



We Make Life Better!

2012 Directory of Services

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY
ACTION PROGRAM**

EMPLOYMENT and TRAINING

Provides job seekers and employers with resources and information at offices located in Madawaska, Presque Isle, and Houlton. Individuals who are looking for a first job, the next job, a better job, or a whole new career can also find information on training and education. Employers can find workers, the resources to help train them, and other information they may need to compete in today's economy.

INFORMATION CENTER (Presque Isle Career Center) – Provides a library of resource material including technology that offers individuals, regardless of their income, the opportunity to access labor market and career information and to participate in successful job searches.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) – Offers a comprehensive range of workforce development activities that benefit job seekers, laid off workers, youth, incumbent workers, new entrants to the workforce, veterans, persons with disabilities, and employers. The purpose of these activities is to promote an increase in employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills improvement by participants. This, in turn, improves the quality of the workforce, reduces welfare dependency, and improves the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

- **WIA Youth Program** – Provides individualized services to eligible youth, including tutoring, alternative secondary school opportunities, preparation for occupational training or education, employment linked to learning, internships, mentoring, leadership development, guidance, counseling, and extensive follow-up.
- **WIA Adult Program** – Provides employment and re-employment services to eligible adults.
- **WIA Dislocated Worker Program** – Offers training and re-employment services to workers who lose their jobs due to layoffs or plant closings.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT – Serves workers affected by layoffs at Maine Military Authority in Limestone by providing additional assistance to workers impacted by layoffs, helping them find gainful employment and return to the workforce as quickly as possible.

HEALTH CARE SECTOR GRANT – Offers training to workers in the high demand occupations of certified nursing assistants (CNAs), skilled nurses, and allied health professionals, to increase the supply and employment of credentialed health care workers.

AGING WORKER INITIATIVE (AWI) – Offers training and re-employment services to workers who are fifty-five (55) and over. The goal of AWI is to promote older workers as a solution for businesses and to connect aging workers to viable employment and training opportunities leading to placement in high-growth, high-demand occupations.

COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Allows individuals earning below 200 percent of the poverty level to obtain a degree or certificate in a training program for high-wage jobs in industries that are seeking skilled workers.

ENERGY and HOUSING

Provides services and programs to assist renters and homeowners with safe and energy-efficient housing needs. A variety of services and benefits are offered to both low-income individuals and others.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE – Provides rent subsidies to income-eligible families, so that they pay no more than 30 to 40 percent of their income for rent and utilities.

HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION – Offers a 10-hour course on the essentials of successful homeownership to educate both homeowners and those who aspire to own their own home.

HOMEOWNERSHIP SUPPORT COUNSELING – Provides foreclosure prevention counseling services to home owners who are at risk of falling behind on their mortgage payments or are facing foreclosure.

ENERGY, MOISTURE, and INFILTRATION AUDIT INSPECTION PROGRAM – Provides several levels of home energy usage evaluations and may provide recommendations for upgrades and predictions of savings. Licensed Energy Auditors provide these services on a fee-for-service basis.

LEAD PAINT INSPECTION PROGRAM – Provides inspections of buildings using a spectrum analyzer to identify the presence of lead paint on interior and exterior surfaces. Licensed Lead Paint Inspectors provide these services on a fee-for-service basis. Some subsidy for the abatement of lead hazards may be available to households living in pre-1978 housing with a child under age six (6).

REHABILITATION SPECIALIST – Provides technical specification writing, bidding, and inspection services for housing rehabilitation.

HOME REPAIR/REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – Provides low-interest loans or grants to income-eligible homeowners for home replacement or rehabilitation, replacement of septic systems, lead hazard reduction, and other necessary repairs and improvements to homes. Elderly Hardship Grants of up to \$5,000 support elderly homeowners who wish to remain in their homes by providing technical and financial assistance to make their homes safe and accessible.

WEATHERIZATION – Purchases and installs a variety of energy conservation materials for income-eligible homeowners.

CENTRAL HEATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Provides up to \$3,000 to income-eligible households for heating system improvements such as cleaning, tuning, evaluation, burner retrofit, repair, replacement, or conversion.

JTG FOUNDATION - INTERMEDIARY WEATHERIZATION SERVICES PROGRAM – Provides assistance with installation of low cost energy conservation materials for low-income homeowners. Requires the homeowner to provide volunteer assistance to help staff install materials.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT – Administers matched savings accounts for low-income families for post secondary education, small business development, or home purchase.

MAINE JOB START – Provides loans of up to \$10,000 to low and moderate-income residents to start, strengthen, or expand their small businesses. Management training and technical assistance are offered as part of this program.

CHILD AND FAMILY

Provides families with comprehensive and affordable high quality infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age programs and child care.

HEAD START – Provides a comprehensive preschool developmental program to three (3) and four (4) year-old income-eligible children, including children with disabilities, at licensed facilities in Fort Kent, Fort Fairfield, Caribou,

Mars Hill, Dyer Brook, Houlton, and Presque Isle. Delivers Head Start services in partnership with public schools in Mars Hill and Dyer Brook. Home Based Head Start services are also available throughout Aroostook County.

