



Conversation with individuals who identify as unhoused



On April 26, 2024, Office of Community Safety staff hosted an event at the Hennepin County Library on East Franklin Avenue for the unhoused/unsheltered community. Those who attend the event were provided with food, Narcan, Fentanyl test strips, information and connections to Lead Minneapolis and Steve Rummeler Hope Network. We talked with nine individuals including:

- Individuals who identify as:
 - Indigenous American/Native American or Alaskan Native
 - Identify as Black or African American
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 - Female
 - Male
 - Two-Spirit

The number of attendees was likely affected because lunch was delivered late and the weather was rainy.

Individuals were asked what social services were most important to them for the Lake Street County Safety Center and the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. Most people said the same social services were important at both sites.

Top ranked social services

- Drug or alcohol addiction
- Affordable housing
- Mental health
- Homeless resources
 - Laundry
 - Sleeping spaces
 - Class for people to make quilts to give out to unsheltered individuals
- Food security
- Education support
 - Help adults learn how to read

Top ranked other uses and resources

- Charging stations
- Quiet/resting space
 - Room with space for furniture
 - Single rooms
- Space for community meals
 - Commercial kitchen for people to use to cook meals
- Legal services

Of note

- Culture sensitivity and historical training would be helpful for police and the entire community including talking circles.
- There is a big Native community.
- Don't need addiction services at either site as those services exist at 1800 Chicago Avenue.
- Space for businesses to advertise.