) home in Lake County.
• The Business Energy Retrofit program assisted three (3) community business owners in achieving energy related improvements.
• Senior Nutrition provided 23,663 nutritious meals to seniors, roughly averaging 94 meals per day. Of those meals, 8,884 were delivered to older people who are homebound.
• The Food Shelves served 102 individuals, providing over 18,767 pounds of food over 393 visits in calendar year 2018.
• Arrowhead RSVP had 294 volunteers who donated over 24,501 hours, serving 30 Lake County non-profits, running the gamut from cultural heritage work to assisting human service organizations.
• RSVP Bone Builders has four sites in Lake County with 18 volunteers who served 1,007 hours last year leading 234 participants taking part in the Bone Builders classes.
• AARP Tax Aid Program in Lake County had six (6) volunteers who gave 409 service hours to prepare taxes at no cost to lower-income residents and senior citizens.
• Arrowhead Transit provided 33,437 rides to Lake County passengers, totaling 106,837 miles.
• Rural Rides provided 1,762 work-related rides to obtain or maintain employment.
• The Volunteer Driver Program had 16 volunteers and provided 1,722 rides.

AEOA is committed to continuing our strong partnership with Lake County. We are proud of the work we do to help struggling households meet their basic needs; homebound seniors live in their own homes; people find work and have the transportation to get there and making sure that low-income children are prepared to enter kindergarten. We currently have 17 people working in Lake County who contribute to the local economy and are very dedicated to the services they provide.