

2025 ARDC WORK PLAN

For questions, please contact Kristi Kane (kkane@ardc.org), (218)-244-9639

Updated for 1/15/26 Board and Commission Meeting

**A Compilation of
Three Divisions and
Operations**



| 2025 Active ARDC MIC Division Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe or Full Region |
|---|---|---|
| SS4A MIC-Area Safety Action Plan | <p>Background:</p> <p><i>The MIC received a FY 2023 federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program in the amount of \$250,000, with a required local match of \$62,500 to produce a comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The goal of this plan is to make our roads safer for everyone —and ultimately to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on jurisdictional roadways throughout the greater Duluth-Superior area.</i></p> <p><i>This planning initiative, anticipated to take 18-24 months to complete, will build upon the Phase 1, 2, and 3 technical crash data analysis work conducted by AECOM.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <p>With transportation discretionary programs (SS4A included) receiving recent increased scrutiny at the USDOT level in DC, we've chosen to await more definitive word that this grant will remain viable over the projected timeframe of the project (through 2026), as well as seeking guidance in regard to various aspects of our proposed Scope of Work.</p> <p>The MIC is still very much committed to the goals of the SS4A program and to completing our Safety Action Plan. The planning process will be undertaken in CY2025-2026 and will be consultant-led with an anticipated start date of early-to mid-June.</p> | Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area) |



| 2025 Active ARDC MIC Division Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe or Full Region |
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| | <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RFP solicitation to hire a consultant was released on May 15, 2025, and six proposals were received from qualified consulting firms by the June 11 deadline. The selection committee convened on June 18 to review and score the submissions. The panel determined that the proposals were too closely tied, so a brief virtual interview will be held with each consulting firm in mid-July to identify the best candidate. The goal is to have a contract signed by July 31, with consultant work to begin shortly thereafter. <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a second round of evaluation, Zan Associates was selected to lead the MIC’s Safety Action Plan. With the comprehensive, data-driven Safety Analysis of the MIC area transportation network completed in 2024, a key strength of Zan’s proposal was their approach to public engagement—working with community members, elected officials, jurisdictional decision-makers, and the media. A kickoff meeting was held on September 15th to introduce the planning team and lay the groundwork for each phase of the Safety Action Plan. A second team meeting was held on September 24th to discuss public engagement and discuss the formation of the Zest Group. The Zest group will be comprised of up to ten key partners that will work to identify key voices we need to hear from throughout the public engagement process and the audiences we need to reach. | |



| 2025 Active ARDC MIC Division Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe or Full Region |
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| | <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MIC moved into Phase 2 of its Safety Action Plan work, building on the technical analysis completed in Phase 1 and is guided by the U.S. DOT’s Safe System Approach. Key activities will include updating data analysis, engaging with stakeholders and the public, and refining project and policy recommendations. • Tim Burkhardt of Alliant Engineering, the project sub-consultant, provided an overview of the Phase 2 work at the December TAC meeting, and asked members to review and validate a draft list of transportation safety-related plans, policies, and processes published by agencies with jurisdiction over roadways within the MIC planning area. The team’s policy and process review will inform the recommendations of the Safety Action Plan and suggest ways to connect safety-related policies and processes to one another, an important step toward achieving the goal of zero road deaths and serious injuries. • Latasha Jennings-Dedina of Zan Associates, the MIC’s project consultant, provided an overview of the Phase 2 work at the MIC meeting in December, and began one-on-one stakeholder interviews with Policy Board members, focused on committing to a goal of zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in the Duluth-Superior area. | |



| 2025 Active ARDC MIC Division Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe or Full Region |
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| Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning, Coordination, & Implementation | <p>Objective: <i>To work in coordination with local jurisdictions and advocacy groups to make it safer and more convenient for people to walk and ride bicycles throughout the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Area.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 Duluth-Superior Bicycle Transportation Plan was approved at the March 19, 2025, MIC Policy Board meeting. The Plan is intended to function as an adaptable working document to be used by roadway jurisdictions to inform the bicycle-related elements of major transportation projects. • Facilitated the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) consisting of representatives from local and state jurisdictions, organizations and agencies. • Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding: The MIC facilitates consensus amongst its constituent jurisdictions to determine the projects that will receive the CRP funds allocated to our planning area. 2027 Minnesota CRP funds were approved at the March Policy Board meeting for a City of Duluth project that will add bike parking racks in convenient locations for both major events and everyday destinations, to encourage and support alternative, active transportation options. • Participated in St. Louis County roadway planning efforts for Lowell Elementary to improve the safety at the school and at the intersections of Rice Lake Road and Arrowhead Road. | Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area) |



| 2025 Active ARDC MIC Division Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe or Full Region |
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| | <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BPAC met on May 1 with a full agenda covering a variety of topics, including a debrief and discussion of next steps regarding implementing the recently approved 2025 Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan, key takeaways from a recent bike and ped design training, updates of bike and ped concerns related to the 40th Avenue West and 26th Avenue East/London Road roundabout projects. MIC staff continue to participate in the St. Louis County roadway planning efforts for Lowell Elementary to improve the safety at the school and at the intersections of Rice Lake Road and Arrowhead Road. MIC staff hosted an informational table at the 'Building Great Places' event held at Zeitgeist on May 28th. Staff engaged with the public with a focus on our recent 2025 Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan. <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BPAC met on August 7th with a full agenda that included a presentation and discussion on the London Road (MN61) project. Other topics included the periodic review and update of the bylaws, a restructuring of subcommittees, and the scope of work for ARDC and the MIC partnering on Safe Routes to School planning with Duluth Public Schools. A special meeting of the BPAC was held on August 12th to discuss changes to a resolution that was brought forward regarding the London Road project. | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIC and ARDC staff joined the Duluth Public Schools Safe Routes to School Coordinator at two open house events on August 27th and 28th. Community members also joined to help with tabling to help reach as many schools as possible on the primary open house night, Wednesday, August 27th. At schools with staff or community volunteers present, tables were set up with “dotmocracy” posters and students, parents, and school staff were asked to provide their top 3 reasons why students do not walk or bike to school and their top 3 ways to encourage and allow more students to walk or bike to school. Additionally, information was provided about the Safe Routes to School planning initiative and parents were encouraged to watch for upcoming emails about future data collection volunteer opportunities. <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BPAC met on November 6 with a full agenda and a primary discussion topic of the BPAC bylaws update. Jurisdiction representatives gave updates on a variety of active transportation elements of upcoming projects. The MIC sent out notification of two Industry Representative positions that are open seats on the BPAC committee. Applications will be accepted through January 29th 2026. PDF <u>BPAC New Member Application.pdf</u> | |



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| Roadway Planning Coordination & Implementation | <p>Objective: <i>To continue the MICs role in roadway planning by working cooperatively with jurisdictions within the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Entrance: Coordinated with MnDOT and their consultant by participating in the project steering committee and promoted their public and stakeholder engagement activities for this upcoming major project. • Blatnik Bridge: Coordinated with MnDOT and WisDOT by providing updates to the MIC Policy Board and TAC about potential traffic impacts and mitigation strategies. <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MnDOT Corridors of Commerce: Recently the MIC, working with the local DOT office, submitted a \$6M request for funding to reconstruct and extend the I-35 truck climbing lane along Thompson Hill. The application is based on recommendations from the study from the MIC's recent Duluth Area I-35 Plan, and funding, if granted, would allow the DOT to initiate scoping for this project. We are collecting support letters for the project from the City of Duluth, St. Louis County and the Duluth Chamber of Commerce. • Another support letter is being provided on behalf of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority for this same program, aimed at funding improvements to the (long-problematic) low clearance rail bridge | Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area) |



| 2025 Active ARDC MIC Division Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe or Full Region |
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| | <p>along US Highway 2 just to the west of the juncture of Hwy 2 and State Hwy 194. The project might either replace the existing bridge or lower the roadway at this location.</p> <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blatnik Bridge (I535) Planning: Pat Huston from MnDOT gave an update on the project at the August TAC and MIC Policy Board meetings. The RFP preparation work is underway for the procurement of a contractor/design firm. MIC staff continue to monitor the implementation process and timeline of this project and provide updates to our committees. • Twin Ports Interchange: Peter Marthaler from MnDOT gave an update on the progress of the project at the August TAC and MIC Policy Board meetings. Remaining work includes deck overlays, painting, lighting, signs and under bridge parking at Michigan and 1st Street. Most notably, the project is on track to be completed by the middle of October, with a ribbon cutting ceremony to occur on October 6th. <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funding: In October, the MIC submitted three letters of support for three St. Louis County applications for FY 2029 and 2024 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding. Each proposed project involves the construction of a J-Turn at a key intersection within the MIC planning area and aligns closely with our regional safety and mobility priorities. | |



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| | <p><u>US 53 and CR 889 (Solway Road)</u> – Estimated Cost: \$600,000 <u>US 53 and CSAH 9/CR 859 (Caribou Lake Road)</u> – Estimated Cost: \$600,000 <u>US 53 and CSAH 15/CR 223 (Munger Shaw Road)</u> – Estimated Cost: \$750,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blatnik Bridge (I535) Planning: Pat Huston from MnDOT gave an update on the project at the December HTAC meeting. The MIC’s 2019 Diversion Study was helpful in preparing for service outages due to the bridge closure. MIC staff continue to monitor the implementation process and timeline of this project and provide updates to our committees. • Superior Urbanized Area Functional Classification Changes: WisDOT proposed four classification changes to the Superior Urbanized Area; two of which were approved at the December MIC Policy Board meeting. | |
| <p>Long-range Planning Coordination & Implementation</p> | <p><i>Objective: To implement the goals and objectives of the MIC’s long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Sustainable Choices 2050, to support the realization of the plan’s vision over the next 5 to 25 years.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated processes to incorporate the new Performance-Based Planning approach. • Met with jurisdictions to discuss the implementation changes and | <p>Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area)</p> |



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| | <p>how they may affect jurisdictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted the 2025 MnDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets to support the Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP). <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated processes to incorporate the new Performance-Based Planning approach (ongoing throughout 2025). Met with jurisdictions to discuss the implementation changes and how they may affect jurisdictions. (ongoing throughout 2025) <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated processes to incorporate the new Performance-Based Planning approach (ongoing throughout 2025). Met with jurisdictions to discuss the implementation changes and how they may affect jurisdictions. <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated processes to incorporate the new Performance-Based Planning approach (ongoing throughout 2025). <p>Met with jurisdictions to discuss the implementation changes and how they may affect jurisdictions.</p> | |



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| Harbor Planning Coordination & Implementation | <p>Objective: <i>To continue the MICs role of port and harbor planning and provide a forum for interagency discussion and cooperation on intermodal transportation issues within the Duluth-Superior harbor.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the quarterly meeting of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). • Provided a forum for interagency discussion and cooperation on harbor-related issues, primarily including but not limited to dredging, navigation, environmental, business, and recreation topics. • Reported on HTAC activities to the MIC Policy Board. <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the quarterly meeting of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). • Provided a forum for interagency discussion and cooperation on harbor-related issues, primarily including but not limited to dredging, navigation, environmental, business, and recreation topics. • Reported on HTAC activities to the MIC Policy Board. <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the quarterly meeting of the Harbor Technical Advisory | Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area) |



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| | <p>Committee (HTAC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a forum for interagency discussion and cooperation on harbor-related issues, primarily including but not limited to dredging, navigation, environmental, business, and recreation topics. • Reported on HTAC activities to the MIC Policy Board. <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the quarterly meeting of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). • Provided a forum for interagency discussion and cooperation on harbor-related issues, primarily including but not limited to dredging, navigation, environmental, business, and recreation topics. • Reported on HTAC activities to the MIC Policy Board. | |



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| MIC Administration | <p>Objective: <i>To ensure a coordinated and effective transportation planning process is carried out within the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIC Director, Ron Chicka traveled to DC to meet with colleagues from AMPO and to meet with congressional and senate representatives, to discuss the work of the MIC in the Duluth-Superior area. • Kept MIC Board members updated on the status of the federal funding bill. • Kept MIC Board members updated on the reauthorization of the transportation bill, which is due to expire in September 2026. <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIC Director Ron Chicka attended the Wisconsin MPO Director's Meeting, as well as the MN MPO Director's Meeting. While in attendance, he met with colleagues from other regional MPO's as well as representatives from the DOTs from each state. • Updated MIC Board members on the reauthorization of the transportation bill, which is due to expire in September 2026, reviewed the MIC and AMPO priorities for this next round of funding. • Organized and held three TAC/Policy Board meetings to process business items, as well as gave presentations on current projects to keep members informed. | Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area) |



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| | <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIC Director Ron Chicka attended the national AMPO conference in early September and met with colleagues from across the country to discuss best practices while legislation is being formed for the next transportation bill. • MIC Director Ron Chicka, along with other MIC planning staff, attended the WI MPO Director’s meeting. While in attendance, staff met with colleagues from other regional MPO’s as well as representatives from the DOTs from each state. Organized and held two TAC/Policy Board meetings to process business items, as well as giving presentations on current projects to keep members informed. <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized and held two TAC/Policy Board meetings to process business items, as well as giving presentations on current projects to keep members informed. • Began the process to review and update the MIC Joint Powers Agreement between ARDC and NWRPC. • Began the process to review and update the MIC Policy Board Bylaws. • Reviewed Minnesota Open Meeting Laws and how they relate to the committees of the MIC. | |



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| Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) | <p><i>Objective: To develop the Duluth and Superior-area Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPS) for submission to federal and state sources. The MPO is charged with developing and promoting programs and projects that best meet the needs of the regional transportation network.</i></p> <p>First Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with member jurisdictions to discuss possible project submittals. • Presented proposed 2029 TIP projects to the MIC Policy Board for approval to receive federal transportation funds. • Assisted MnDOT with Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) as a member of the steering committee and work group. • Processed Amendments and administrative modifications to the current TIPS in response to requested changes in project schedules and/or scopes of work and conduct public engagement in accordance with the MICs Public Involvement Plan. <p>Second Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing to update and revise the draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP. Jurisdictional input was sought in advance of the release for the 30-Day Public Comment Period. • Presented the preliminary draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP to the | Duluth/Superior (MIC MPO Planning Area) |



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| | <p>TAC/Policy Board and requested approval for its release for a 30-Day Public Comment Period beginning on July 14th and continuing through August 13th, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments are invited and encouraged via any of the three virtual public meetings (via MS Teams), scheduled for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, <u>July 24: 10-11 AM</u> • Thursday, <u>July 24: 5-6 PM</u> • Tuesday, <u>July 29: 12-1 PM</u> • Processed Amendments and administrative modifications to the current TIPs in response to requested changes in project schedules and/or scopes of work and conduct public engagement in accordance with the MIC's Public Involvement Plan. <p>Third Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared and presented the draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP to the TAC/Policy Board at the August meetings and reviewed the comments received from the Public Comment Period. All comments received were issued a response and incorporated into the final draft document for review. • Prepared and presented the Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP to the TAC/Policy Board for approval. The TIP was approved at the September 17, 2025 Policy Board meeting. Processed Amendments and administrative modifications to the current TIPs in response to requested changes in project schedules and/or scopes of work and conduct public engagement | |



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| | <p>in accordance with the MIC's Public Involvement Plan.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processed (18) Amendments and (1) administrative modifications to the current TIPs in response to requested changes in project schedules and/or scopes of work and conduct public engagement in accordance with the MIC's Public Involvement Plan • Applications were distributed to Duluth area jurisdictions for the Surface Transportation Block Grant program, Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Transportation Alternatives (TA) program, and the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, Cost-effective Transportation program (PROTECT). Applications for each of these programs are due January 9, 2026. | |





Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging

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Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging List of 2025 Grantees, Funded Services, Contacts Geographic Area Served

The AAAA is committed to helping older people maintain their highest level of independence by developing and coordinating community care, reducing isolation and improving access to services.

