



# Conversation with Little Earth residents



On April 8, 2024, Office of Community Safety (OCS) staff joined the Little Earth Coffee Time event hosted by the Little Earth Resident's Association. Little Earth is an American Indian/Native preference subsidized housing complex. Little Earth residents were invited to this regular event. Little Earth Resident's Association staff passed out flyer to residents that OCS would be at the coffee time event to get feedback about the community safety centers. Four residents attended the event and provided their feedback.

Individual conversations took place about the community safety centers and what social services and resources are important in the centers. Individuals identified the most important services and said the same services were important at both centers.

The social services that had the most support are:

- Mental health
  - Space for healing
  - Address sensory needs
- Youth services
  - PAL program
- Mentoring
  - Life coaching for adults and kids

While many resources or building uses were discussed only one received support from multiple residents:

- Art
  - Painting and crafting that entrepreneurs can sell

Other needed services

- Commercial kitchen
- Domestic abuse services
- One central desk to connect people to services (expungement, restraining order, food stamps, housing, medical, culturally specific services)

Other comments:

- The bridges and walkways from Little Earth across Hiawatha Avenue could benefit from nonsworn officers or violence interrupters
- Space must be kind and welcoming, compassion for people coming into this space
- Staff must speak Spanish and Somali
- Not just affordable, but safe housing
- Police also need mental health support