



Leading, planning, and connecting for more than 40 years!



ANNUAL REPORT | 2016

OUR MISSION:

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission serves the people of the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota by providing local units of government and citizens groups a means to work cooperatively in identifying needs, solving problems and fostering local leadership.

Hello!

I am proud to serve as chairman of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission— an organization that has been serving northeast Minnesota and its fine communities for more than 40 years. ARDC's membership includes both elected officials and citizen representatives from all parts of the region. We elected officials who serve on the Commission value the span— and quality— of work that ARDC provides our communities.

This annual report reflects only a small portion of the vast amount of work the talented ARDC staff members produced in 2016. ARDC continues to assist our communities through collaborations. Effective partnerships are an important component in the planning and development work of the Planning Division and the Metropolitan Interstate Council. A strong network of partner agencies and volunteers enables the Area Agency on Aging to meet the needs of seniors and caregivers within the region. The Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund supports business activities in our region, assisting with the creation of private sector jobs and stimulating private investment in the seven county region of Northeast Minnesota.

Ranging from development of long-range comprehensive and community plans, trail planning, Safe Routes to School planning, pilot active transportation projects, grant writing, technical GIS assistance, to teaching our elders and caregivers classes to better enrich their lives, ARDC is a true reflection of a talented staff, and a dedicated commission, working together to make our region a more sustainable and livable place.



Wade Parleck

Chairman, ARDC



ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging



DULUTH - SUPERIOR Metropolitan Interstate Council



ARDC's team of professional planning staff provides communities in the Arrowhead Region with professional planning and development services to meet long term housing, infrastructure, economic, and human needs. The Division also does planning on a regional basis with the intent to improve the quality of life for all residents in the area.

In 2016, the Division's work included comprehensive planning in Northome and Beaver Bay, city planning in Hermantown and Two Harbors, lending staff assistance to the North Shore Scenic Drive Council, the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, and guiding the steering committee working to plan and develop the Lake Vermilion Trail. An update to the Fond du Lac Transportation Plan was completed and we worked with the city of Big Falls to develop a master plan document as the city looks to expand its campground and recreational area. Master Plan documents were also developed in Lake and Cook Counties for mountain bike systems— these documents are important tools to access grant funding. We continued our efforts with Safe Routes to School planning, working on plans in several communities including Proctor, International Falls, and several schools in the Duluth area alongside our colleagues from the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council and public health professionals. We value our partnerships with staff members in the Area Agency on Aging, who helped us garner valuable input as we began a planning process to evaluate gaps and needs for transit users in our region. We continue to work closely with Community Health Boards in the region to lend technical assistance in efforts to promote active transportation, bicycle safety education for children, and access to healthy food. Our agreement with MnDOT to staff the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee provides us with additional opportunities to support transportation planning for communities throughout the region.

Plans to further assist our communities with implementing recommendations from planning process began to take shape with our new grant assistance program. An experienced grant writer assists community officials and citizens to find grant sources or community projects and to develop effective applications for these sources.

ARDC prides itself on being a full service planning resource and our work in 2016 demonstrates that commitment.



The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) is designated by the Minnesota Board on Aging as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the Planning and Service Area of the Arrowhead Region under authority of Title III of the Older Americans Act. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) were established under the Older Americans Act in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans age 60 and over in every local community. By supporting a range of options that allow older adults to choose the home and community-based services and living arrangements that suit them best, the Arrowhead AAA helps make it possible for older adults to "age in place" in their homes and communities.

In 2016 the Arrowhead AAA focused it's planning efforts around building community capacity to provide Evidence Based Health Promotion programs, developing relationships and referral protocols between medical communities and Home and Community Based Service Providers, (HCBS), strengthening the infrastructure of aging service organizations in the arrowhead region, supporting the role of caregivers through training and advocacy and engaging communities in ACT on Alzheimer's Dementia Friendly Community Toolkit process.

As part of the Minnesota Help Network™, Arrowhead AAA helps to expand and improve the Senior LinkAge Line® Long Term Care Options Counseling service by providing a local contact center along with many partner sites in the Arrowhead region, making this high quality, unbiased, accurate, comprehensive service accessible to all populations by phone, on the web, in-person and through materials in order to meet the demands of our aging population. AAAA Senior Linkage Line® served 10,476 unduplicated consumers, answered 21,503 unduplicated calls, provided 300 outreach events and served nearly 1000 more consumers during Medicare's annual enrollment period from the previous year.

Finally, the Arrowhead AAA provided grants and contracts to community partners totaling over \$1.5 million in Title III Federal Older Americans Act and other federal and state funds for services to assist older adults living independently at home and to support their family caregivers. Please consult our website for additional materials: arrowheadaging.org/2016-annual-report-info



As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior area, the MIC provides leadership for a cooperative transportation planning process that represents all local units of government. The MIC works closely with elected officials, planners, engineers, residents and businesses to determine local priorities and to help lay the groundwork for projects that meet our transportation needs, now and into the future. 2016 planning highlights include:

Duluth-Superior Port Land Use Plan

The Port of Duluth-Superior is part of the larger Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system, a key regional transportation asset and regional economic driver. This plan positions the Twin Ports to take advantage of a projected 30% increase in transportation needs over the next 20 years.