This list includes a list of Older American's Act funded services. Please note that each of the agencies listed offers additional services for older adults and caregivers and may or may not use the same enrollment or eligibility process.

The AAAA administers the Title III Federal Older Americans Act funds by awarding funding to local community providers to provide supportive services, transportation, caregiver support, health promotion and disease management, home delivered meals and congregate dining.

For 2025, the AAAA has awarded grants to 16 agencies with Title III Federal Older Americans Act and other federal and state funds totaling over \$2.5 million.

Older American's act funding is targeted to low-income and minority residents over the age of 60 in the region. With a special emphasis on frail and rural residents. The programs offer a sliding fee scale cost share payment system where the consumer self-reports their income and pays what they can afford. The programs may send a statement about the cost of the services, but they cannot carry a balance forward for the consumer.

| Name | Contact Number/Email | Funded Services | Areas Served | Grant Amounts |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Age Well Arrowhead | 218-623-7800 Mary Bovee maryb@agewellarrowhead.org information@agewellarrowhead.org | Chore Consultation Homemaker Assisted Transportation Caregiver Counseling Respite | Duluth Area, Proctor, Hermantown, Townships and various locations to the east and north of Duluth | IIIB - \$28,800 IIIE - \$21,360 |
| Aitkin County CARE | 218-927-1383 Amy Wyant aitkincountycare@gmail.com Kim Nutting, Program Director | Assisted Transportation Chore Consultation Evidence-Based Health Promotion Respite/Caregiver Counseling/Support Groups | Aitkin County | IIIB - \$17,267 IIIE - \$20,000 IIID - \$5,464 |
| Angels of McGregor | 218-768-2762 Beth Anderson, Director Angels2joan@gmail.com | Assisted Transportation Chore Consultation Visiting Homemaker | Aitkin County | IIIB - \$15,000 |
| AEOA | 218-748-7325 Marilyn Ocepek, Senior Services Director Marilyn.ocepeck@aeoa.org Betty Udovich, Senior Services Manager 218-748-7323 Kathy Irish, Assistant Director, Senior Services | Homemaker (Grocery Delivery) Senior Dining Home Delivered Meals | Iron Range Communities Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis Counties Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, | IIIB - \$16,988 IIIC1 - \$642,364 IIIC2 - \$540,477 Other (State & NSIP) - TBD |

Title IIIB – Supportive Services

Title IIIC – Nutrition Services

Title IIID – Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Services

Title IIIE – Caregiver Support Services



Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging

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| Name | Contact Number/Email | Funded Services | Areas Served | Grant Amounts |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | Lake, and St. Louis counties | |
| Care Partners of Care Partners of Cook County | 218-387-3788 Julie Wilson, Executive Director julie@carepartnersofcookcounty.org | Assisted Transportation Homemaker/Grocery Delivery Telephone Reassurance Caregiver Counseling Respite | Cook County | IIIB - \$18,000 IIIE - \$20,362 |
| ElderCircle | 218-999-9233 Amy Yost, Executive Director renee@eldercircle.org Barb Watson, ElderCircle Program Director | Assisted Transportation Evidence-Based Health Promotion Respite, Group Ed. ADS Counseling Supplemental Services (Technology) | Itasca and North St. Louis County | IIIB - \$40,966 IIIE - \$43,921 IIID - \$10,979 |
| Lighthouse Center for Vital Living | 218-624-4828 Mary Junnila, Executive Director mjunnila@lcfvl.org | Technology Consultation | Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis counties | IIIB - \$37,552 |
| Floodwood Services and Training | 218-476-2230 Dawn Lamping, Executive Director dlamping@fst2b.org | Chore Consultation | Floodwood, Brookston, Meadowlands areas | IIIB - \$14,400 |
| Koochiching Aging Options | 800-950-4630 Douglas Skrief, Executive Director Douglas.skrief@co.koochiching.mn.us Kari Miggins, Program Specialist | Caregiver Counseling Large Group Information Events | Koochiching County | IIIE - \$14,322 |

Title IIIB – Supportive Services

Title IIIC – Nutrition Services

Title IIID – Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Services

Title IIIE – Caregiver Support Services

| Name | Contact Number/Email | | Funded Services | Areas Served | Grant Amounts |
|---|---|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | Kristy Wagner-Werner, Caregiver Consultant | | | | |
| Legal Aid Service of Northern MN | 218-623-8100 Kristin Parendo kparendo@lasnem.org Ellen Anderson eanderson@lasnem.org | | Legal Assistance and Legal Education | Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis counties | IIIB - \$55,000 |
| Northwoods Partners | 218-365-8019 Lisa Porthan lisa@northwoodspartners.org | | Assisted Transportation Evidence-Based Health Promotion Caregiver Counseling | Ely area | IIIB - \$13,123 IIIE - \$10,000 |
| North Shore Area Partners | 218-226-3635 Kelly Looby director@nsapartners.org | | Assisted Transportation Homemaking Counseling Respite | Lake County Silver Bay area, Finland, Isabella, Little Marais | IIIB - \$22,406 IIIE - \$17,115 |
| Volunteer Services of Carlton County | 218-879-9238 Jill Hatfield jhatfield@vscci.com Barb VanReese Kris Dwyer | | Consultation Homemaking Chore Assisted Transportation Respite/Caregiver Counseling | Carlton County and Duluth area Carlton County | IIIB - \$25,000 IIIE - \$22,250 |
| Duluth Family YMCA | 218-722-4745 Jeramy Katchuba jkatchuba@duluthymca.org | | Evidence-Based Health Promotion | Duluth, Proctor, Hermantown | IIID - \$15,000 |

Title IIIB – Supportive Services

Title IIIC – Nutrition Services

Title IIID – Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Services

Title IIIE – Caregiver Support Services



Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging

A Division of ARDC

Title IIIB – Supportive Services
Title IIIC – Nutrition Services
Title IIID – Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Services
Title IIIE – Caregiver Support Services



**Arrowhead Area
Agency on Aging**
A Division of ARDC

2025 Minnesota Aging Pathways Outreach Events and Presentations

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|-----------|--|------------------|---------|-----------|---|
| Presentation | 1/8/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Presentation | 1/8/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You | No | Virtual | Virtual | Essentia Health |
| Presentation | 1/8/2025 | Ageism in Healthcare (Grand Rounds) | No | Virtual | Virtual | Essentia Health |
| Panel | 1/14/2025 | Workforce Solutions Panel | No | Duluth | St. Louis | NorthForce |
| Presentation | 1/16/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | Arrowhead SLL and Dancing Sky |
| Outreach | 1/17/2025 | Arrowhead EMS Conference | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Arrowhead EMS Association |
| Presentation | 1/18/2025 | Arrowhead EMS Conference | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Arrowhead EMS Association |
| Outreach | 1/23/2025 | Duluth Community Connect | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Damiano Center |
| Presentation | 2/12/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Outreach | 2/13/2025 | Duluth Hearing Loss Resource Fair | No | Duluth | St. Louis | DHS/Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services Division, Regional Office Team |
| Presentation | 2/19/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can | No | Virtual | Virtual | EDP/AAAA |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|---------------------|------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | Help You (Long-Term Care Options webinar) | | | | |
| Presentation | 2/20/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | Arrowhead SLL and Dancing Sky |
| Presentation | 3/6/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You (Providers) | No | Aitkin | Aitkin | Aitkin County Advisory Board |
| Presentation | 3/11/2025 | Medicare 101 | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca Area Community Education |
| Presentation | 3/11/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You (General) | No | Virtual | Regional | AAAA/ACA |
| Presentation | 3/11/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You + Presentation Overview | Yes | Virtual | Bois Forte Tribal Nation | Bois Forte |
| Presentation | 3/12/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Presentation | 3/17/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You (General) + Medicare 101 + Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Hermantown | St. Louis | Salem Lutheran Church |
| Presentation | 3/20/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | Arrowhead SLL and Dancing Sky |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|-----------|--|------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| Presentation | 3/21/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You | No | Carlton | Carlton | AAAA EDP |
| Presentation | 3/25/2025 | Medicare 101 + Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Duluth | St. Louis | University for Seniors |
| Outreach | 3/30/2025 | 2025 Cabin Fever Reliever Benefit & Health & Wellness Expo | No | Two Harbors | Lake | KTWH |
| Presentation | 4/4/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Arrowhead Home & Builders Show |
| Presentation | 4/7/2025 | Radio: SLL Overview | No | International Falls | Koochiching | KDSM/KGHS Radio Station |
| Presentation | 4/8/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca Community Education |
| Presentation | 4/8/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Larson Commons |
| Presentation | 4/9/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Presentation | 4/10/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Duluth | St. Louis | National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees (NARVRE) |
| Presentation | 4/15/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Hermantown | St. Louis | Independent Living Edgewood Healthcare |
| Presentation | 4/18/2025 | Advanced Planning | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Justice North and Duluth Aging Supports |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|---------------------|---|------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Presentation | 04/23/2025 | Elder Abuse 101 (Grand Rounds) | No | Virtual | Virtual | Essentia Health |
| Outreach | 4/30/2025 | AEOA Senior Expo | No | Eveleth | St. Louis | AEOA |
| Outreach | 5/13/2025 | Volunteer Enrollment Event with ElderCircle's RSVP/AmeriCorps Seniors Program | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | ElderCircle/RSVP |
| Presentation | 5/14/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Outreach | 5/15/2025 | Healthy Aging Expo | No | Ely | St. Louis | Northwoods Partners |
| Presentation | 5/15/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | Arrowhead SLL and Dancing Sky |
| Presentation | 5/15/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Silver Bay | Lake | Northshore Golden Agers Club |
| Presentation | 5/15/2025 | Advanced Planning | No | Ely | St. Louis | Northwoods Partners |
| Outreach | 5/15/2025 | Senior Expo | No | Ely | St. Louis | Northwoods Partners |
| Presentation | 5/19/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Hill City | Aitkin | Aitkin County Care Inc. |
| Presentation | 5/20/2025 | Medicare 101 | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Larson Commons |
| Outreach | 5/20/2025-5/21/2025 | Under One Roof Conference | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Arrowhead EMS Association |
| Presentation | 5/21/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Aitkin | Aitkin | Aitkin County Care Inc. |
| Outreach | 5/27/2025 | Duluth Public Schools Employee Wellness Fair | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Duluth Public Schools ISD 709 |
| Presentation | 5/28/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Two Harbors | Lake | Two Harbors HRA |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|-----------|---|------------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| Presentation | 5/28/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | McGregor | Aitkin | ANGELS of McGregor |
| Presentation | 6/4/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Outreach | 6/4/2025 | Hibbing Community Connect | No | Hibbing | St. Louis | St. Louis County Public Health |
| Presentation | 6/10/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You/Money Saving Programs and Services | Yes | Nett Lake | St. Louis | Bois Forte Band |
| Presentation | 6/10/2025 | How the Senior LinkAge Line Can Help You/Money Saving Programs and Services | Yes | Tower | St. Louis | Bois Forte Band |
| Outreach | 6/10/2025 | Fond du Lac Health Fair Mino-Bimaadiziwin (A Healthy Life) | Yes | Carlton | Carlton | Fond du Lac Human Services Division |
| Presentation | 6/18/2025 | Money Saving Programs and Services | No | Duluth | St. Louis | HRA of Duluth |
| Outreach | 6/18/2025 | Senior Day in Cloquet | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Reliable Insurance Agency & Northwoods Credit Union |
| Presentation | 6/20/2025 | Medicare 101 | No | Grand Marais | Cook | The Hub/Cook County Council on Aging |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|------------|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Outreach | 6/21/2025 | Grand Portage Wellness Fair | Yes | Grand Portage | Cook | Grand Portage Health Services |
| Presentation | 6/23/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Two Harbors | Lake | Two Harbors Public Library |
| Presentation | 6/23/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Silver Bay | Lake | Silver Bay Public Library |
| Presentation | 06/24/2025 | Ageism in Healthcare (OT Master's Class) | No | Duluth | St. Louis | St. Scholastica |
| Outreach | 7/2/2025 | Older Adults Picnic | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca County Family YMCA |
| Presentation | 7/9/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |
| Presentation | 7/16/2025 | Other: EDP Webinar, Volunteering Options in the Arrowhead | No | Virtual | Virtual | AAAA/EDP Team |
| Presentation | 7/17/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | Arrowhead SLL and Dancing Sky |
| Presentation | 7/22/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | Yes | Nett Lake | St. Louis | Bois Forte Band |
| Presentation | 7/22/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | Yes | Tower | St. Louis | Bois Forte Band |
| Presentation | 7/29/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | International Falls | Koochiching | AmeriCorps/Koochiching County |
| Outreach | 8/6/2025 | ElderCircle Volunteer Picnic | No | Cohasset | Itasca | ElderCircle |
| Presentation | 8/13/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/SLL |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|-----------|--|------------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| Presentation | 8/21/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | Arrowhead SLL and Dancing Sky |
| Outreach | 8/28/2025 | Intergenerational Speed Friending with DSPride | No | Duluth | St. Louis | AAAA/EDP, Duluth-Superior Pride, Lutheran Social Services |
| Outreach | 8/29/2025 | 55+ Coffee and Conversation | No | Duluth | St. Louis | AAAA/EDP, Duluth-Superior Pride, Lutheran Social Services |
| Outreach | 9/9/2025 | Ely Community Connect | No | Ely | St. Louis | St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services |
| Presentation | 9/10/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/Minnesota Aging Pathways |
| Presentation | 9/16/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | ALLETE/MN Power |
| Outreach | 9/17/2025 | 2025 MN TRIAD Conference | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | MN TRIAD |
| Outreach | 9/17/2025 | Age Well Age Strong Conference & Resource Fair | No | Aitkin | Aitkin | Aitkin County CARE |
| Outreach | 9/18/2025 | Itasca County Community Connect | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca County |
| Presentation | 9/18/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | AAAA and Dancing Sky AAA/Minnesota Aging Pathways |
| Presentation | 9/18/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Duluth | St. Louis | ALLETE/MN Power |
| Presentation | 9/23/2025 | New to Medicare | No | Virtual | Virtual | ALLETE/MN Power |
| Outreach | 10/7/2025 | Carlton County Operation | No | Cloquet | Carlton | United Way of Carlton and Pine County Area |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| | | Community Connect | | | | |
| Outreach | 10/8/2025-10/9/2025 | St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference | No | Duluth | St. Louis | St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference |
| Presentation | 10/8/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Duluth | St. Louis | St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference |
| Presentation | 10/8/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/Minnesota Aging Pathways |
| Presentation | 10/8/2025 | Other: Volunteer Opportunities for Older Adults | No | Duluth | St. Louis | University for Seniors |
| Presentation | 10/9/2025 | Medicare 101 | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Grand Rapids MN Multiple Sclerosis Group |
| Outreach | 10/14/2025 | Senior GO Show | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Lundeen Productions |
| Presentation | 10/16/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | Hermantown | St. Louis | The Pillars of Hermantown |
| Presentation | 10/20/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | Duluth | St. Louis | North Pointe Resource Center/ HRA of Duluth |
| Presentation | 10/21/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help You/Money Saving Programs and Services | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca Area Community Education |
| Presentation | 10/21/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Lakeshore Place Apartments |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|------------|--|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| Outreach | 10/21/2025 | REV UP Your Voice | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Arc Northland and REV UP Minnesota |
| Presentation | 10/22/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | Grand Marais | Cook | Care Partners of Cook County/Cook County Higher Ed |
| Outreach | 10/23/2025 | Fall Community Connect | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Damiano Center |
| Presentation | 10/24/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Hibbing | St. Louis | St. Louis County Public Health/Hibbing Public Library |
| Presentation | 10/28/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | Yes | Grand Portage | Cook | Grand Portage Elderly Nutrition Program |
| Presentation | 10/28/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Grand Marais | Cok | The Hub/Cook County Council on Aging |
| Presentation | 10/30/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | International Falls | Koochiching | International Falls Public Library/Koochiching Aging Options |
| Presentation | 11/3/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help/Money Saving Programs and Services | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Cloquet Public Library |
| Presentation | 11/4/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca Area Community Education |
| Presentation | 11/4/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | Yes | Nett Lake | Koochiching County | Bois Forte Band |
| Presentation | 11/4/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | Yes | Virtual | St. Louis | Bois Forte Band |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|------------|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------|---|
| Outreach | 11/5/2025 | Mountain Iron Community Connect | No | Mountain Iron | St. Louis | St. Louis County Public Health |
| Outreach | 11/6/2025 | St. Louis County Health & Benefits Fair | No | Duluth | St. Louis | St. Louis County |
| Outreach | 11/6/2025 | St. Louis County Health & Benefits Fair | No | Virginia | St. Louis | St. Louis County |
| Outreach | 11/12/2025 | Bridge to Wellness Health Fair | No | Duluth | St. Louis | City of Duluth |
| Presentation | 11/12/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/Minnesota Aging Pathways |
| Presentation | 11/13/2025 | Changes to Medicare 2026 | No | International Falls | Koochiching | International Falls Public Library/ Koochiching Aging Options |
| Presentation | 11/13/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Hermantown | St. Louis | The Pillars of Hermantown |
| Presentation | 11/14/2025 | Changes to Medicare 2026/Medicare 101 | No | Chisholm | St. Louis | Balkan Community Center |
| Presentation | 11/17/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Cloquet Public Library |
| Presentation | 11/18/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Virtual | St. Louis | Initiatives/Insure Duluth Coalition |
| Presentation | 11/18/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help/Money | No | Two Harbors | Lake | Two Harbors Public Library |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|------------|---|------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| | | Saving Programs and Services | | | | |
| Presentation | 11/19/2025 | Medicare 101 | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Itasca Area Community Education |
| Presentation | 11/20/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help | No | Proctor | St. Louis | Proctor-Hermantown Community Education |
| Presentation | 11/20/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help | No | Grand Marais | Cook | The Hub/Cook County Council on Aging |
| Presentation | 11/20/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help (for Providers) | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Northland Senior Care Network |
| Presentation | 11/20/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Silver Bay | Lake | Silver Bay Public Library/North Shore Area Partners |
| Presentation | 11/20/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Two Harbors | Lake | Two Harbors Public Library |
| Presentation | 11/21/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Ecumen Lakeshore |
| Presentation | 11/24/2025 | Changes to Medicare for 2026 | No | Calumet | Itasca | Calumet Public Library |
| Outreach | 11/24/2025 | Health Fair | No | Grand Rapids | Itasca | Fairview/Itasca County Family YMCA/UMN School of Pharmacy |
| Outreach | 12/2/2025 | Scam Jam | No | Duluth | St. Louis | AARP Minnesota, Better Business Bureau of Minnesota & North Dakota |

