

### INTRODUCTION

The Minneapolis Office of Community Safety (OCS) is dedicated to providing coordinated, comprehensive, and equitable safety services to anyone who lives, works, or visits the city. OCS envisions a city where everyone feels safe, social disparities are eliminated, and all residents have access to opportunities and resources. The Safe and Thriving Communities Report provided a starting point for the OCS safety work. An important focus of the Safe and Thriving Communities Report is to develop a safety ecosystem. The ecosystem is a collaborative network of organizations, services, and programs working together to address not just crime and safety concerns but also the root causes of crime and violence.

To have a comprehensive safety ecosystem there must be coordination of services, both with internal City departments and externally with partners, community-based organizations, and other community serving groups. Additionally, services should be tailored to meet the needs of individuals and reflective of the communities we serve.

As part of this initiative, OCS is leading the development of a South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. This public building, which will be the first of its kind, will offer safety services and resources focused on prevention, response, and restoration. The center will foster collaboration between government and community-based organizations.

South Minneapolis Community Safety Center



### METHOD

OCS staff started by reviewing feedback from community meetings held over the past few years to guide their approach to community engagement. After analyzing reports from prior community engagements, OCS was able to identify common themes. Those themes were used as a starting point for discussions with community members about the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. A full list of those themes can be found in Appendix A.

OCS used a variety of methods to engage with the community, including in-person and virtual events, neighborhood outreach, appearance on cultural media shows, and an online survey available in five languages: English, Hmong, Oromo, Somali, and Spanish.

Community members were asked to prioritize up to five social services and up to five resources or other uses for the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. They were also asked to provide a short statement of what those services mean to them. The top five answers identified by event attendees and survey respondents are represented below and will be discussed further in this report.

#### Social Services

- Affordable housing
- Mental health
- Substance use disorder
- Unsheltered homeless resources
- Youth

#### Resources and/or other uses

- Community meals
- Community meeting space
- Childcare for Safety Center service users
- Legal services
- Medical services



### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Community members were also asked to suggest items that may be missing from the list. Common themes and their meaning to the community included:

- **Culturally Specific Navigators**
  - Connection to culturally specific resources
  - Navigators who look like the community they are serving
- **Domestic Violence**
  - Connection to resources and referrals
  - Case managers support
  - Legal services
  - Place for police and domestic violence advocates to work together
- **Human Trafficking**
  - Safe space for people experiencing trafficking
  - Connection to services and resources
- **Services Provided by Community-Based Organizations**

Not all of these services identified through community engagement will be available when the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center opens next year. Some services will take longer to implement. Other services may not be available in the Safety Center due to limited capacity. This community feedback will be used to inform the design and implementation process as the Safety Center and the community grow together.

### CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY SAFETY ECOSYSTEM

Community Safety Services



#### Prevention

- Affordable housing
- Culturally Specific Navigators
- Medical Services
- Mental Health
- Youth



#### Response

- Police



#### Restoration

- Addiction Services
- Domestic Violence
- Human Trafficking
- Legal services
- Mental Health
- Unsheltered homelessness resources

