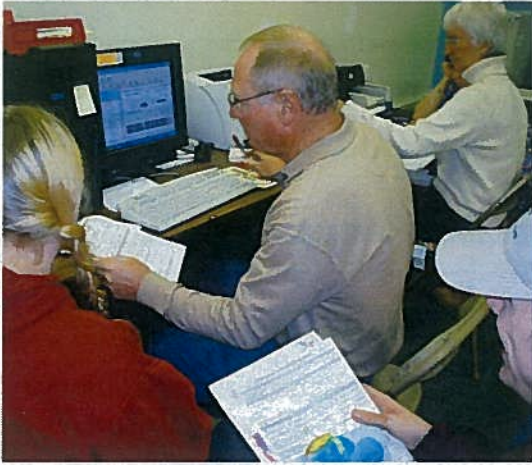


Arrowhead Economic

Opportunity Agency

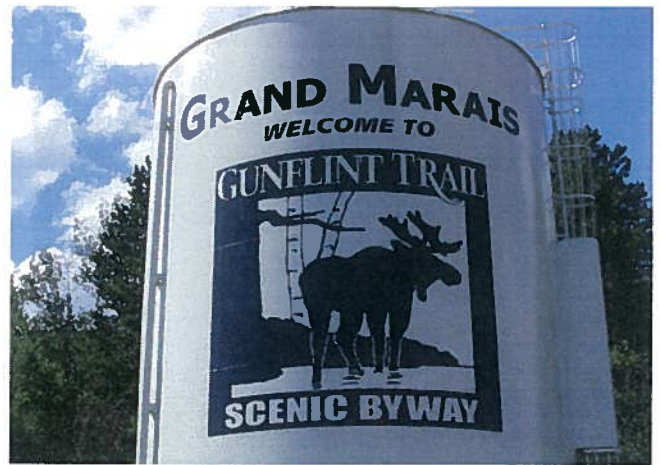
... strengthens communities by providing opportunities for people experiencing social and economic challenges



Expressions on Homelessness in Cook County

I wonder how some people make it—how they do it. It's almost impossible. Many people are renting; it's very difficult to buy. Most people have multiple jobs or side jobs. The cost of living is incredible. I try to pick up jobs as I can.—Cook County Resident

This past year, Planning and Housing Services designed and implemented an innovative interviewing outreach method to learn about poverty and homelessness in Cook County. To create better county connections, we spoke face-to-face with people who live in, work in, and enjoy Cook County. We talked to people from many different walks of life, people with many different views, and people who had been or were currently homeless. In all, we had conversations with 64 Cook County residents. We learned that there is homelessness in Cook County—for some people, it is situational; and for others, it is more long-term. We discovered that no one story explains why people become homeless in Cook County, but it is a mix of stories. Some from out-of-the-area end up here, without resources necessary to meet their basic needs; some are fleeing domestic violence; some have mental health and/or chemical dependency issues; and some are unable to find affordable housing. Common threads from our conversations included: *Affordable housing is a significant issue in Cook County, regardless of socio-economic status; the informal support network is very important to people who are struggling with basic needs; and the community believes in the responsibility to help others.*



AEOA hired more than 50 employees including auditors, crew members, program support, and production supervisors. Eighty percent (80%) of those hired had been unemployed prior to getting the job with AEOA. Production went so well that we were awarded performance funding to complete additional projects that included the installation of 30 solar air heat panels. This year, AEOA weatherized over 1,100 housing units and 1,018 of those were weatherized through ARRA funds.

Chill Out

Weatherizing Homes in the Northland

AEOA is one of the top three Weatherization providers in the state. AEOA Weatherization educates low-income people on ways to save energy and upgrades their heating and ventilation systems—often providing them with a 30%-40% savings in energy costs. Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) challenged AEOA to ramp up Weatherization services six-fold, increasing production from an average of 250 units per year to over 1,000. In order to accomplish this ramp-up,

I am writing to tell you how pleased I am with the solar furnace panels installed on the south wall of my home. A very professional job! I also appreciated that you all took the time to answer any questions that I had about the way the system works and the savings toward my heat expenses with my oil furnace—Weatherization Customer



Bringing COPE to Households of the Very Young

*I don't know that words can describe what Head Start has done for my family. Kathy and Kris have given Aleena the confidence she needs to master new things. Aleena looks out the window every Tuesday morning and waits in anticipation for her Head Start time. Only because of Head Start, Aleena is walking, crawling, and learning to play like she should be.—**Cathleen Zelinski, Aleena's Grandmother***

Project COPE (Conquering Obstacles to Parent Empowerment) is an intensive mental health

pilot project for Early Head Start families. At any one time, eight Early Head Start families are served. Project COPE was developed to help very challenged caregivers by strengthening the caregiver-child bond and increasing their skills, including parenting skills. This assistance minimizes social-emotional issues with their children. Project COPE prioritizes infants and toddlers who are at greater risk, including those who have very young parents or parents with mental health challenges; and those who are in foster care, are homeless, or involved with the child protection system. Families are provided in-home services through a team consisting of a Mental Health Specialist who works with the caregivers and an Educator who works with the children. The project is a collaborative with Range Mental Health Center (RMHC).