| Type | Date | Event/Presentation | Tribal Outreach? | City | County | Partners |
|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Presentation | 12/4/2025 | How Minnesota Aging Pathways Can Help | No | Duluth | St. Louis | Faith Haven |
| Presentation | 12/8/2025 | Medicare 101 | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Cloquet Public Library |
| Presentation | 12/10/2025 | Preventing Fraud and Scams | No | Virtual | Virtual | ARDC/AAAA/Minnesota Aging Pathways |
| Presentation | 12/15/2025 | Preventing Fraud & Scams | No | Cloquet | Carlton | Cloquet Public Library |



Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging 2025 Worksheet for Eldercare Development Partnership

| Objective: Workforce | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| <p>1. Continue work with Arrowhead Regional Consortium for Healthcare Staffing through partnership with the Northland Foundation, including maintenance of regional healthcare hub website, recruitment of website participants, and marketing plan focused on healthcare and long-term care careers targeted towards underutilized workforce (Example — middle school, secondary, and post-secondary students, career changers, relocators, and retirees.)</p> | <p>1. 25 Employers and partners will work together to improve awareness of Healthcare and LTC careers in the region through a one-stop shop website and increase visibility through a marketing campaign. Employers will have increased training resources to support staff development and retention efforts. Long-term care and local healthcare facilities are adequately staffed to allow older adults to remain in their setting of choice.</p> <p>The employer base will be broadened and diversified, bringing new voices to the group, and increasing the sustainability of the coalition.</p> | <p>July 2024 – June 2025</p> | <p>Arrowhead Regional Healthcare Staffing Consortium</p> <p>In partnership with the Northland Foundation, we continue to support the regional healthcare hub website, recruit participants, and develop a marketing campaign promoting healthcare and long-term care careers. Outreach targets underutilized workforce groups, including students, career changers, relocators, and retirees.</p> <p>Progress Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 employers and partners engaged in improving visibility of healthcare/LTC careers |

| Objective: Workforce | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| Continuing work on strategic planning and modules to increase accessibility for more partners. | | | through a centralized website and coordinated marketing. |
| 2. Co-host 3 regional events focused on healthcare, public health and long-term care staffing. | 2. Employer and workforce members will come together with community and local leadership to discuss strategies to address workforce challenges. | June 2024-December 2024 | |
| 3. Wrap up structural strategic planning. Complete stakeholder interviews and ARCHS strategic programmatic planning sessions. | 3. ARCHS will complete sustainability plan to move forward with a host organization and a staffing model that will work on member engagement and workforce promotion. Structural changes and sponsorship model will be implemented. | Fall/Winter 2024 | Completed structural strategic planning and beginning programmatic planning. We have merged our quarterly meetings with the Duluth Workforce Board Healthcare Committee and representation from the Northeast Minnesota Workforce Development Board. |
| 4. Support planning and implementation of quarterly training webinars. | 4. Healthcare, public health, and long-term care staff have the opportunity for timely and interactive professional development. | Ongoing | Hosted webinar focused on healthcare and long-term care staffing strategies in NE MN. Partnership with DEED. |
| 5. Assess and address needs for other ARCHS marketing materials focused on additional target populations such as New Americans. | 5. Individuals interested in relocating to NE region for healthcare and long-term care career opportunities will have access to resources about the region and employment. | Winter 2024 | |

| Objective: Workforce | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| 6. Co-host healthcare experiential learning programs each year for high school students with Iron Range SCRUBS and add pilot programming with HealthForce MN serving 18 - 24-year-olds (disconnected youth) in underserved communities. | 6. 32 students will have the opportunity for hands-on immersive experiences and site visits focused on the | Summer 2024 & 2025 | Registration is now open for both the Indigenous SCRUBS Camp and the Hibbing SCRUBS camp. We have worked closely with Wilderness Health this year as a new fiscal agent and provided technical support to them for the development of new middle school level camps. We will also be having guests from White Earth visiting camp to learn about creating a similar program. |
| 7. Provide support for yearly summer Indigenous Healthcare Career Exploration Camp in partnership with Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College and Center for American Indian and Minority Health (UMD.) | 7. Up to 40 students, primarily from Tribal communities, will have greater accessibility to education and hands-on experiences in the healthcare and long-term care career sectors. Students can learn from native healthcare and long-term care professionals and be connected to additional education and workforce resources to support their goals. | Summer 2024 and 2025 | Fond du Lac camp was hosted from June 11-13, 2025. This year we piloted the camp as a day camp rather than residential. FDLTCC will decide whether the camp remains a day camp. In the event that it remains a day camp, we will start looking at strategies to make sure that career exploration for students from Grand Portage and Bois Forte can be supported. |
| 8. Collaborate with partners to plan Discover Healthcare event in Greater Arrowhead | 8. 200-400 students will have the opportunity to get an entry level snapshot of the variety of careers available in the healthcare, public health, and long-term care | Fall 2024/Spring 2025 | We will be part of hosting the event in Fall 2025. |

| Objective: Workforce | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| | sectors. | | |
| 9. EDP will participate in Duluth Area Workforce Board - Healthcare Industry Subcommittee, Northwood Technical College Gerontology-Aging Services Professional Advisory Committee, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Nursing Program Advisory Committee | 9. AAAA participates in and builds bridges among 4 education and workforce partners and is considered an integral part of the team addressing healthcare, long-term care, and HCBS workforce sectors. | July 2024 – June 2025 | Continued Participation |
| 10. Partner with employers, including local chambers of commerce, to encourage employer support for working caregivers and educate on Age-Friendly practices in conjunction with AAAA's Age-Friendly Arrowhead Business Program. | 10. Area employers and businesses will receive education on Age Friendly practices—including support for working caregivers and recruiting/retaining older adults as employees. As a result, employers will be better educated about what efforts they can undertake and what benefits they can offer to support their working caregiver employees and increase productivity and retention. The Arrowhead will become more informed about spaces and the Aging Impact Awards. | Ongoing | <p>January 15: Age Friendly Business Webinar</p> <p>April 16: Cook County Friendly Business</p> <p>Aging announced five winners of the 2025 Aging Impact Awards recognizing organizations in the Arrowhead Region for their outstanding contributions to supporting older adults. The winners include: Kids Plus of McGregor, for their work in fostering intergenerational connections through offering chore services,</p> |

| Objective: Workforce | | | |
|---|--|----------------|---|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| | | | <p>community gardens and outdoor learning opportunities, reading programs, and more!</p> <p>Grand Itasca Hospital and Clinic in Grand Rapids for their partnership with AEOA's Senior Nutrition program</p> <p>Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, for providing outdoor recreation opportunities to people of all ages with the Ron Jean Memorial Senior Fish House, Rod Smith Kids Pond, and Annual Senior Fish Fry</p> <p>Miriam Kero Consulting of Virginia for incorporating an Age-Friendly lens into Hello Range! and city planning work.</p> <p>Judy's Café of Two Harbors for offering an Age-Friendly community space and fostering social connections.</p> |
| <p>11. EDP will work with partners to enhance volunteer workforce as a viable addition to support meaningful work in the Arrowhead Region.</p> | <p>11. EDP will assist regional programs with best practices and strategies for success.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>EDP staff will host a webinar regarding volunteer opportunities in the Arrowhead on July 16. Partners include AEOA and United Way.</p> |

| Objective: Chore Services | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| <p>1. Survey local chore service models that work, such as the McGregor AGE to Program (funded and providing chore services to older adults locally) to indicate look at gaps and assist in finding solutions for gaps. Additionally, share with other organizations and have conversations on how to connect with current activities.</p> | <p>1) Services in Arrowhead Region will have "more information" on how to start or enhance chore services Convene 2 meetings with LWAH, GEAR, etc. Grantees and other Aging Services, such as AGE to Age agencies, to increase interest and capacity in providing chore services.</p> | <p>July 2024 – June 2025</p> | <p>Work is wrapping up with Northland Foundation’s partnership and we are entering the final stages for Itasca, Aitkin, and Cook. Our edict is to continue to offer TA to agencies in all 7 counties and we will continue this after the NF agreement has ended.</p> |
| <p>3. Building on relationships with AGE to age organizations to introduce, educate, or further support current work including chore service efforts.</p> | <p>3) Semi Annual meetings to share, integrate, and disseminate information around successful chore-service initiative.</p> <p>Conversations/counseling with AGE to age orgs. Regarding becoming 245D licensed.</p> | <p>Fall 2024, Spring 2025</p> | |

| Objective: Transportation | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| 1. Assist volunteer driver programs to maximize impact by supporting volunteer recruitment efforts and community education activities about volunteer driver recruitment and retention. | 1. Continue provider support to increase volunteer drivers. Age Friendly domains of social participation and civic engagement will be addressed by increasing # of volunteer drivers. | Ongoing | This is amping back up at the state level. EDP staff attend meetings. EDP Leader's Huddle has increased their meeting time to offer support to partners wanting to increase # of volunteers. |
| 2. Engage transportation providers in training opportunities to understand blended funding models and building capacity to receive 3rd party payment (i.e. waiver billing). | 2. Continued work with 245D qualified organizations and providers on sustainability business planning and billing. Work with partner organizations in aligning strategies to become 245D providers. | July 2024 | Ongoing. June 2025 hosted webinar on funding opportunities including transportation funding models. |
| 3. Participate in all Age- Friendly and Dementia-friendly Community work to inform stakeholders and community members about transportation trends, new and emerging models in transportation, training and opportunities. | 3. Increase awareness of the barriers that adults with dementia and caregivers face regarding transportation by giving 1-3 presentations geared towards an intergenerational audience. | Fall 2024, Spring 2025 | Work with regional 4-H to train youth in Aging with Gusto. Completed AWG series with 4-H staff and student ambassadors. |

| Objective: Transportation | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| 4. Participate in transportation coalitions to strengthen relations and collaboration amongst stakeholders, while also reaching innovative methods for providing older adults with equitable transportation services. These coalitions councils are the MN Volunteer Driver Coalition, MNCOATA, and the Greater MN Shared Mobilities Coalition. | 4. EDP will identify opportunities to collaborate on projects that improve equitable and accessible transportation services. | July 2024 – June 2025 | Participating in the Communities of Practice meetings working on expanding transportation services in Deer River. Continued attendance of MN Volunteer Driver Coalition meetings and MNCOATA. Attend quarterly Arrowhead Transit TAC Meetings throughout the region. |
| 5. Staff will attend meetings of the Board of the Regional Transportation Coordination Council (RTCC) and collaborate on relevant initiatives projects including but not limited to identify unmet mobility needs and facilitate development of services in response to needs, increased coordination between transportation providers, support volunteer driver efforts, and review and implement innovative models to meet service gaps. | 5. Discovering new ways to collaborate with 20+ organizations participating in the RTCC and alleviate the transportation gaps for older adults in the Arrowhead Region. Age Friendly Transportation tools (i.e., walkability checklist) will be disseminated to the RTCC partners and Age-Friendly Coalitions. Identify one community or HCBS provider who will consider replicating or working with the ConnectAbility/Lyft model. | July 2024 – June 2025 | Staff attends RTCC meetings monthly. |

| Objective: Transportation | | | |
|--|---|--------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| | Relay shared information throughout the region and connect regional participants with like opportunities. | | |
| 6. Participate in Transportation Camp at MN North Hibbing to educate and encourage transportation careers that include dementia training and awareness. | 5. Increase the awareness of barriers that adults with dementia and generational struggles with rural transportation. | August 2024 | Completed August 2024. Seven participants. |

| Objective: Crisis Stabilization | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| 1. EDP will offer education on Mental Health First Aid to the provider network, as well as provide technical assistance with finding and funding the training in their respective areas. | 1. Partner agencies will receive training in Mental Health First Aid and will learn how to identify, understand, and respond to mental illness, and develop referral streams between local mental health facilities. | July 2024 – June 2025 x3 | Tabled at Arrowhead EMS Conference 1.18.2025 with information on trainings, resources, etc. |
| 2. Participate in the Northern St. Louis County Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) and Will help host community mental health forum in Northern SLC. | 2. Older adult mental health needs are advocated for and prioritized at the AC. | July 2024 – June 2025 | Ongoing |
| 3. EDP Will provide education and outreach around emergency preparedness, and partner with organizations like Red Cross, FEMA or Ready North to provide resources to our provider network. | 3. One provider from each of the 7 counties in the region will attend the webinar, and 4 agencies will create new or updated policies and/or procedures around (not limited to) weather, COVID-19, and succession planning, and will incorporate linguistically and culturally appropriate materials/resources for their participants to learn from | July 2024 – June 2025 | Presented at Arrowhead EMS Conference January 18, 2025 Arrowhead EMS Booth January 17-19, 2025 |