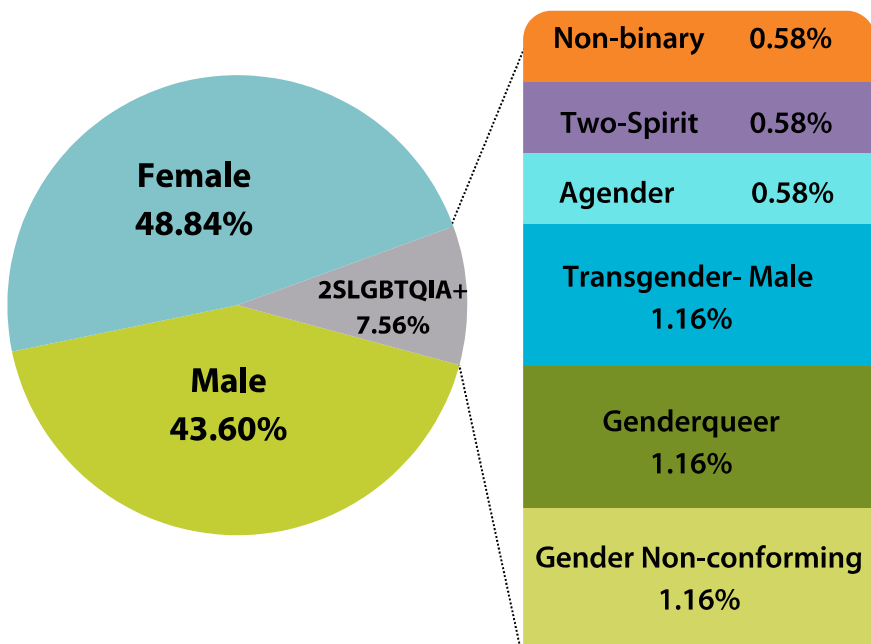


### WHO WE REACHED: IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

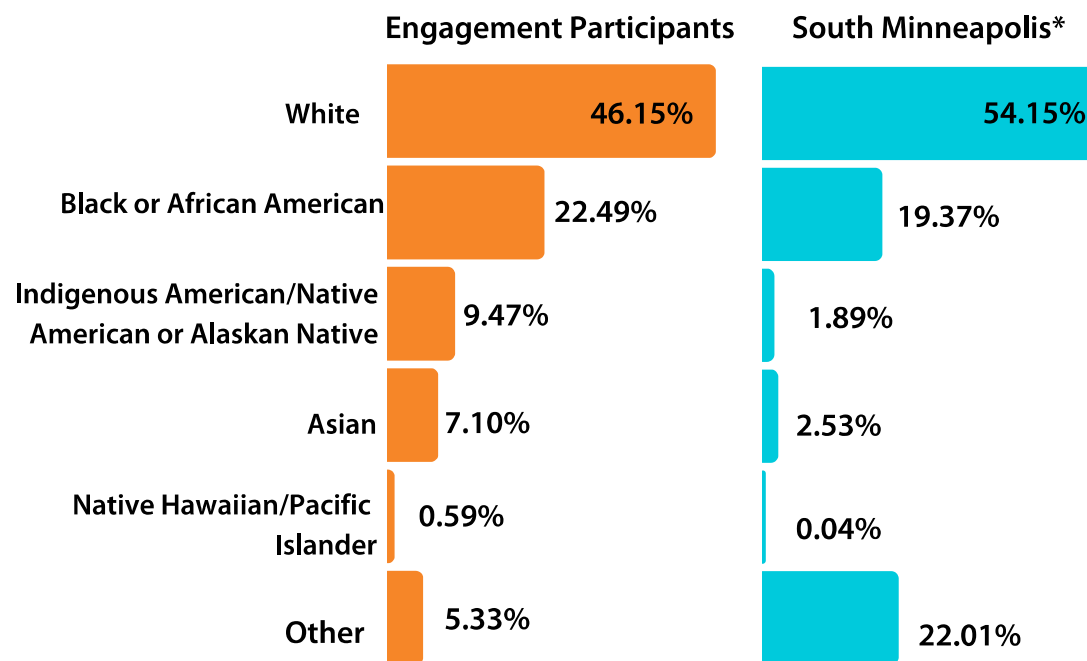
OCS worked hard to meaningfully engage with the South Minneapolis community, particularly those from historically underrepresented groups and those most affected by the criminal justice and safety systems. OCS contacted numerous community-serving organizations, community partners, schools, and other groups asking if they could host an upcoming meeting where community members could discuss the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center. Some organizations did not respond to outreach requests or said they did not have capacity to host an event. OCS is grateful to the organizations that were involved in this process. OCS facilitated three walking engagement opportunities along East Lake Street and Franklin Avenue to meet directly with individuals in the communities. City staff also attended three food shelf events to meet with people utilizing this service, including new immigrants. A full list of the engagement reports from these events can be found in Appendix B.