"We all knew about the disparity issue and have been living with it long before we became jobless, homeless, and powerless. To discuss this topic out in the open is a bit liberating."

Sharon Williams
Native American Job Coach

Providing Employment Programming for People of Color

Unemployment strikes a higher percentage of Minnesotans of color than white Minnesotans. In 2009, the unemployment rate for white Minnesotans was 7.1%; for African Americans, it was nearly 23%; and for Native Americans, it was between 35% and 40%. Nationally, Minnesota is second, only to Wisconsin, in this racial disparity in unemployment. With funding from St. Louis County, AEOA was helped to address this inequity in communities that we serve.

AEOA began the Disparity Project by hosting a listening session for people of color. Participants at the session were asked to talk about barriers they face daily when seeking employment. Participants also identified community assets for people of color that included an exceptional education system, good access to services, and caring Counselors who assist in developing creative solutions to employment barriers.

The Disparity Project has two Minority Job Coaches who work with African Americans and Native Americans on the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) to help them find and retain employment. Over the course of this project, 51 people of color have participated; and approximately 40% have found or maintained employment. Major employment barriers include transportation, child care, mental health issues, criminal background issues, and racism.

"As a Minority Job Coach, it is my aim to level the playing field. Simply having another person in your corner can make a difference; 80% of my clients are now working. I think that speaks to the fact that this racial disparity can be overcome and that this project will make major strides in doing so."

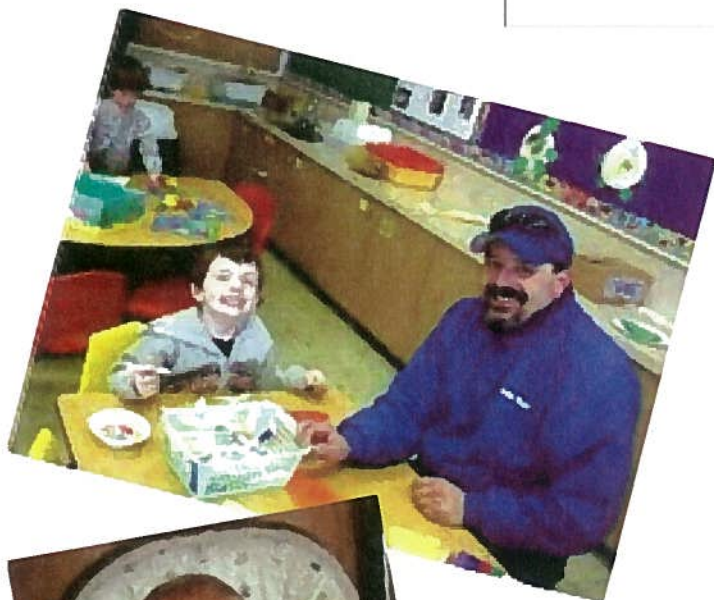
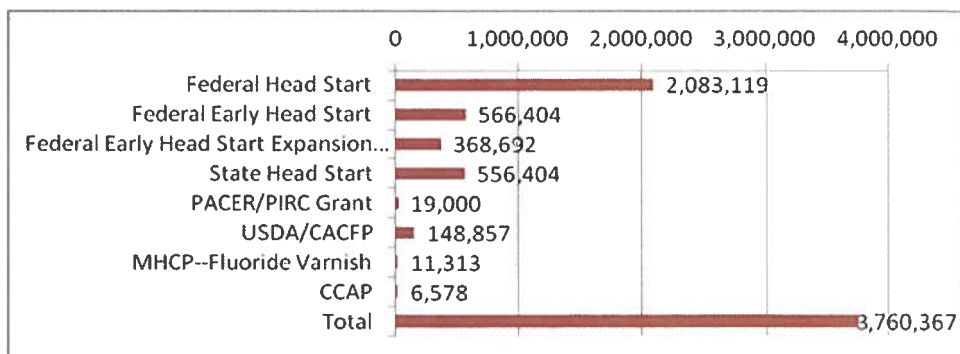
Dominique Allen
African American Job Coach

ARROWHEAD HEAD START ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

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

FUNDING

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES	
Federal Head Start	2,083,119
Federal Early Head Start	566,404
Federal Early Head Start Expansion (ARRA)	368,692
State Head Start	556,404
PACER/PIRC Grant	19,000
USDA/CACFP	148,857
MHCP—Fluoride Varnish	11,313
CCAP	6,578
Total	3,760,367



ENROLLMENT

TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED

Program	Number Served 10-11
Head Start	341
Early Head Start	115
Program-wide	456

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

Program	Funded Enrollment	Number Served 10-11
Head Start	332	362
Early Head Start (includes ARRA)	91	124
Program-wide	423	486