Objective: Crisis Stabilization

| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| <p>4. In partnership with local coalitions who provide community training, EDP will recruit First Responders for Dementia and/or Age Friendly education, with a focus on caregiver support services.</p> | <p>4. First Responder groups will be educated in Dementia awareness/caregiver resources, Ageism, and/or Age Friendly Arrowhead work, (10 signs/&. Assoc, Ageism 101, Referrals to HCBS providers etc.)</p> <p>Law Enforcement agencies will be introduced to Ageism First Aid and Dementia Friends First training.</p> | <p>July 2024 – June 2025</p> | |
| <p>5. EDP will respond to social isolation by disseminating the best practices and innovations (i.e., chatbots, robotic animals, and other new technologies) to community partners & coalitions. Incorporate ideas shared through Engaged – National resource center on engaging older adults.</p> | <p>5. Staff will work with community partners and stakeholders to educate on best practices and support the incorporation of innovative ideas so partners can sustain best practices within their programs.</p> | <p>July 2024 – June 2025</p> | |
| <p>6. Assess Leaders Huddle for Aging Services Directors and senior service leadership to determine effectiveness and reevaluate TA support opportunities.</p> | <p>6. All Title III, Dementia, and LWAH Grantees, as well as other HCBS and community partner leaders will be invited to participate. EDP will facilitate up to 12 meetings per</p> | <p>July 2024</p> | <p>Monthly Leaders Huddle topics have ranged from board recruitment, long-term sustainability, transportation, LWAH rfp, Dementia rfp, etc.</p> |

| Objective: Crisis Stabilization | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| | year and provide corresponding support. | | |
| 7. Explore options for emergency respite services; assess respite needs throughout the region and identify innovations and best practices to share with HCBS providers and other community partners. | 7. EDP staff will identify one stakeholder in each county to learn about respite needs and share best practices or National models on emergency respite services. | | |
| 8. Support providers exploring creating Homecare Cooperatives in Arrowhead region. | 8. 2 entities will inquire and/or pursue state qualifications and/or licensure for Home Care Cooperative status (including 245D licensure.) | | |
| 9. Continue to support CERDAR's (Center for Engaged Rural Dementia and Alzheimers Research) efforts to support rural dementia and Alzheimers research, including the needs of rural and indigenous caregivers. | 9. Provide two opportunities to share work happening with CERDAR to caregiver consultant networks and other HCBS providers. | Fall 2024, Spring 2025 | Partnership agreement with CERDAR for IonE grant. The grant was submitted by CERDAR, March 2025. |
| 10. EDP will participate in St. Louis County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT.) | 10. Participate in team meetings, discuss options for services, and coordinate education and training for MDT. | July 2024, ongoing | Ongoing |
| 11. EDP will participate in Minnesota Elder Justice Center Board. | 11. Participate in MEJC | July 2024, ongoing | Ongoing |



| Objective: Crisis Stabilization | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| | meetings and being involved in planning for WEAAD yearly conference. | | |
| 12. EDP will work on public messages through conversations with partners and agencies to light the detriments of social isolation. | 12. PSA that replicates LTRs Social Isolation Initiative that would also include Chore Services and reduce stigma by building a community conversation on loneliness, so that people feel able to talk about loneliness and reach out for help. Drive a lasting shift so that relationships and loneliness are considered in delivery of services. Support agencies in efforts around combatting social isolation through innovative processes and ensuring partners have the information and tools they need to incorporate into programming. | July 2024 – June 2025 | Scratched. Funding eliminated. |

| Objective: Housing | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|---|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| 1. Host booth at Arrowhead Home and Builders Show focused on home modifications, assistive technology, and aging-in-place. Collaborate with appropriate partners to create a demonstration booth with examples. Dissemination of AARP age friendly tools, universal design, ADUs. etc. (Show averages 30,000 attendees) | 1. Homeowners are more educated regarding simple home modifications and upgrades that can allow them to age-in-place successfully. The public will become more aware of partners that offer services to support older adults. | March 2025 | Hosted April 3-6, 2025. Home Fit guide information along with a place of respite with a lounge and water cooler. Staff hosted a booth at the Arrowhead Home and Builders Show in early April |
| 2. EDP will be active participants and stay apprised of the work of the Heading Home Advisory Council and the NE MN COC to advocate for housing for older adults, and to learn about housing needs, housing developments, and services addressing homelessness in the Arrowhead Region. Participate in the NE MN COC Rank and Review Committee to prioritize NOFA submissions. | 2. EDP will attend one meeting per month, apprise the Councils of aging needs, trends, and Age-Friendly initiatives, frameworks/tools, and share any best practices with aging network providers | July 2024, ongoing | Ongoing NE MN COC. |

| Objective: Housing | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Date: | HALF YEAR 1 2025 |
| 3. EDP staff will participate in housing discussions and work that happens under the purview of Age Friendly Coalitions. We will share information about Age-Friendly housing alternatives and frameworks to broader stakeholder groups to encourage Age-Friendly housing policies | 3. EDP will support Age Friendly Coalitions in housing and other key stakeholders. EDP will cohost/convene 2 community discussions with Age-Friendly coalitions and assist with convening older adult voices to the table relative to housing needs/preferences. | July 2024 – June 2025 | Working with Minnesota Housing Project Coalition as an active voice for independent living accessibility and universal housing art of Arrowhead Housing Coalition and Up-weekly meetings. |
| 4. EDP will facilitate or participate in conversations on warming house development. | 4. EDP will facilitate 2 discussions with providers and area experts in the development process to identify and work with areas that have identified gaps in warming house facilities. | Fall 2024, ongoing | Ongoing conversations with Itasca County on creating/providing waring house facility. |
| 5. EDP will support Housing Stabilization Service providers. | 5. EDP will do quarterly check-ins with Housing Stabilization Service Providers to collect new statistics or data and present findings to network providers. EDP will also identify ways to expand moving service capacity via the Housing Stabilization structure. | Summer 2024, Fall 2024 Winter 2025, Spring 2025 | Ongoing. |

Category One, Section 2

A secondary component of the work plan should indicate new strategies or innovations to expand HCBS capacity. This section allows for development given specific and unique needs in your region. This is a way to explore new approaches in housing, HCBS development, and to develop and support core home and HCBS providers. Development of these services **includes engaging a broad range of service providers**, including nursing homes, assisted living providers, affordable housing providers, current HCBS or L TSS providers, and other, non-traditional partners, such as **fiscal support entities, grocery stores, and pharmacists**. Please cite why this is a need in your region.

| Service | Goal | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Technical Assistance and training for HCBS providers and grantees to work towards sustainability and systems integration. | Regional HCBS partners will be educated on available funding opportunities within the EDP purview (Title III, Live Well at Home; Local and Regional Dementia; Minnesota AmeriCorps Senior; Grants, Equity, Access and Research (GEAR) and Customized Living Quality Improvement grant programs, and other funding opportunities that arise) so that they can diversify funding streams, implement new service delivery models, improve coordination with regional partners, and build sustainable business models. | | |
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Dates: | |
| 1. Convene quarterly meetings with regional grantees (individually or as a group) to understand scope of grant and programmatic work, share progress and best practices. Maintain communication & collaboration opportunities with Aging network through Basecamp project management and email communication. | 1. Existing grantees will be supported through regular communications and meetings. Quarterly Lunch and Learn to share programmatic best practices. 70+ providers and stakeholders will receive | July 2024 – June 2025 Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025 | Regional grantees present to Development Team. Q1 presenters: Community Partners Lighthouse Elder Circle CHUM Ongoing communication through Basecamp |

| Service | Goal | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| <p>Technical Assistance and training for HCBS providers and grantees to work towards sustainability and systems integration.</p> | <p>Regional HCBS partners will be educated on available funding opportunities within the EDP purview (Title III, Live Well at Home; Local and Regional Dementia; Minnesota AmeriCorps Senior; Grants, Equity, Access and Research (GEAR) and Customized Living Quality Improvement grant programs, and other funding opportunities that arise) so that they can diversify funding streams, implement new service delivery models, improve coordination with regional partners, and build sustainable business models.</p> | | |
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Dates: | |
| | <p>updates through project management sites and email communications.</p> | | |
| <p>2. Host training opportunities on identifying business planning for sustainable nonprofit business models, including, but not limited to, 245D license.</p> | <p>2. HCBS providers will participate in training opportunities to identify new funding streams and engage in strategic planning for sustainable business models.</p> | <p>July 2024 – June 2025 (x2)</p> | <p>March 2025: Northshore Area Partners board discussion re: sustainable business models.</p> |
| <p>3. Pursue new opportunities and outreach to Tribal partners and community partners targeting BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and disability communities to learn about service gaps and help identify funding opportunities or other ways to support.</p> | <p>3. EDP will meet with Tribal or community partners, including LGBTQIA+, and disability communities, to further the mission of healthier communities while honoring cultural traditions and preferred practices.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>April 8th re: Age Friendly</p> |
| <p>4. Participate in regional coalitions in partnership with the Northland Foundation that</p> | <p>4. Area communities will continue community planning and care</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

| Service | Goal | | |
|---|---|---------------|--|
| Technical Assistance and training for HCBS providers and grantees to work towards sustainability and systems integration. | Regional HCBS partners will be educated on available funding opportunities within the EDP purview (Title III, Live Well at Home; Local and Regional Dementia; Minnesota AmeriCorps Senior; Grants, Equity, Access and Research (GEAR) and Customized Living Quality Improvement grant programs, and other funding opportunities that arise) so that they can diversify funding streams, implement new service delivery models, improve coordination with regional partners, and build sustainable business models. | | |
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Dates: | |
| are addressing social isolation, community planning, care coordination, food access, and establishing referral pathways with health systems and CBOs. | coordination efforts while incorporating a cultural lens in development work and in partnership with EDP staff and the Northland Foundation to continue making measurable progress towards established goals. | Winter 2025 | |
| 5. Counsel and guide interested parties in gaining 245D license or expand license service to include more waived services. Counsel, guide, TA programs interested in becoming HCBS Cooperatives. | 5. EDP will connect with providers to introduce, discuss, and disseminate information around 245D licensure. EDP will connect with providers interested in becoming a Home Care Cooperative. | Ongoing | |

| Age Friendly | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Service | | Goal | |
| Promote integration of the Age-Friendly framework throughout the region, including policies, practices, and seeking AARP Age-Friendly Designation in specified communities. | | The development team will lead or actively participate in cross-sector age friendly efforts regionally and statewide in the domains noted here: 7. Age-Friendly Housing, Transportation, and Civic Participation and Employment(workforce), emergency preparedness/crisis stabilization —see goals above relative to GapsAnalysis. 8. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings 9. Health Services & Community Supports 10. Communication & Information 11. Social Participation, Respect & social inclusion | |
| Activity: | Intended Outcome: | Dates: | |
| 1. Age-Friendly integration activities for Transportation, Civic Participation/employment, and housing are outlined in section one under the respective gap area. | 1. Local community leaders are informed and inspired to take meaningful action to make changes on policy, planning and investments. Stakeholders are informed about innovative best practices around rural transportation, shared transportation, and volunteer initiatives. | | Monthly — Age-Friendly Iron Range Meeting Monthly — Age-Friendly Voices Meeting Monthly -Age-Friendly Webinar Monthly - Age-Friendly Business Webinar Monthly - Age Friendly Virginia Jan 15 —Chisholm AARP Network of Age Friendly Feb 3 — Age Friendly Lake County Feb 6 - Planning for Age-Friendly Carlton Co. March 13 - Age Friendly Day at the Capitol |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Arrowhead Region Aging Impact Awards will recognize local spaces as Age Friendly to inspire all aspects of a community to become age friendly</p> | <p>Aging Impact Awards are conducted 2X/yr where communities submit honorees. Based on criteria, an advisory committee chooses entities to be recognized.</p> | | |
| <p>2. Health Services & Community Supports EDP Participation in health service committees and coalitions to ensure the voice of Age-Friendly initiatives are heard. Other committees will include emergency and disaster SHIP work, and other community initiatives that impact AAAA work.</p> | <p>2. Existing coalitions/efforts that are related to—but not solely focused on—aging will incorporate an age-friendly framework into their planning and development process.</p> | | <p>Committee Work: St. Louis County Aging Coalition Ready North N SLC LAC Itasca LAC Koochiching Social Service Providers</p> |
| <p>3. Communication & Information Participate in regional broadband access efforts. This includes participation in Digital Connection Committees to ensure Age-Friendly communication across HCBS providers and Age- coalitions.</p> | <p>3. EDP staff will be apprised of regional broadband efforts and participate in opportunities for advocacy in communities (city, county or municipalities). EDP staff will follow the progress of relevant referral systems.</p> | | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>4. Social Participation: Coordination with AGE to age communities as supported by Northland</p> | <p>4. EDP staff will connect with communities to learn about intergenerational</p> | | <p>Ongoing Meet-up and partner with AGE to age in McGregor.</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Foundation or identify other opportunities for intergenerational programming. Present to employers or community groups on Ageism and its impact.</p> | <p>programs and how to inform them on need for chore services and other volunteer needs for HCBS providers. Provide one presentation on ageism to target communities.</p> | | |
| <p>5. Respect & Social Inclusion Promote 3-4 seminars (i.e. Northland Diversity in Aging series or other webinars) to bring to light diverse voices and equity and inclusion issues faced by diverse and/or hidden populations in our region</p> <p>Participate in Welcoming communities Advisory Committee through working on integrating new residents into rural communities and fostering inclusion.</p> | <p>5. Four seminars on the Diversity in Aging series will be held and promoted through HCBS network. EDP will participate in Welcoming Communities meetings to be apprised of work and advocate for age inclusion in their DEI work.</p> | | |