*Note: Event participants were asked to share demographic information at both in-person and virtual events. Providing the information was optional. The demographic information presented reflects about 36% of event participants. A list of the demographic breakdown of attendees can be found in Appendix C.*

#### Gender Identity



#### Race

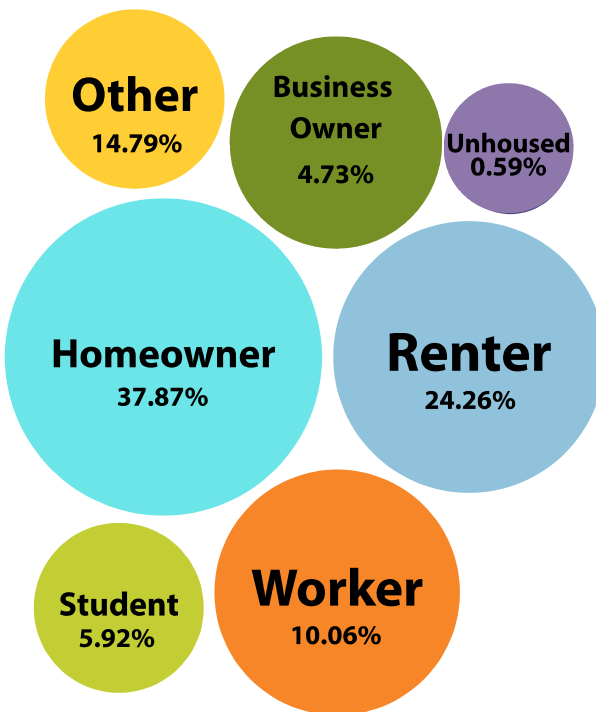


\*Neighborhood demographic data of South Minneapolis taken from the 2020 Census.

### WHO WE REACHED: IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



#### Relationship to South Minneapolis



**40 Events**  
**Over 1,000 Engagements**

#### Opportunities to learn more about the Safety Center and/or provide feedback.

- African American
- East African
- Immigrants
- Latino/a/e/x
- Native American
- Older Adults
- Oromo
- Older adults
- People living with disabilities

- Agencies who work with people living with disabilities
- People with lived experience with safety systems
- Somali
- LGBTQIA+
- Unhoused
- Youth

#### Neighborhood & Civic Groups:

- Hale, Page, Diamond Lake
- Lake Street Council
- Longfellow Community Council
- Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

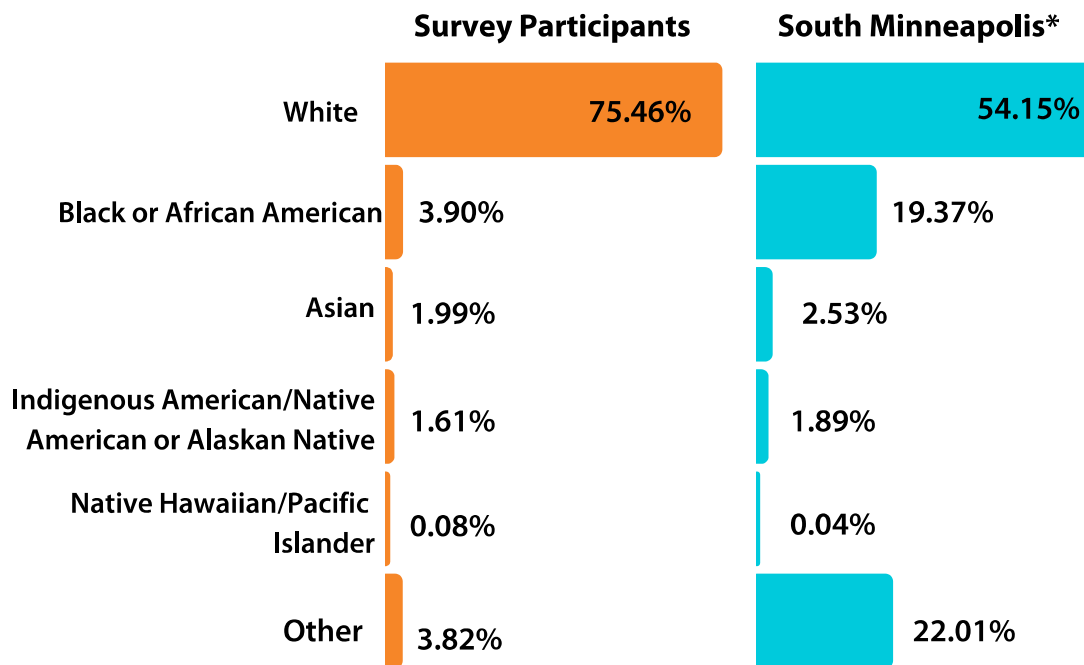
- Rotary Club
- Seward Civic & Commerce Association
- Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association
- Ventura Village