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

Program	Funded Enrollment	Average Enrollment
Head Start	330	329
Early Head Start	91	90
Program-wide	421	419

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN SERVED

Program	Applications Received	Eligible Children Served	Percentage
Head Start	585	341	58%
Early Head Start	259	115	44%
Program-wide	844	456	54%

87 Head Start children had a diagnosed disability (18%)

63 children received mental health services (15%)

16 Early Head Start infants or toddlers had a diagnosed disability (14%)

MEDICAL & DENTAL EXAMS

Program	Dental	Physical
Head Start	358	362
Early Head Start	101	101
Total	459	463
Percentage of Enrolled	94%	96%

108 (of 754) parents reported either a physical, mental health, or both disability (14%)

PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

From the very first meeting with the family, parents are offered the opportunity to be involved with the program. Parents attend site parent meetings; serve on Policy Council; and the Health Advisory, Early Childhood & Family Service, Mental Health & Disabilities, and EHS Advisory Committees. They have opportunities to participate in several parent trainings including the MHSA Parent Training Conference, Bemidji State University’s Parenting Weekend, and the Early Childhood MEGA Conference at BSU. Parents are always welcome in the classroom by helping with or leading activities or projects, attending field trips, planning classroom activities with the teaching staff, and introducing or sharing their culture with the class. There are a number of ways that parents help teaching staff including sharing opinions, ideas, and thoughts; working on projects at home; communicating with the staff; helping other parents feel welcome; and reinforcing learning at home.

As their child’s first and most important teacher, parents have an important role in the program. Along with regular site and committee meetings, there are family events planned at each site. Literacy; male involvement; *I Am Moving, I Am Learning*; *Picturing America*; *Strong Safe Child*; and other areas of family interests are done at these family events. Many of these family events are coordinated with the school’s Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE).

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

From the time they enter Head Start, children are being prepared for their educational careers. Teaching staff focus on building children’s skills in the areas of social/emotional development, physical development, cognitive development, language and literacy, math, and science. A skills assessment is completed on each child to determine their strengths and needs to better serve the child. The curriculum is focused on teaching children the skills they need to be successful in school. Teachers conduct home visits and conferences with parents to discuss how their child is progressing throughout the year. We have incorporated the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) in all our pre-school classrooms and plan to implement the Toddler CLASS when available in our Early Head Start program.

Head Start teachers collaborate with local school districts, supporting Kindergarten/School Readiness. Most pre-school classrooms are located in public school buildings. This allows Head Start children to participate in school and community activities such as visits to the school and public libraries, as well as special school events. We work in partnership with local school districts to ensure a seamless transition into Kindergarten. In the spring, Head Start teachers coordinate various field trips and events to familiarize children and parents with the expectations of their new school. Head Start teachers meet with Kindergarten teachers, principals, and school nurses to discuss the children who will be entering Kindergarten. Head Start coordinates the transfer of children’s educational files to the school, avoiding duplicative efforts.

MONITORING REVIEW

Based on the information gathered during our tri-ennial review the week of October 17, 2010, it was determined that our Head Start and Early Head Start programs are in compliance with all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements. Our ARRA Early Head Start Expansion was also reviewed with the same results. Accordingly, no corrective actions are required.

AUDITS

Walker, Giroux, Hahne, Ltd., conducted the annual financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2010. AEOA is in compliance with the requirements described in the US Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Circular A-133. All our documents are available for public inspection.

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
- Family Child Care Homes
- 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
- Homeless Programs & Shelters
- Housing Development
- Energy Conservation Education
- Weatherization

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
 - Nutrition Education
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Northland Volunteer Services
 - Tax Aid Program
- Relatives as Parents (RAP)
- Food & Clothing Shelves
- St. Louis County Coordinator on Aging
 - Annual Senior Carnival
- Trip Excursions

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

- Arrowhead Transit
- 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 Office

Suite B
3112 Truck Center Drive
Duluth, MN 55806
(218) 624-7625 or
628-0877; (Fax) 624-7679
(Weatherization/Energy
Assistance)

Duluth WorkForce Center

Government Services Center
Suite 205
320 West Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 733-2045 (Employment
& Training)

Ely Office

St. Louis County Government
Service Center
320 Miners Lake 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 Outreach 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

Norden 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
(TDD) 800-862-0175
(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. 400
(218) 749-4352;
(Fax) 749-4336

Arrowhead Transit

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

Arrowhead Weatherization

1406 Fourth Street South
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 741-2215; (Fax) 748-
7333

Virginia Youth Foyer

302 12th Street South
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 258-0052



702 Third Avenue South, Virginia, MN 55792-2797
(218) 749-2912 ♦ 1-800-662-5711 ♦ 1-800-862-0175 (TDD)
<http://www.aeo.org>

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**ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY
2011 ANNUAL BUDGET
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF 6/30/11 = \$34,009,050**