2025 Aging Development Team Webinars (EDP, AFMN, Title III)

| Topic | Scope | Who | Date | Grant |
|--|--|--|-----------|-------|
| Age-Friendly Businesses | | Georgia | 1/15/2025 | |
| Longterm Care Options – Transitions | | Marjori/Jess | 2/19/2025 | |
| USDA Home Loans – home modifications | | USDA/AEOA/Habitat for Humanity/Lighthouse/Access North | 3/19/2025 | |
| Power of Attorney – Ducks in a Row | | Justice North | 4/14/2025 | |
| End of Life Planning – Ducks in a Row | | Death Doulas | 4/15/2025 | |
| Having a Conversation – Ducks in a Row | | Sara McCumber | 4/16/2025 | |
| Healthcare Directives – Ducks in a Row | | Justice North | 4/17/2025 | |
| LTC Staffing | | ARCHS/AAAA/DEED | 5/21/2025 | |
| Age-Friendly Housing Panel | | AAAA/100 Rural Women/ University of Minnesota | March | |
| Title III Funding | | AAAA Staff | 6/18/2025 | |
| Volunteer Opportunities in the Arrowhead | | SLL/RSVP, Aitkin CARE | 7/16/2025 | |
| Food Insecurity Webinar | | St. Louis PH, Second Harvey | 8/20/2025 | |
| Mental Health Awareness... focus | | SLL/Lori (Kristi's suggestions) | May | |
| Caregivers Month | Mental Health Awareness/Older Americans Months | | November | |
| Ageism Awareness | | | October | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Falls Prevention Awareness | | | September | |
| Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults | | KS/Red Cross | | EDP/no cost |
| Cooperative Caregivers | | | | |
| Social Isolation? | | | | |
| Self-Care Month | | | July | |
| Quarter 1 | | | | |
| Quarter 2 | | | | |
| Quarter 3 | | | | |
| Quarter 4 | | | | |

2025 Aging Development Team Conference Presentations (EDP, AFMN, Title III)

| Event | Topic | Scope | Who | Date |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Arrowhead EMS Coalition Conference | Elder Abuse | Presentation | Brenda MEJC/AAAA | 1/17/2025 |
| American Society on Aging | Age Friendly Business | Round Table Discussion | Georgia | 4/21-24/2025 |
| MN Rural Health Conference | Ageism in Healthcare | Presentation/Interactive | Brenda and Ashley | 6/9-10/2025 |
| MN Rural Health Conference | Elder Abuse | Presentation/Panel | Brenda w/MEJC and Panel | 6/9-10/2025 |
| LSLS Summer Conference | Pushing Back Against Ageism | Presentation/Interactive | Brenda and Ashley | 6/6/2025 |
| St. Louis County HHS Conference | Elder Abuse 101 | Presentation | Brenda | 10/8/2025 |
| St. Louis County HHS Conference | The Impact of Ageism in Society and Popular Culture | Presentation | Georgia | 10/9/2025 |



**Arrowhead Area
Agency on Aging**
A Division of ARDC

AAAA – 2025 Worksheet for Eldercare Development Partnership

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Age-Friendly Trails | <p>Background: This past summer has been spent utilizing the Data Bike to collect valuable information about each of the paved trails in the Arrowhead Region. This bike collects GoPro photos of the ground, 360* photos from an elevated pole attached to the back, and a sensor log that tracks the roughness of the trail. The sensor log contributes to a value known as the Trail Roughness Index and helps us to identify sections of trails that could use some upkeep. This data is then verified using GoPro photos. As the summer comes to an end, our efforts are now being put into digitizing the data and figuring out our next steps in the off season. A series of focus groups will be conducted with community members and regional trail associations.</p> <p>First Quarter: Beginning to pull together potential partners and looking at what can be done from a planning perspective. Methodologies have been developed and can be implemented into planning frameworks.</p> <p>Second Quarter: An Age-Friendly Trails User Needs Assessment Survey was sent to trail support groups with a goal of identifying available amenities, needs, barriers, and opportunities. The survey advertisement was also featured in ARDC's June bulletin board to seek additional community feedback. A winter survey is being considered.</p> <p>Third Quarter: Survey posters hung at Lake County Historical Society, Mountain Iron City Hall, Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Mineland Reclamation Building, Grand Portage Community Building, Swiftwater, YMCA Duluth and RJ Houle Visitor Center. Permit request approved by the Department of Natural Resources for survey posters to be hung at State trailhead sites.</p> | Regional |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>Fourth Quarter: Continued communications and dissemination with several regional partners on distribution of Age Friendly Trails survey. Discussions with Arrowhead Coalition of Trails staff on upcoming regional convening. Communications with State Department of Natural Resources staff and procurement of survey signage. Photos, existing data sets, and maps were analyzed to identify location and information gaps. Started internal summarization of incoming survey results. Began draft of planning document.</p> | |
| <p>MN DOC State Competitiveness (3-Year)</p> | <p>Background: The State of Minnesota awarded ARDC a three-year grant to support eligible entities across the region in securing federal funding for the clean energy transition. Through this grant, ARDC is rolling out technical assistance and grant assistance to help communities navigate funding opportunities and develop impactful projects. Environmental Justice communities are prioritized. ARDC is actively engaged in regional clean energy initiatives, participating in key forums such as the Itasca Energy Transition Taskforce, DEED Energy Transition Group, and MADDO Clean Energy Group.</p> <p>First Quarter: In March 2025, ARDC worked with a coalition of communities and partners to develop and submit a collaborative grant for the Rural and Remote Energy Transition Grant. The ask was upward of \$40M and will benefit several communities including Aurora, Ely, Gilbert, Mt Iron, Nashwauk, Finland, Isabella, Cohasset, Grand Lake Township, Beaver Bay, Silvery Bay, Beaver Bay Township, and Babbitt. Please request the Concept Paper if interested. ARDC has also purchased an email hosting program that will be used for energy and engagement opportunities. The distribution list is currently being set up.</p> <p>Second Quarter: Three Direct Pay and federal energy and climate action funding opportunity mass email campaigns were sent to local units of government – cities and towns, school superintendents,</p> | <p>Regional</p> <p>Aurora, Ely, Gilbert, Mt. Iron, Nashwauk, Finland, Isabella, Cohasset, Grand Lake Township, Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Beaver Bay Township, and Babbitt</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>counties, Tribal Nations, and elected officials throughout the Arrowhead Region. In addition, two YR2025 EDA Disaster Supplement funding opportunity mass communications were distributed throughout the six eligible counties in the Arrowhead Region for disasters in 2023-2024 that may also be directly related to energy and climate resiliency work associated with the NOAA Regional Resilience Collaborative. Planning also met with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board regarding United States Department of Energy Collaborations Advancing Rapid Load Additions (CARLA) funding opportunities for which the Minnesota Department of Commerce applied at the end of June. Planning met with the Minnesota Department of Commerce and attended the Minnesota TA Collaborative in-person conference in May and sought feedback and assistance ideas for connecting elected officials to federal energy funding opportunities given changing Federal opportunities.</p> <p>Third Quarter: Sent Email Octopus notices out for State of MN IRA Direct Pay Assistance and attended webinars. Met with Edge of the Wilderness communities, Big Fork Valley Hospital, Carlton County, Bois Forte, and Hibbing to discuss energy projects. Worked with Ely, Mountain Iron, and Nashwauk on EDA application for grid improvements.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Sent Email Octopus notices out for State of MN IRA Direct Pay Assistance and attended MADDO Climate and Energy Meetings.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant (EECBG) Project</p> | <p>Background: The Minnesota Department of Commerce has allocated funds to state RDO's to sub-grant to Local Units of Government with populations under 15,000 to conduct energy audits or other energy efficiency and conservation project developments for municipal buildings. Targeted outreach will be conducted to communities designated as disadvantaged by the "Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool". ARDC will be releasing their EECBG program in early 2025.</p> <p>First Quarter: The Minnesota Department of Commerce has resumed its EECBG program after pausing it for about a month. The grant application and other related documents were updated and distributed throughout ARDC networks starting in late March. The new application due date has been set for April 30th.</p> <p>Second Quarter: A mass email communication was sent throughout the Region to share about this grant opportunity with the Township of White and Floodwood School District applying for funding for audit purposes. Both applicants were notified they were selected with agreements in process of being drafted.</p> <p>Third Quarter: Technical assistance was provided to two potential applicants. The EECBG opportunity was shared in an energy innovation webinar hosted by ARDC on October 1st.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Continued correspondence with Minnesota Department of Commerce and applicants, as unexpected nuances have arisen during the project. Currently reviewing grant application from Proctor School District. Met with Headwaters Regional Development Commission and</p> | <p>Regional</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|--|--|--|
| | Grand Rapids staff regarding potential collaboration on future climate resiliency and EECBG funding. | |
| NOAA - Saint Louis County Climate Resiliency | <p>Background: <u>Staff: Deanna Geelhoed (Project Coordinator), Ann Seigfreid (NOAA Fellow 2025-2027)</u> This project is to create a Climate Resiliency Collaborative for the coastal Arrowhead region launched with partners in November. We gathered for site visits, bonding, and visioning in the Duluth area. The leadership team consists of one plus Saint Louis County, Lake County, Cook County, Carlton County, Fond du Lac Tribe, Bois Forte Tribe, Grand Portage Tribe, 1854 Treaty Authority, MN Coastal Program, University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, MN Department of Transportation, MN Sea Grant, MN Pollution Control Agency, County Soil & Water Conservation Districts. We anticipate 2025 will be a time of building stronger relationships, visioning resiliency projects, and outreach. UMD is hiring a full-time person on the project, and we are recruiting for our 2 Fellows. These two-year fellows will assist this work with 1 fellow being hosted by ARDC and the other at UMD.</p> <p>First Quarter: This four-year project is to create the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative and regional plan for the coastal Arrowhead region. So far, 2025 has been a strong launch for this work with two leadership Collaborative meetings. ARDC Climate Resilience Planner (Planner) has been busy coordinating and strengthening these relationships through resource and knowledge sharing. The Planner has conducted many meetings with leadership partners including contract meetings with the Tribes and Counties and SWCDs.</p> | Regional (Coastal Counties, three Tribal Nations, and Relevant Agencies) |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|----------|---|--|
| | <p>UMN Extension has hired an educator for this project, and the project is in the process of hiring two NOAA fellows, one which will be housed at ARDC.</p> <p>We have developed a framework for regional resilience and are in the process of creating working groups which will inform the regional plan. Many outside groups are interested in this work and the Climate Resilience Planner has met with about 20 groups this year to share about this work and track regional climate resilience priorities.</p> <p>In addition to the foundational work of mission/vision, collaboration charter, website, newsletter, and other materials: we have established a community stipend process that provides funds to leadership and community members to engage with the work without having to worry about the cost burden of paying for gas or childcare.</p> <p>Second Quarter: On April 8, 2025, the Planner presented to the Lake County Board alongside the Lake County SWCD and the UMN Extension Rep. Over the next three months the Planner will present to 4 County Extension Committees within the region.</p> <p>Work thus far has focused on establishing collaborative systems and a workplan, coordinating discussions about the 1854 Treaty Authority Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Ceded Territory, county hazard plans, long term funding, coordinating efforts with other NOAA projects in the region and nationwide, connecting across multiple organizations serving on the Leadership Team, radio interviews and Coastal Hazards Of Superior webinar presentations, Tribal-State training, and hiring a NOAA fellow. The project is on track to meet its goals. For more details, please visit https://northlandresilience.org/.</p> <p>Third Quarter:</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|----------|---|--|
| | <p>The project is on track, and we have made significant progress on the project workplan. July to September updates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed first round of NOAA reporting. • Collaborating with tribes and counties to engage in leadership teams, with strong turnout at July and September leadership meetings. • Formation of working group topics: Energy Sovereignty, Critical Infrastructure, Stormwater, Community Health & Wellbeing, and Northern Forest Resilience. • Beginning to shape an engagement plan, strategic plan, and implementation learning plan, including presentations to leadership. • Developed a project logo and established a governance structure. • July Newsletter <p>Fourth Quarter:</p> <p>The project is on track, and we have made significant progress on the project workplan. October to December updates include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations: Midwest Climate Resilience Conference (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), Carlton Association of Townships, Saint Louis County Board of Commissioners, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hosted Trust Training • Planning Tribal engagement event early 2026. • New grant staff person hired at Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. • Launch of 5 Working Groups: recruitment of regional experts, framing of plan, maps • Strategic planning of Regional Resilience Plan framing. • Over half of the leadership team completed the Tribal-State Relations Training. • ARDC's NOAA fellow, Ann Seigfreid assisted Bois Forte Band of Chippewa with sustainability recognition and energy rebate documentation, and advanced Fond du Lac's strategic energy planning by securing \$50,000 in grants, coordinating with the | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR, formerly National Renewable Energy Laboratory or NREL), and drafting a comprehensive community engagement plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcame delays and setbacks from government shutdown. October Newsletter | |
| <p>Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP)</p> | <p>Background: Staff assisting county level SHIP coordinators in developing grant applications and other ideas for the multiple Safe Routes to Schools funding opportunities that are currently open.</p> <p>First Quarter: Staff are assisting county level SHIP coordinators in various Active Living and Active Transportation projects throughout the region. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Littlefork - Big Falls School District assistance in navigating the "School Speed Zone Sign" process Assistance with Duluth Bicycle Friendly Communities Application Any upcoming assistance with county-level coordinators and workplan development related to Active Living/Active Transportation <p>Project and Technical Assistance are available to county-level coordinators on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>Second Quarter: Planning staff continued working with the Koochiching County SHIP Coordinator about SRTS planning, Littlefork, and speed zones. A trip to Bigfork was made to do a Small Plan Assessment of Corridors. Planning collaborated on a Bicycle Friendly City application for Duluth, which Zeitgeist submitted.</p> <p>Third Quarter:</p> | <p>Regional</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Technical assistance was provided to county-level coordinators on mapping materials, data collection materials, and to find grant funding for implementation projects. Current SHIP fiscal year ends on October 31, 2025.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: This project completed October 31, 2025. No work will be conducted until funding resumes, potentially with the next SHIP fiscal year.</p> | |
| <p>Gitchi-Gami Trail Association (GGTA) Assistance</p> | <p>Background: Current work involves looking at website re-design and working with MnDNR and MnDOT on several upcoming trail projects. A in Lutsen will be wrapped up in November 2024, and trail construction has kicked off in Two Harbors in October and November. The GGTA will plan ribbon cutting events in Spring 2025. The GGTA is currently working to formulate a bonding bill request for the 2025 legislative season. The GGTA will also continue to support DNR on upcoming grant applications, and we're looking to convene with DNR to update the list of projects to highlight upcoming priority segments of trail. 2025 will also see the 25th anniversary of the Association's supported bike ride, mark your calendars for August 16, 2025!</p> <p>First Quarter: The GGTA has worked closely with partners at MnDNR and MnDOT to begin to identify the next list of priority trail construction projects. The GGTA worked with Senator Hauschild and Representatives Skraba and Zeleznikar to author SF1116/HF1555 that would appropriate \$1.5 million in state bonding funds to two trail projects in Lake County. The GGTA is planning two ribbon cutting events for the new segment in Lutsen and Two Harbors both will be held on May 29th. The GGTA will also support the William-Kelley School Bike Rodeo on May 6th to support bike safety and bike education. The Trail Association was selected as a Pints for a Cause recipient from Castle Danger Brewery and the brewery brewed a batch of "Gitchi-Gami</p> | <p>Lake and Cook Counties</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Trailblazers Stout". A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this beer will benefit the trail. Work continues to modernize the trail logo and the GGTA website. The GGTA is meeting with The Council of State Governments' Great Lakes Program Director on 4/10/2025 on an initiative to develop a binational trail corridor along all the coastlines of the Great Lakes. ARDC recently updated a map showcasing shoulder width measurements along Hwy 61 where the trail is not yet constructed. The GGTA will also continue to support DNR on upcoming grant applications, and we're looking to convene with DNR to update the list of projects to highlight upcoming priority segments of trail. 2025 will also be the 29th anniversary of the Association's supported bike ride, mark your calendars for August 16, 2025!</p> <p>Second Quarter: Executive Director staff assistance provided by ARDC Planning continued for meetings and other specific events throughout Second Quarter. Planning presented to the Minnesota Rovers about the Gitchi-Gami Trail, attended the William Kelley School Bike Rodeo in Silver Bay, hosted two ribbon cutting ceremonies in Lutsen and Two Harbors, continued collaboration on the logo and website redesign projects, updated social media, got the trail featured on a WDIO-TV The Lift segment, prepared for the Annual Ride, and interviewed with AMPERS (please spell out), promoted MnDOT's Bicycle+ Statewide Plan survey and inquired about applying for Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation grant.</p> <p>Third Quarter: Executive Director staff assistance was again desired by the GGTA and ARDC and the GGTA expanded the contract for this project in the next fiscal year. Executive Director staff assistance continues to be provided by ARDC Planning to facilitate meetings, plan and organize events, and public outreach. In Third Quarter, staff assisted the GGTA with planning and facilitating the 25th Annual North Shore Bike Ride, attended the groundbreaking ceremony in Silver Bay for its new multi-modal trail center that will provide access to the trail, organized volunteer events, and assisted in planning a bike ride for students in Silver Bay.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Staff also assisted with meeting with MnDNR and MnDOT on next priorities for trail construction projects and interviewed for and was featured in a Northern Wilds magazine article about the trail in mid-August. Work on a logo update and website updates also continued.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: ARDC staff continued to prepare and facilitate GGTA board meetings, and subcommittee meetings including the Legislative Outreach and Website Redesign subcommittees. Staff coordinated with Gitchi-Gami State Trail corridor legislators to begin the process of preparing a GGTA capital investment request for the 2026 session of the Minnesota Legislature. The GGTA will be requesting \$4.5million to support three trail projects in Cook and Lake Counties. Funds, should they be appropriated, will be awarded to the MnDNR. Staff attended a Legislative Luncheon and presented to the Cook County EDA regarding the 2026 capital investment request. A long-standing gap in the trail in the Town of Tofte was constructed in October/November 2025. Staff took photos and developed successful social media notices about the project during construction and after finalization. Michelle Pierson was interviewed by Boreal.org on a piece about the Tofte segment, which posted on November 4, 2025. Staff are working with GGTA executive board members to develop a letter of support for a MnDNR application to the Federal Transportation Alternatives program and seeking supporters for the Capital Investment request for 2026. Work continues website redesign, with the goal to launch in the new year.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| <p>North Shore Management Board (NSMB) FY25</p> | <p>Background: The NSMB has met multiple times during FY25, both for in-person quarterly voting meetings, as well as in the form of monthly working meetings. The FY26 contract was executed. The NSMB has reviewed land use applications and commented on those within the NSM Zone. Staff to the NSMB have been working on the management plan updates. Additionally, staff has distributed new member information with timelines and other essential information as the board is meeting to self-review operating procedures. The last meeting of the NSMB, was a working meeting, on December 16th via MS Teams.</p> <p>First Quarter: The Q1 2026 NSMB meeting occurred on March 5, 2025, but no decisions or formal minutes were recorded due to lack of quorum. These matters were pushed to the next quarterly meeting.</p> <p>Second Quarter: The North Shore Management Board renewed its annual July 1st contract with ARDC for staffing assistance during Second Quarter. Planning also reviewed land use applications. The TAC's revisions were made as requested to the North Shore Management Plan and the TAC's final review of those revisions are in progress. As the beginning of Third Quarter neared, ARDC transitioned staff within the Planning Division to facilitate North Shore Management Board and TAC meetings. The Board's regular quarterly meetings have progressed and continued without interruption or issue through the transition of ARDC staff support.</p> <p>Third Quarter: The Third Quarter meeting was held in Silver Bay on October 9, 2025. The North Shore Management Board held two additional working meetings during the third quarter, in addition to a series of TAC meetings to review and update sections of the North Shore Management Plan (NSMP). These Third Quarter meetings are discussed in detail under Project Section:</p> | <p>Lake, Cook, St. Louis Counties and Grant Portage Nation</p> |

