



# Conversation with East African community members – Oromo



On May 4, 2024, Office of Community Safety staff cofacilitated an event at the Oromia11 office for community members who identify as Oromo. The conversation took English and included 18 individuals.

After a presentation about the concept of community safety centers, participants engaged in a conversation about what services and resources are important in a community safety center. The group primarily discussed services for the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center.

Based on comments, the following social service themes emerged as important to this community:

- Youth
- Mentoring
  - Family centered mentoring for youth and their families
- Education support
  - Tutoring
  - Homework help
- Mental health
- Unsheltered/Homeless resources

The following other resources or building uses were commented on multiple times:

- Quiet resting space
  - Allows for prayer
- Community meeting space
  - The City can hold engagement events there
  - Also allows for police to engage with the community and build trust
- Art
  - A community art gallery
- Legal services
  - Affordable services on-site

The group also shared ideas for things that should be included but were not on the list of themes from prior community engagement:

- Interpretation services especially for elders
- Cultural liaisons should be present. The center should be as diverse as our city is

Other topics of note:

- The space should be welcoming
- Services should be free
- Separate doors to access social services and to access police
- Worry that people will be stigmatized for going to the center for certain services like mental health
- The group emphasized the need for police reform to continue and a desire to work with police to create improvements
- The Oromo community wants to be included in more conversations and engagement rather than included under the “East African” label