EARLY HEAD START – Provides a comprehensive child development program prenatally through age three (3) at centers in Presque Isle and Houlton and through Home Based services in partnership with Healthy Families Aroostook throughout the county.

CHILD CARE – Provides child care from infancy to six (6) years of age to children whose parents are employed, seeking employment, or are in training. Services are provided at State of Maine Level 4 Quality Rated and licensed facilities in Presque Isle, Caribou, Fort Kent, and Houlton.

AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE – Provides supervised child care and an opportunity to do homework, relax, socialize with peers, and participate in recreational activities, to children six (6) to twelve (12) years of age who attend schools in SAD #1, SAD #27, and Caribou. Sites are located at licensed facilities in Presque Isle, Fort Kent, and Caribou.

CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM – Sponsors licensed childcare providers, meeting USDA food and nutritional guidelines, to receive reimbursement for meals served to children in their care.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER – Provides child care information and referral services to the public. Offers training, information, and referral to individuals, providers, businesses, and the community, and facilitates the development of additional child care services.

HEALTH

Provides reproductive health and family planning services at sites in Presque Isle, Fort Kent, and Houlton. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and dental services are offered at offices in Presque Isle and at clinics held throughout Aroostook County. Head Start Health Services are offered at centers in several Aroostook County communities.

FAMILY PLANNING – Provides a range of services that includes wellness exams, birth control methods; and screening, testing, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

OTHER MEDICAL SERVICES – Includes testing for Hepatitis C, breast and cervical health screenings for women age 40 and older, and offers the only anonymous HIV testing in Aroostook County.

HEAD START HEALTH SERVICES – Provides comprehensive screenings to Head Start children that include lead, vision, hearing, oral health, developmental and behavioral screenings. BMI risk assessments, nutritional counseling, healthy meals, along with physical and mental health support and referrals are also provided.

SUPPORT SERVICES – Provides short-term counseling and education regarding health and sexuality issues, pregnancy options, and safer sexual activity.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION – Provides educational programs covering a broad range of health topics, consultation, and resources to schools, churches, parents, professionals, and community groups.

HIV PREVENTION SERVICES – Delivers community-based outreach interventions and HIV counseling and referral services to priority populations throughout Aroostook County.

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD for WOMEN, INFANTS and CHILDREN (WIC) – Provides nutrition, education, and screening to eligible pregnant and postpartum women, nursing mothers, infants, and children under five (5) years of age. Identifies high-risk clients, and provides a select group of nutritious foods, based on dietary needs. WIC serves as an adjunct to good health care during critical times of growth and development to prevent health problems and to improve the health of persons at risk.

ORAL HEALTH – Provides education to people of all ages throughout Aroostook County in cooperation with other social service and health care providers. Directs a consolidated School Oral Health Program to four (4) small schools and serves as a resource for oral health programs in all other elementary schools in Aroostook County. Administers a Dental Sealant Program for second and third grade students in every Aroostook County elementary school. Maintains an extensive dental health lending library that includes audiovisual materials, books and teaching aids.

KIDS INTEGRATED DENTAL SERVICES – Provides clinical assessments, oral prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, referrals, and oral hygiene instruction to

MaineCare-eligible children enrolled in WIC and Head Start programs in Aroostook County.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Provides individuals and families a variety of programs that offer financial assistance and emergency services, case management, and Healthy Aroostook, a Healthy Maine Partnership.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) – Provides financial assistance to income and program-eligible households to help address energy costs.

ENERGY CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM – Provides up to \$400 to income-eligible households for emergency fuel delivery or an electrical disconnect emergency.

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – Assists LIHEAP-qualified customers with electric bill payments.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES – Provides information, referrals, advocacy and assistance with food, shelter, and other resources to those in need.

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – Coordinates the distribution of USDA Surplus Commodity Food through community food pantries and other hunger prevention organizations in Aroostook County.

HEALTHY AROOSTOOK, A HEALTHY MAINE PARTNERSHIP – Collaborates with partners across Aroostook County to reduce substance abuse, chronic disease, and tobacco use while increasing physical activity and good nutrition, and provides coordination in developing public health infrastructure.



MISSION

Aroostook County Action Program, Inc. provides services and resources that help individuals and families achieve greater economic independence. As a leader, or in partnership with others, ACAP provides guidance to the community in responding to emerging human needs.

VISION

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Aroostook County Action Program, Inc.

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ACAP provides equal opportunity in employment and services

ACAP is a member of Maine Community Action
Helping People, Changing Lives



Department of Health
and Human Services
*Make People Live
Safe, Healthy and Prosperous*
Paul R. Lepage, Governor
Amy C. Sablino, Commissioner

A United Way Agency

Maine DHHS administers federal CSBG and other funds that provide partial support for several programs.