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| | <p>“North Shore Management Board – Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program Plan (NSMP) Update”</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: The Fourth Quarter meeting was held virtually on December 16, 2025, for the purpose of reviewing the current status of the NSMP and to discuss other projects of the NSMB. This meeting was preceded and followed by multiple weekly NSMB TAC discussions regarding the contents of the revised NSMP. Members shared input regarding the NSMP updates and will consider final plan approval for public comment in January 2026.</p> | |
| <p>Carlton Transportation Plan</p> | <p>Background: ARDC is facilitating a public planning process to develop a transportation plan for the city of Carlton, Minnesota. The plan will document the Carlton community's goals for its future transportation system. Stakeholders will identify and prioritize development directions, which will help government agencies make strategic investment decisions and pursue external transportation funding. A key component of this effort will be the analysis of Highway 210 and Highway 45. This process will be ahead of a MnDOT construction project tentatively set for 2031.</p> <p>In coordination with our consultant (TKDA), ARDC convened the stakeholder group on October 7 in the City of Carlton to identify opportunities and create a framework for data</p> | <p>Carlton County</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>collection efforts. ARDC and TKDA are developing a strategy for data collection, which will occur over the next few months before the stakeholders reconvene.</p> <p>Community Engagement Activities have concluded, led by ARDC Planning. These activities include a digital community survey distributed via community newsletter. Local business surveys are planned to occur in the week of 1/13, and table engagement activities are being planned for later this month.</p> <p>First Quarter: Next steps include completion of the initial vision and strategic goals (To be delivered by TKDA), reconvene the stakeholder group to gather feedback and edits (anticipated in early May), public engagement events will occur over the summer, which will lead to final edits to the vision and strategic goals. This project is on target to meet the completion deadline of September 2025.</p> <p>Second Quarter: ARDC Planning staff facilitated the Taskforce meeting and planned for Carlton County Board presentations. The Team also completed a walk and bike audit in the City of Carlton, worked with TKDA consultants and the Taskforce to make final Vision Statement updates, define priorities, and refine public review information. Public review is slated for July, with staff planning to host a booth at Carlton Daze to assist in this process.</p> <p>Third Quarter: Public engagement on draft plan: Carlton DAZE community fair, National Night Out event, presentation to Carlton County Commission of the Whole, and social media. Draft plan reviewed with TKDA consultants and revisions were made. Final Draft of Plan was posted for public comments.</p> | |

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| | <p>Final plan and document files sent to ARDC for dissemination to City of Carlton, MnDOT District 1 & 3, and Carlton County.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: The Carlton Transportation Plan was delivered to project stakeholders following the conclusion of draft plan review in Third Quarter 2025.</p> | |
| <p>Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)</p> | <p>Background: ARDC Planning is in the process of writing a PROTECT Resilience Planning grant for infrastructure improvements on Trunk Highway (TH) 61 and possible emergency routes.</p> <p>ARDC Planning facilitates regional Scenic Byway Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avenue of Pines (AOP) • Superior National Forest (SNF) Scenic Byway • North Shore Scenic Drive (NSSD) <p>Each Scenic Byway established their own strategic goals and vision. As of today, ARDC Planning is leading discussions with all Scenic Byways to review vision and goals, identify updates. All three scenic byways were included in federal aid grant opportunities this past calendar year, authoring letters of support to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the MN DNR for trail or cultural interpretation projects.</p> <p>ARDC Planning represents the region on state transportation plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater MN Transit Plan • State Rail Plan, State Freight Plan • Statewide Bicycle Plan <p>Continue involvement in the maintenance of the statewide Functional Classification System</p> | <p>Regional</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>First Quarter: ARDC Planning began developing proposal materials for a PROTECT Resilience Planning grant for infrastructure improvements on TH 61 and possible emergency routes. Federal program determinations necessitated an alternative approach to the submission, which resulted in MnDOT submitting the materials for consideration. This project is in the process of being awarded and ARDC Planning is working with MnDOT to clarify roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Second Quarter: ARDC Planning collaborated with Lake, Cook, and Saint Louis County Historical Society directors about collecting history for the History Hikes portion of the North Shore Scenic Drive (NSSD) Council. The purpose is to improve interpretative information at various locations along the NSSD while providing increased educational opportunities for University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) History students. Planning also facilitated History Hikes meetings between the NSSD, County Historical Societies, and UMD and determined Knife River and McQuade Small Craft Harbor are the top pilot locations needing increased interpretation. In Third Quarter, NSSD leadership plans to communicate with landowners to determine concurrence. July is the anticipated start date. Planning also worked with Avenue of Pines Scenic Byway on updated signage approval.</p> <p>Third Quarter: ARDC Planning provided support for functional class updates as needed. Continued communications and meetings with Scenic Byway committees; developed scope of work and budget for Waters of the Dancing Sky Corridor Management Plan update and began collaborating with Northwest and Headwaters Regional Development Commissions; developed communications to prepare for transportation presentations to Tribal Nations; attended RDO Transportation Planners quarterly meeting with content from the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Research and Minnesota Go. Travis Houle volunteered</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>to assist Chris Webb, new RDO Transportation Planners' chair, to assist with November meeting. Presented William Kelley School SRTS plan to the Lake School District School Board. NSSDC agenda setting meeting was held September 30, 2025, to prepare for the October 21st meeting. Also met with UMD to discuss History Hikes pilot process. Bryan McCoy of MnDOT announced the 2026 Highway Safety Improvement Program (H-SIP) program solicitation.</p> <p>Scenic Byway work: Revisited AOP work tasks, signage, letter of support compiled to send to MnDOT and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. When signed and submitted, next steps would be for MnDOT to approve production and installation.</p> <p>NSSDC: Connected with UMD to complete a pilot of the History Hikes initiative.</p> <p>Counter program: May be interest in Floodwood to count bikes/peds on the Floodwood River trail for the Safe Routes to School plan.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: ARDC staff have continued to schedule and facilitate Scenic Byway committee meetings during this quarter, which includes two in-person quarterly meetings with Avenue of Pines and North Shore Scenic Drive. Both meetings occurred in October 2025. Additionally, communication with former members of the Superior National Forest Scenic Byway (SNF) has led to a rekindling of the SNF Byway Committee. Plans have been made to facilitate a scenic byway meeting in Hoyt Lakes in First Quarter 2026. Additionally, all scenic byway committees are being assessed for current community engagement efforts. The goal of this was to establish a consistent process for all Scenic Byway groups. This resulted in a process document being created, which will be leveraged in Calendar Year 2026 to generate social media content and establish a post approval process.</p> | |

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| | <p>Functional Classification System Updates – MnDOT informed ARDC last quarter that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) urban area boundary adjustments triggered the requirement for each state to review existing Functional Classifications on a system-wide basis. As of Fourth Quarter 2025, ARDC Planning has received the list of proposed changes, consulted with MnDOT District 1, and plans to facilitate conversations with County units following the February 2026 Area Transportation Partnership meeting.</p> <p>Waters of the Dancing Sky Corridor Management Plan (WODS CMP) Update contract executed with MnDOT District 1 for \$99,712.50. ARDC in process of entering sub-contracts to partner with Northwest and Headwaters Regional Development Commissions on the WODS CMP update completion.</p> | |
| <p>Northeast MN Area Transportation Partnership (NEMNATP)</p> | <p>Background: ARDC Provide staff services to Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (NEMNATP), including planning and development needs: administration, website upkeep, communication to local officials about priorities, and Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) development and management. Facilitate ATP Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program, and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) solicitation and projects evaluation - solicitation and review project applications, individual work with applicants, determination of ATP consideration priorities.</p> <p>The NEMNATP met on October 9 in Aitkin County. Participants were provided updates from MnDOT and ARDC regarding the 2024-2025 program solicitation for TA, CRP, and PROTECT. During this meeting, members approved the expansion of TA Taskforce to include CRP & PROTECT. Members also approved a requested change of scope to the Campus Connector project, awarded to the City of Duluth.</p> <p>First Quarter:</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Applications for TA, CRP, and PROTECT funding were due on 1/10/2025. ARDC Planning compiled applications into binders for ATP Taskforce review and prioritization. Projects were prioritized on 2/5/25 at our Duluth Office and approved by the ATP voting members on 2/12/2025 at the MnDOT District One Office. Award letters were subsequently drafted by ARDC and held for delivery until directed by MnDOT. NEMNATP also reviewed FY29 Federal Aid candidate projects, which were described by MnDOT.</p> <p>Second Quarter: ATP quarterly meeting on 4/9 took place in Carlton, MN. Meeting including introduction to Corridors of Commerce Readiness and the formation of a subcommittee to review, if needed. This then led to the meeting of said subcommittee in coordination with MnDOT, to review recommended projects based on scores. The ATP also reviewed ARDC workplan updates, and the Draft Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP) document for approval, which did occur during the meeting. Small Cities grants were also described by MnDOT and further discussion was needed with those applicants, for MnDOT to determine any awards. This was due to a greater number of request for funds than what was available.</p> <p>Third Quarter: ATP quarterly meeting was held in Chisholm, Minnesota, July 9th. Meeting included Corridors of Commerce Readiness, Small Cities Grants discussion, a Legislative update, and a presentation on trail systems in the Chisholm area. The meeting was followed by a trail tour. Additional activity in Third Quarter included coordinating the Fourth Quarter October 8th meeting and the announcement and preparation of solicitation materials for release the beginning of Fourth Quarter. ARDC also coordinated the funding opportunity workshop with the Metropolitan Interstate Council and MnDOT, which was scheduled for October 8th following the Fourth Quarter meeting.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter:</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>ATP Quarterly Meeting was held at the Blandin Foundation office in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on October 8, 2025. Meeting included review of meeting dates and locations for Calendar Year 2026, elections for a new Vice Chair in the next calendar year (Chair: Jim Foldesi of Saint Louis County; Vice Chair: John Welle of Aitkin County), an overview of the TA, CRP, and PROTECT solicitation and review process, discussion on working with MnDOT on priority intersections in rural areas, A Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation overview from MnDOT Central Office staff, a Grand Rapids/La Prairie Corridor Study update, and a presentation from Blandin staff, in addition to roundtable updates. Following the October ATP meeting, ARDC and MnDOT hosted a hybrid workshop for applicants of the TA, CRP, and PROTECT programs. Later in the quarter, ARDC announced the Letter of Intent period, which concluded in early December. Eligible applicants were then invited to submit formal applications, which are due in early Calendar Year 2026. All ATP activities are on track to take place in accordance within the anticipated timeline.</p> <p>NEMNATP contract with MnDOT District 1 for February 1, 2026, was executed.</p> | |
| <p>Coastal Erosion Hazard Mapping (CEHM) Phase 4</p> | <p>Background: The CEHM project aims to update the current erosion hazard layer (currently from 1989) to provide a more accurate look at how the Lake Superior shoreline has changed over time. Upon completion of this project, a tool will be created to give better knowledge to homeowners and zoning commissions looking to build along the shore.</p> <p>In Phase 3, The Coastal Erosion Hazard maps have been rectified and corrected. Ground truthing, also known as field validation, has been initiated.</p> <p>First Quarter: The Coastal Erosion Hazard maps have been rectified and corrected. Ground truthing field validation has taken place. The next steps include building a more robust digitized shoreline history and creating an erosion susceptibility layer.</p> | <p>St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Grand Portage</p> |