Key recommendations include maintaining the federal navigational channel; land uses that reserve remaining waterfront access for maritime and industrial businesses; and developing the multi-modal transportation network by improving roadway access, encouraging rail and trucking partnerships and rehabilitating underutilized dock structures. View the final plan at: dsmic.org/study/portplan/

Duluth Township Trails Plan

Duluth Township Trails Plan reflects a community vision as well as an ambitious set of goals to be fully realized over time. The idea originated from the Duluth Township Comprehensive Plan, which calls for the creation of a network of pathways that would not only serve recreational uses, but also would provide viable transportation connections to township community gathering places and points of interest.

The Plan identifies a potential network of pedestrian, bicycle, and other multiple-use, non-motorized pathways to connect residents to natural areas, community assets, and regional attractions. It also links to trail systems outside the township, in Duluth, Two Harbors, St. Louis County and Lake County.

The Plan includes an implementation timeline with short - (0-5 years), mid- (5-10 years), and long-range (10+ years) timeframes.

View the final plan at:

dsmic.org/study/duluth-township-trails-plan/



FINANCIAL SUMMARY — FY 2016

**ACTUAL FY 2016
EXPENDITURES**



**ACTUAL FY 2016
REVENUE BY SOURCE**



The above charts reflect unaudited figures regarding ARDC's FY 2016 expenditures and revenues. To view this information in greater detail, and other information pertaining to ARDC's financial summary, please visit: ardc.org/finance

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The ARDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) supports business activities for which credit is not otherwise available. The objective of the program is to stimulate private investment in order to create and maintain productive, permanent employment through the establishment of new businesses or the expansion of existing businesses.

Financing provided in conjunction with this program is intended to complement – not compete with – private lending institutions. As such, securing private sector involvement is a critical factor in qualifying for this program.

In 2016, ARDC's Economic Development Administration's Revolving Loan Fund approved and/or disbursed on 5 new loans totaling \$613,328 to businesses in the seven county region of Northeast Minnesota.

Loan Distribution by County	
1987 to 2016	
Aitkin	\$975,000
Carlton	\$616,675
Cook	\$1,171,173
Itasca	\$1,563,500
Koochiching	\$143,500
Lake	\$1,282,300
St. Louis	\$4,320,365

To learn more about ARDC's Revolving Loan Fund and view detailed 2016 data, please visit: ardc.org/rif/

Sister Mary Matthew Morrisroe, ARDC Finance Director

218-491-1841 • mmatthew@ardc.org

To view additional financial reports and budgets, visit www.ardc.org/finance



ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ARDC's Board and Commission

COUNTY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Wade Pavleck, Chair (Koochiching County)*
Dick Brenner, Vice Chair (Carlton County)*
Don Niemi (Aitkin County)*
Ginny Stortie (Cook County)*
Jeremy Hurd (Lake County)*
Terry Snyder (Itasca County)*
Patrick Boyle (St. Louis County)
Frank Jewell* (St. Louis County)

AT-LARGE (CITIZEN) MEMBERS

Patricia Campanaro (Grand Marais)
Lars Kuehnow, Secretary (Hermantown)*
Paul Nevanen (International Falls)
Heather Rand (Duluth/DEDA)
Allen Rasmussen, Treasurer (International Falls)*
Margaret Sherman (Palisade)
Susan Zmyslony (Moose Lake)

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Judd Watson (AAAA Advisory Board)
Earl Elde (DSMIC Advisory Board)

* denotes members of the Board

REPRESENTATIVES OF A CITY, TOWNSHIP, OR SCHOOL BOARD

Roger Maki (Carlton Communities>10K)
Darby Sater (St. Louis Communities>10K)
Gary Anderson (St. Louis Communities<10K)
Dale Adams (Itasca Communities>10K)
Vacant (Aitkin Communities <10K)
Ted Shaw (Carlton Communities <10K)
Anton Moody (Cook Communities <10K)
Edward Bolf (Itasca Communities <10K)
Brian Briggs (Koochiching Communities<10K)
Carlene Perfetto (Lake Communities <10K)
Charlies Baribeau (St. Louis Communities <10K)
Keven Adee (Koochiching Townships)
Bill Pratt(Aitkin Townships)
Clayton Kauppila (Carlton Townships)
Andy Beavers (Cook Townships)
Tarry Edington (Itasca Townships)
Michael Hoops (Lake Townships)
Kevin Adee (Koochiching Townships)
Earl Grano (St. Louis Townships)
Jason Holliday (Native American Tribal Council, Fond du Lac)*
Vacant (Native American Tribal Council, Grand Portage)
Vacant (Native American Tribal Council, Bois Forte)
Pat Medure (ISD #318)
Julie Peterson (ISD #97)

www.ardc.org