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| | <p>Second Quarter: The Geographic Information Systems staff worked on maps to showcase the change in technology and data from the 1988 Plan to present day. Initially only a small portion of the shoreline was mapped to provide a potential layout to share with the TAC – a full, zone-wide map is in process of being completed for the appendix of the plan.</p> <p>Third Quarter: ARDC Planning has been coordinating with the MLSCP and all historic stakeholders in attempts to reform the old CEHM group. This includes individuals from entities such as NOAA, DNR, UMD, SWCDs, and the counties. In addition, ARDC has begun the internal contracting process needed to bring in a contractor to start the updating process for the Digital Shoreline Analysis. In order to make this process run smoothly, ARDC GIS has also been organizing current data, and gathering and indexing new data to be used.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: ARDC Planning staff and MLSCP Program staff held biweekly project tracking meetings. These meetings helped to guide the project forward. ARDC completed and submitted our six-month report to MLSCP, facilitated an exploratory conversation with the University of Minnesota-Duluth’s U-Spatial staff to discuss the processing of new imagery datasets, which ultimately led to ARDC deciding to onboard an intern starting in January 2026 for the purpose of DSAS data digitization. Additionally, ARDC Planning staff presented the current state of the CEHM project to NSMB Board and TAC members, which led to discussions about resource allocation throughout time and concerns over how next steps will be facilitated. ARDC Planning staff worked with TAC members and MLSCP Program staff to document project history. Imagery digitization and DSAS dataset enhancement is a critical step to ensuring the viability of the overall DSAS dataset and is anticipated to conclude in Second Quarter</p> | |

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| | Calendar Year 2026. Overall, the current phase of the project is on target to be completed by the grant end date. | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">North Shore Management Board – Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program Plan (NSMP) Update</p> | <p>Background: The NSM Plan review continues in FY 26. The Q1 & Q2 reports were submitted. The public information and input sessions were informative and well received. The Technical Advisory Committee is meeting, reviewing shoreland management standards, and updating plan elements as needed.</p> <p>First Quarter: During the First Quarter of FY25, NSM-Plan section updates continued from the fiscal year. The North Shore Management Plan which sets the minimum development standards in the North Shore Management Zone.</p> <p>Second Quarter: As reported under the North Shore Management Board (NSMB) section, the TAC’s revisions were made to the North Shore Management Plan (NSMP) as requested and the TAC’s final review of those revisions are in progress. As the beginning of Third Quarter neared, ARDC transitioned staff within the Planning Division to facilitate NSMB and TAC meetings. Preliminary Coastal Erosion Hazard mapping was completed and work in continuing on making these maps for the whole North Shore Management Zone and for appendix items in the NSMP. A STAR Grant application was submitted in early May to obtain supplemental funding, which the Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program will reconsidering in Third Quarter if Federal small grant funds become available at that time.</p> <p>Third Quarter: NSMB Board Working Meetings: The NSMB met in August 2025 for a non-voting working session, to review updates to the NSMP proposed by the TAC. Chapter 2 was presented to the Board and while voting could not occur, members reviewed and provided comment. All</p> | |

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| | <p>sections proposed for updates to date will be brought to the October 9, 2025, Board Meeting for approval/adoption.</p> <p>NSMB TAC Meetings: The TAC met six times from July through August to propose and discuss chapter edits. This effort began with Chapters 1, 2, and 4. Chapter 3 will be discussed throughout the remainder of CY2025. Final approval of all plan chapters (not including Coastal Erosion Hazards in Chapter 3) will be approved as final at the January Quarterly voting meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: The NSMB continued to meet monthly to conduct more routine review of NSMP chapter edits. In kind, the NSMB TAC met on a weekly basis to discuss chapter modifications. To date, the NSMB has reviewed and approved the final version of NSMP Chapters 1, 2, and 4. Chapter 3 (Shoreland Management Standards) has required extensive review and modification, which has been discussed and facilitated by ARDC with input from the NSMB TAC members. Chapter 3 edits will be finalized during the first month of Calendar Year 2026, and a final version of the NSMP will be published by March 2026.</p> | |
| <p>Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Floodwood and Duluth</p> | <p>Background: The William-Kelley Safe Routes to Schools Planning process kicked off in September of 2024. The school participated in International Walk to School Day, and a walk audit was completed in November, with other data collection activities in progress. (https://www.northeastship.org/post/safe-routes-toschool-planning-william-kelly)</p> <p>First Quarter: The William-Kelley Safe Routes to Schools Planning process kicked off in September of 2024. The data collection process is complete/nearly complete. Program recommendations</p> | <p>Lake County</p> |

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| | <p>have been vetted. Infrastructure recommendations will be drafted in Spring 2025. A Bicycle Rodeo will be held May 6th, 2025.</p> <p>Second Quarter: ARDC Planning collaborated with multiple government and community organizations to make the Silver Bay Bike Rodeo possible and took photographs of the site and layout for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan document. The William-Kelley School SRTS Final plan draft was prepared. While this project will be completed with Second Quarter, the Planning Division looks forward to beginning work on SRTS for Duluth and Floodwood Public Schools in Third Quarter.</p> <p>Third Quarter: SRTS projects kicked off for both Duluth Public Schools and the Floodwood School District, including applicant contacts, kick-off meeting coordination, and beginning data collection activities.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: ARDC completed the following SRTS tasks in Fourth Quarter 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard observation assessments for nine elementary schools in Duluth. • Walk audits in neighborhoods around five school sites. • Held meetings with school staff regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety. • Distributed parent/caregiver surveys and compiled visual data into a digital database. • Held a second steering committee meeting to analyze data collected for Floodwood School District and conducted an in-person data collection activity at a school event. | Duluth ISD 709 Floodwood |
| Regional Transportation | Background: | Regional |

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| <p>Coordinating Council (RTCC)</p> | <p>The RTCC healthcare subcommittee recently met with Minnesota State Representative Liz Reyer (District 52A) & Natalie Zeleznikar (District 03B) to discuss transportation barriers to healthcare access in the Arrowhead Region. RTCC is partnering with Forward Health Foundation, and their community team will guide the expansion of existing transportation services in the Leech Lake Reservation, Deer River, and Ball Club areas, with the goal of connecting these rural areas to regional service hubs such as Grand Rapids. RTCC staff are also working with Duluth area disability workforce development agencies to identify needs or opportunities related to transportation, with the goal of improving their quality and scope of services. Presentations were given to the Wilderness Health Collaborative, Community Transportation Association of American, Minnesota Public Transit Association, Rural Transit Assistance Program Spring Workshop. Tabled at the St. Louis County Human Health Services conference and shared information and strategies with attendees. ARDC's RTCC staff traveled to Washington DC for 3rd time with Mn Public Transit Alliance for their Fly-In to inform MN Legislators on the transportation needs and challenges in the region. Link: https://www.arrowheadrtcc.org/</p> <p>First Quarter: The RTCC Healthcare Subcommittee will be moving forward with its goals of improving transportation as it relates to healthcare access. The Arrowhead RTCC applied for a grant through the University of MN titled "Empowering Smaller MN Communities. The U of M will be providing student and staff time to collect and analyze data relating to transportation and healthcare access. This project hopes to encapsulate the socioeconomic impact of transportation gaps to accessing health care access. This information will be used to support suggested policy changes to increase and improve NEMT services in Minnesota. We hope this study will support both high-level solutions and service level solutions (new services or programs).</p> | <p>Immediate focus on: The Kootasca Service Area</p> <p>Duluth and Regional</p> |

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| | <p>Arrowhead RTCC staff have for the Mobility, Access, and Transportation Insecurity grant solicited by the FTA & University of Minnesota. The project will focus on exploring multimodal options to close the gaps of health care access due to lack of transportation for the residents of Koochiching County.</p> <p>The proposed project will have three major exploration tracks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a vehicle sharing model utilizing ADA accessible vehicles. 2. Reestablishment of vehicle repair program. 3. Increased capacity and operational sustainability of non-emergency transportation operated by volunteers and public transit. <p>RTCC staff have submitted a request that will conduct a feasibility study for Goodwill Industries to obtain a mobile workforce unit. This will complement the expanding Goodwill Workforce Center in Duluth's Industrial Park.</p> <p>RTCC staff have current roles with the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrowhead Regional Quality Council • Arrowhead Transit Transportation Advisory Council(s) • Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living • Deer River Community of Practice • Iron Range Nonprofit Network • MnDOT Greater Minnesota Transit Plan Advisory Team • Mn Rural Transit Assistance Program (Advisory Committee) • NLX Alliance Board • Social Service Providers Network of Koochiching County • Transportation Research Board Advisory Panel (Resource to Support Volunteer Driver Programs in Rural and Low-Density Area) | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitalize Aitkin County Steering Committee • Volunteer Driver Coalition (Co-chair) <p>Second Quarter: ARDC Planning RTCC staff participated in multiple meetings and conferences throughout Second Quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Equity Network quarterly meeting. • Nation Aging and Disability Transportation Center webinar • Minnesota Rural Health Association Conference • ARQC Larger Group meeting • Presented at the Community Transportation Association of America conference (San Diego, California). • Presented at the Association of Mobility Managers conference (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma). <p>Planners also reviewed the scope of work, collected data for, and continued ongoing work with the University of Minnesota for the Empowering Smaller Minnesota Communities Program and research of socioeconomic cost of missed health care appointment due to transportation. Staff also met with Arc Northland and Vibrant Streets Duluth to discuss collaborating with the Arrowhead Regional Quality Control group on transit access for disabled adults. The ILT Academy Project set up began with next steps seeking to improve advocacy on transportation and land use planning. Planning is looking forward to continuing its work with MnDOT on RTCC initiatives.</p> <p>Third Quarter: -Facilitated full council meeting including members of the Health Care Access Subcommittee</p> | |

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| | <p>Provided update on the following projects and asked for feedback on short term goals of the RTCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transportation Navigators • Health Care Access Subcommittee- Empowering Small Minnesota Communities • Arrowhead Regional Health Alliance • ILT Academy Project- True North Good Will Industries Mobile workforce unit • Volunteer Driver legislation update • Working with Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (formerly National Center for Mobility Management) <p>-Attended meetings with Professor David Beard, project lead on our ESMC project: Research, Maps, and Storytelling: Tools for Identifying and Responding to the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Needs of the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota</p> <p>-Arrowhead Regional Quality Council (ARQC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTCC Co-Coordinator continues to provide workgroup assistance <p>-Attended Rural Transportation Peer Exchange: Public Engagement Process in Rural Areas</p> <p>-Attended CTAA's SUN Conference in St. Cloud</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met FTA Administrator • Tour of Saint Cloud airport and Met Transit's operations and training facility • Attended one-one technical advisory session with CTAA staff about marketing and another with N-CATT staff about STIC and grant writing | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended presentations on state of funding for small urban transit networks, insurance pooling options, Greater Minnesota Transit Plan and OTAT. <p>-Attended meeting with University Of Minnesota</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTCC Co-Coordinator met with transportation staff from University of Minnesota to discuss their car sharing program and any potential to replicate it in the Arrowhead Region. <p>-Attended Minnesota Public Transportation Alliance DC Fly In</p> <p>-Attended Northeast Minnesota Healthcare Workforce Summit at The College of Saint Scholastica</p> <p>-Meetings with Headwaters and Northwest RTCC Coordinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming on intra-regional coordination • Review of funding options for feasibility study • Review of Central Mobility Management Center (Virginia) webinar presentation <p>-Tran Ware demo and meeting with QRyde</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demo of ride scheduling and coordination software <p>Fourth Quarter:</p> <p>-Attended Age Friendly Regional Exchange Learned updates on Minnesota's Age Friendly Framework and overlaps with transportation access.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>-Attended “Future of AI in Shared Mobility” Symposium Gained information on trends in Artificial Intelligence and transportation access.</p> <p>-Meetings with Ric Schafer from Arrowhead Health Alliance about identifying a steering committee for project.</p> <p>-Meetings with Goodwill staff and MnDOT Discussed 5310 options for Mobile Workforce vehicle.</p> <p>-Met with Wendy Schrag, Vice President Government Affairs Fresenius Kidney Care Part of ongoing collaboration with Fresenius to identify solution for improved transportation access to dialysis care in the Arrowhead Region. Wendy and ARDC staff reviewed Minnesota’s fact sheet for the state’s application to the federal Rural Health Transformation grant. Provided Wendy with update of Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) project. And discussed potential impacts of Department of Human Services changes to statewide broker for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).</p> <p>-Met with Ordean Foundation Staff Don Ness and Andy Switzer, as a component to the ESMC project Ordean Foundation staff presented a pilot project they are developing to collect qualitative data. It is an AI software that is meant to mimic the naturally occurring conversations that may happen when interviewing a subject on a specific matter. RTCC staff had the opportunity to test this software and provide feedback.</p> <p>-Meetings with Professor David Beard, staff on the ESMC project, regarding a GIS project. RTCC co-coordinator and ARDC GIS staff had a discussion with Professor Beard regarding utilizing a GIS tool that the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) had developed to outline distances from patients to healthcare destinations. ARDC GIS staff will use this tool to</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>reverse engineer the maps to show distances from patients to dialysis care centers in the Arrowhead Region.</p> <p>Attended Age Friendly Regional Exchange Learned updates on Minnesota’s Age Friendly Framework, and overlaps with transportation access. This event was a presentation on the advances in age-friendly policies that have been championed in Minnesota since the 2023 Regional Age-Friendly Convening.</p> <p>-Attended MADO Leadership Training, StrengthsFinder, Conflict Resolution Training for Regional Development Organizations dealing with governance, boards and resolutions for assisting regional transit with various nonprofit agencies and Joint Powers Boards relationships.</p> <p>-Attended Mobility Managers' monthly meeting updates and collaborations. -Attended MnDOT Greater MN Transit Plan Webinar and stakeholder engagement reports and input from statewide RTCC Mobility Managers/TCAPS.</p> <p>-Attended Move Minneapolis and “Future of AI in Shared Mobility” Symposium, Featured MnDOT’s AI in public transit/Autonomous Vehicles, Southwest Transit May Mobility vehicle updates, and goMARTI updates with PLUM Catalyst.</p> <p>-Attended Minnesota Rural Health Association Policy Summit Learned about various points about health access including telehealth, workforce development, impacts of shrinking rural health care systems, and immigration. Participated in facilitated discussions, exploring critical questions and identifying meaningful policy and strategy for health in rural communities across the state. NEMT was a hot topic, but few solutions were identified. Shared information about Arrowhead RTCC.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>-Attended CCAM TAC: Breaking Down Barriers to Access in Rural Communities webinar.</p> <p>-Co-coordinator is a member of the Greater MN Transit Plan PAC (Plan Advisory Committee)</p> <p>-Facilitated Exploration of Regional Transportation for Adult Mental Health Care Steering Committee Reviewed scope of work and data collection points with steering committee. Committee decided on gathering existing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) data from their respective entities, ARDC will develop surveys for case managers and clients and create an Excel document of locations identified in the scope of work to build heat maps showing distances people need to travel to access care. Next meeting January 30, 2026.</p> <p>Meetings with Goodwill staff and ARDC’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planner Toured True North Goodwill’s main location in Duluth. This space will be renovated next year and include expanded workforce skill building services. The Mobile Mission (mobile workforce unit) will support the expanded service capacity.</p> <p>Attended Transportation Research Board’s (TRB) Intern meeting as part of panel member for the development of Resource for State DOT’s to Support Volunteer Driver Programs in Rural and Low-Density Area research report. Coordinator was chosen as member of the review panel along with transportation representatives from other states. We reviewed the draft report that will inform deliverables of the report and resource. The TRB covered expenses for panel members to travel to Washington, DC for a hybrid meeting. The research project is led by Easterseals, Texas A & M, West Virginia University, and National Academy of Sciences.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| Brownfields Assessment Coalition | <p>Background: ARDC is entering the final ten months of its EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant, which provides cost-free environmental assessments and planning assistance to eligible communities. In December, ARDC held a coalition meeting that welcomed participation from new communities, broadening the reach of the program. ARDC staff are actively engaging with coalition communities to identify and prioritize projects for the grant's final year, ensuring the remaining resources are effectively utilized.</p> <p>First Quarter: ARDC is entering the final five months of its EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant, which provides cost-free environmental assessments and planning assistance to eligible communities. All remaining funds have been allocated to planning projects in Cloquet (Brenny Dahl Site) and Grand Rapids (Old Farm Services site). Staff attended the Iron Range Brownfields Conference on April 13th.</p> <p>Second Quarter: The Environmental Protection Agency approved budget reallocation and ARDC Planning received design concepts for Brenny-Dahl in Cloquet. ARDC Planning's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Team is also working on mapping needs, and testing is being finished in Grand Rapids. Planning is slated to be completed for the Cloquet site in July.</p> <p>Third Quarter: Finished assessment and planning work at Brenny Dahl in Cloquet. Grant ended September 30.</p> | Two Harbors, Cloquet, Grand Rapids, Cohasset, Aitkin County, International Falls (Plus all other communities in Region) |
| Economic Development Administration | <p>Background: ARDC has launched its 2025 EDA planning efforts with the development of an EDA Distress Booklet. This resource is designed to help communities better understand their eligibility for EDA funding. Additionally, new Supplemental Disaster Recovery funding recently enacted into</p> | Regional |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| (EDA) Planning Grant | <p>law expands opportunities for special recovery and resilience funding in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Itasca Counties. ARDC staff are preparing to engage with eligible communities as program details are finalized. Efforts to re-form the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee will also begin in 2025, laying the groundwork for enhanced regional planning and economic resilience initiatives.</p> <p>First Quarter: ARDC created an internal 2025 workplan for the Partnership Planning Grant. Priorities include re-forming the CEDS Strategy Committee, assisting at least two communities/organizations to secure disaster supplemental funds grants, developing projects with distressed communities, and launching semi-regular email announcements. Staff serving on the NADO Innovation Committee to support increased PPG funding. ARDC is currently awaiting further direction from EDA regarding changes to the agency’s priorities following reauthorization and a new administration.</p> <p>Second Quarter: EDA YR 2025 Disaster Supplemental funding became available to six of the seven counties ARDC serves for disasters that occurred in Years 2023 and 2024. ARDC Planning performed outreach and held meetings with multiple local units of government and agencies throughout the Arrowhead to determine interest in preparation to offer grant application, technical assistance, and to connect applicants to the EDA.</p> <p>Duluth’s Seawall Project was also completed in late spring. Awarded in 2021, ARDC Planning provided pre-award Economic Development Administration (EDA) connections, grant writing assistance, and State Historic Preservation Office review to that process.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Confirmation of EDA's three-year funding for ARDC's economic development work is anticipated for early July.</p> <p>Third Quarter: In July, staff prepared and distributed disaster funding memos for Cook and for remote and rural communities, followed by direct outreach and consultation calls with potential applicants to EDA Disaster Funds. A Grand Portage visit included announcing the 2025 Disaster Funding award at the Northland Climate Resilience Collaborative (NCRC), discussing an upcoming EDA project, and touring the marina facilities. Staff also participated in TED and TEDI, IRRR, and Federal Reserve webinars and workshops, along with IREA Board check-ins. The disaster program was promoted in the NCRC newsletter, and the Federal Reserve business survey was distributed to RLF clients to support data collection on regional economic conditions.</p> <p>In August, ARDC attended the Iron Range Brownfields Luncheon in Virginia, the MADDO Economic Developers Meeting, and the Regional Economic Conditions Webinar hosted by the Federal Reserve. Staff also continued disaster funding meetings with potential applicants and coordinated pre- and post-NOFO notifications to local governments and partners. Additional work included preparing a NARC grant supplement to the CEDS, recruiting members for the CEDS Strategy Committee, and participating in the EDA University Center discussions.</p> <p>Staff shared RLF information during the IREA Q meeting, contributed to Develop MN discussions through the MADDO ED Planners Meeting, and joined the EDAM Federal Funds Update with EDA and USDA. ARDC also participated in the State Long Range Planning Team, DAWN, and NARC and Keystone Energy Meetings.</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>ARDC staff also accepted the invitation to serve as a review committee member with the St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. To date, this has included attendance at an introductory meeting, to be followed by application review and meeting attendance next quarter.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Assisted Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Duluth International Airport, and Hibbing on EDA Disaster Funds Applications. Facilitated meetings between EDA, the City of Duluth and Goodwill regarding project development. Worked with Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS), Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR), Ely, Eveleth, Hibbing, and Virginia to form a coalition to apply for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant. Began the 2027-2031 CEDS development process by recruiting a committee, issuing an RFP for a public engagement facilitator, and holding the first meeting of the Strategy Committee.</p> | |
| <p>Edge of the Wilderness (EOW) Comprehensive Plan</p> | <p>Background: ARDC is embarking on a Comprehensive Planning process for the Edge of the Wilderness communities in northern Itasca County. The planning process will take place over the six to nine months.</p> <p>Second Quarter: During Second Quarter, ARDC Planning conducted background and survey drafting for the Edge of the Wilderness (EOW) Comprehensive Plan and facilitated a meeting with the Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board. ARDC's Geographic Information Systems also produced three maps for the plan, which included an overview and hydro-features. The existing conditions summary was completed and a tour of the EOW communities is being scheduled.</p> <p>Third Quarter:</p> | <p>Bigfork, Bigfork Twp, Stokes Twp, Marcell Twp, Bigfork Valley Hospital</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>ARDC Planning facilitated two community engagement meetings in Marcell and Effie. A community survey was released. To date, 30 responses have been submitted.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Met with the Joint Powers Board to review survey results and draft plan recommendations.</p> | |
| <p>City of Buhl Comprehensive Plan</p> | <p>Background: ARDC Planning is beginning work with the City of Buhl on its Comprehensive Planning process. The planning process will take place through April 2026.</p> <p>Third Quarter: ARDC toured Buhl in July and met with the Planning Commission to review the existing plan. ARDC staff facilitated two community engagement meetings and released a community survey.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Met with Planning Commission in October to review public engagement results and draft plan recommendations.</p> | <p>City of Buhl, Saint Louis County</p> |
| <p>North Shore Roadway Study</p> | <p>Background: ARDC Planning will support MnDOT in the development of a Resilience Improvement Planning Study, as outlined by the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) state set aside grant. This plan will focus on the area of Trunk Highway 61 (TH61), in Lake and Cook Counties, where there are not any currently signed or official alternative route(s) for residents and visitors in the project area.</p> <p>Second Quarter: ARDC entered into contract with MnDOT.</p> | <p>Lake and Cook Counties</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Third Quarter: ARDC staff and MnDOT co-facilitated a meeting to review consultant RFPs. ARDC will serve on the consultant RFP review committee.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: ARDC served on RFP review committee. No further work, awaiting MnDOT's contracting with top scored consultant.</p> | |
| <p>Keystone Policy Center MOU (Department of Energy Collaboration-Based Siting Project)</p> | <p>Background: The Keystone Policy Center awarded ARDC \$75,000 for the purpose of National Association of Regional Council membership funding; contracting with a consultant(s) for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) public engagement and economic analysis; Planning Division meeting supplies and display equipment for outreach activities; community and Tribal engagement supporting the Saint Louis County Climate Resiliency project; hiring a Planning Division website redesign consultant for improved civic engagement and functionality; travel and conference expenses for the Midwest Climate Energy Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, supporting our Tribal engagement and to advance adaptation and resilience for communities and ecosystems, foster relationships, and coordinate actionable steps beyond the conference.</p> <p>Third Quarter: ARDC entered into a memorandum of understanding with Keystone Policy Center; purchased community and Tribal engagement items, meeting supplies, and display equipment; and researched other Regional Development Commission website designs in preparation to submit Request for Proposal to potential consultants.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Saint Louis County/NOAA Climate Resilience Project Planner and fellow attended NOAA Midwest Climate Resilience Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in October 2025. ARDC</p> | <p>Regional</p> |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>and ARDC Planning Website Redesign and CEDS Public Engagement Requests for Proposals were sent and posted to our website. Website Redesign scoring and review occurred and LWV Productions of Duluth was selected in December. CEDS Public Engagement scoring to occur the first week of January 2026. Keystone Policy Center approved revisions to the \$75,000 budget that reallocated existing funds to increase the amounts available for the overall CEDS process, Tribal and community engagement, and website redesign projects.</p> | |
| <p>Upper Minnesota Valley RDC GIS Support</p> | <p>Background: In 2025, ARDC GIS put out fliers to the other RDCs around the state offering aid in anything GIS related. In Fourth Quarter 2025, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) reached out for assistance in switching from ArcMap to ArcGIS Pro.</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: ARDC contracted with UMVRDC through December 2025, and worked with UMVRDC to provide staff an understanding of how to migrate and use ArcGIS Pro, with the knowledge that support for ArcMap would be discontinued in the Spring of 2026. Assistance was provided through email chains and virtual meetings by walking through tasks and teaching the newer software. Contract is slated to be amended and extended through 2026.</p> | |
| <p>Additional in 2025</p> | <p>First and Second Quarter:</p> <p>Applied for New Funds or Contracts: MATI Grant (Transportation), LCCMR (Transportation and Environmental) and STAR (Coastal) Grant funds, North Shore Roadway Network Resiliency Study (Transportation), Duluth and Floodwood Safe Routes to School (Transportation)</p> <p>Applied for Renewal Funds or Contracts: RTCC (Regional Transportation Coordinating Council), RTAC (Regional Transportation Advisory Committee), Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, North Shore Management Board</p> | |

| Projects | Short Project Update | Community, County, Tribe, or Full Region |
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| | <p>Comprehensive Plans: Edge of the Wilderness, City of Buhl</p> <p>Third Quarter:</p> <p>Applied for New Funds or Contracts: Waters of the Dancing Sky Corridor Management Plan (Transportation), Arrowhead Health Alliance (Transportation), Keystone Policy Center Grant, Rural Tribal Assistance Grant (Transportation)</p> <p>Comprehensive Plans: Tower-Breitung, City of LaPrairie</p> <p>Fourth Quarter: Not applicable in Fourth Quarter.</p> | |

Revolving Loan Fund(s) (RLF)

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| <p>RLF Activity</p> | <p>First Quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARDC has been exploring an opportunity with the Department of Commerce to provide PACE energy loans in the region. The program requires a Joint Powers Agreement with each County, an energy assessment for every applicant and payments are collected 2x per year by the county. Loans are limited to small awards under \$100,000 with a 1% origination fee. we do not feel there is enough funding to cover the administrative costs of the program. • ARDC is also exploring a Brownfields loan program. • New Technical Advisory Committee members are Ryan Pervenanze (Carlton Co) and Molly MacGregor (Itasca Co) <p>Second Quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Cal Saari (Itasca Co) to the RLF TAC – Still recruiting for Aitkin Co • Continuing to explore a Brownfields Loan program and had conversations with EPA – no funding round this fall, but they have provided some resources. • Working on updating the RLF Plan – will be due to EDA in Qtr 3 <p>Third Quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARDC made two loans: 1 to Duluth Cider and 1 to the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO). Both loans fell under the CARES Fund. • ARDC attended the DAWN Entrepreneur Fund Event • ARDC Presented at the Lenders Forum in Grand Rapids, MN • ARDC updated the CARES RLF Plan, and submitted to EDA • ARDC has resumed conversation on the C-PACE program with EPA and will be presenting an opportunity to the RLF technical advisory committee during our next meeting. | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARDC staff have started work to update the Legacy Loan Fund Plan and intend to complete that work by year end. <p>Fourth Quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARDC Made 2 loans. 1) Divine Connections Day Care from the CARES fund 2) Negley Properties from the Legacy Fund • ARDC started the process of developing/capitalizing a C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) program with the Department of Commerce and the 7 Arrowhead counties. This program provides financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal), and water conservation upgrades for commercial, non-profit, and multi-family (5+ units) buildings, with repayments tied to property taxes, making it easier to fund projects with long-term savings and transferrable upon sale. • Presented at the DAWNtreprenuer Resource Fair in Virginia • Met internally regarding collections and compliance site visits. • Attended and presented at the Virtual Business Resource Summit • Renewed contract with Chad Riccord for loan consulting. • Updated ARDC RLF outreach materials. • Presented a reminder to the RAMS Housing group on RLF availability for gap financing for housing projects. <p>Total Loans Distributed – Both Funds for 2025 \$1,110,500.00</p> | |
| <p>RLF – Legacy</p> | <p>ARDC offers gap financing to businesses and nonprofit organizations that are in the seven county Arrowhead Region. Business interest from these loans is reinvested in other businesses in the region. The Legacy loans cover all types of uses. The maximum loan is \$250,000.00 Interest Rate is market value. These are primarily used for 'gap' financing.</p> | <p>Regional with 2025 awards in: 5 St. Louis (Duluth –3) Cook Co Grand Marais(1) St Louis Co -1 Pending Babbit</p> |

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| | | (1 previous loan Foreclosure in 2025) |
| RLF - CARES | <p>The CARES Loan fund was established as a regional economic support post pandemic and provides working private and nonprofit businesses. These loans provide working capital for entities with a maximum of \$ 75,000 for a 10-year loan, with the first-year payment being interest only. The interest rate is 75% of the market rate. This fund now has a special focus on Child Care and Disaster Relief.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This section will be updated according to the new plan for Quarter 4. Loan amounts can now be primary or gap funding and up to \$250,000 with TAC approval.</i></p> | <p>Regional with 2025 awards in: (6 to date)</p> <p>St. Louis - Duluth (3) Itasca-Grand Rapids (2)</p> <p>St Louis – (1) Pending - Duluth</p> |