### WHO WE REACHED - SURVEY (1,270 respondents)

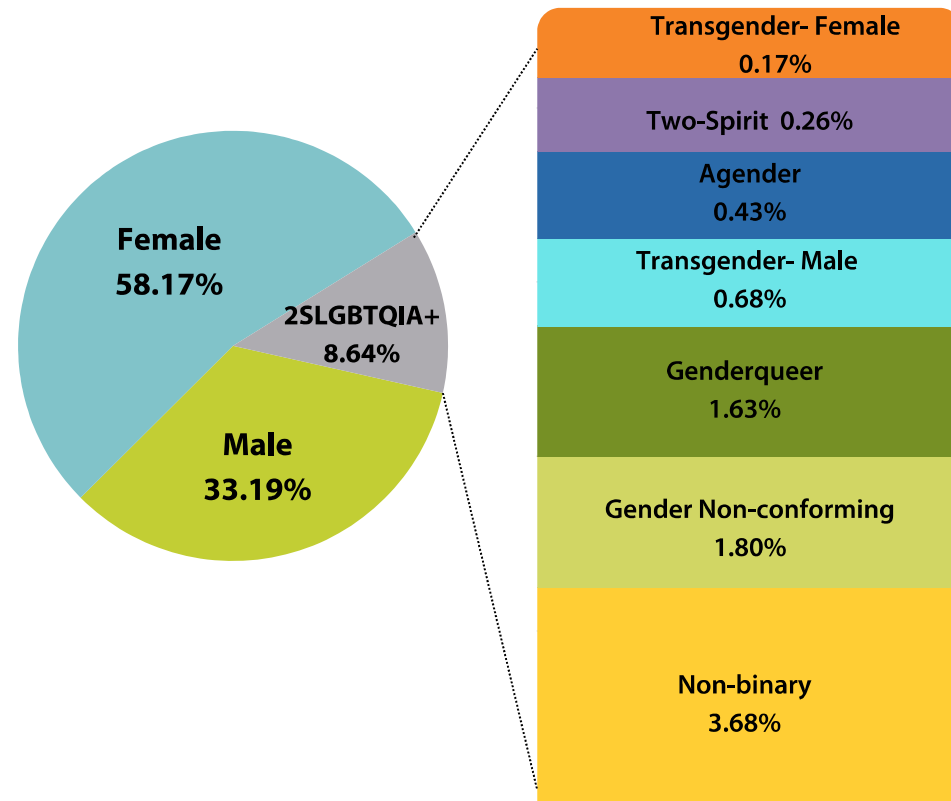
OCS shared the online survey with about 58,000 addresses within South Minneapolis through mailed postcards with a QR code. The QR code linked to a video and transcript explaining the purpose of the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center and a link to the online survey. In addition to mailing postcards, OCS also shared the survey link with community-serving organizations, culturally specific organizations, and neighborhood associations. The survey was active Monday, May 6th, 2024 – Friday May 24th, 2024.

*Note: Survey respondents were asked to voluntarily provide demographic information; about 87% of survey respondents provided some level of demographic information, which is presented below. A list of the demographic breakdown of survey respondents can be found in Appendix C.*

#### Race



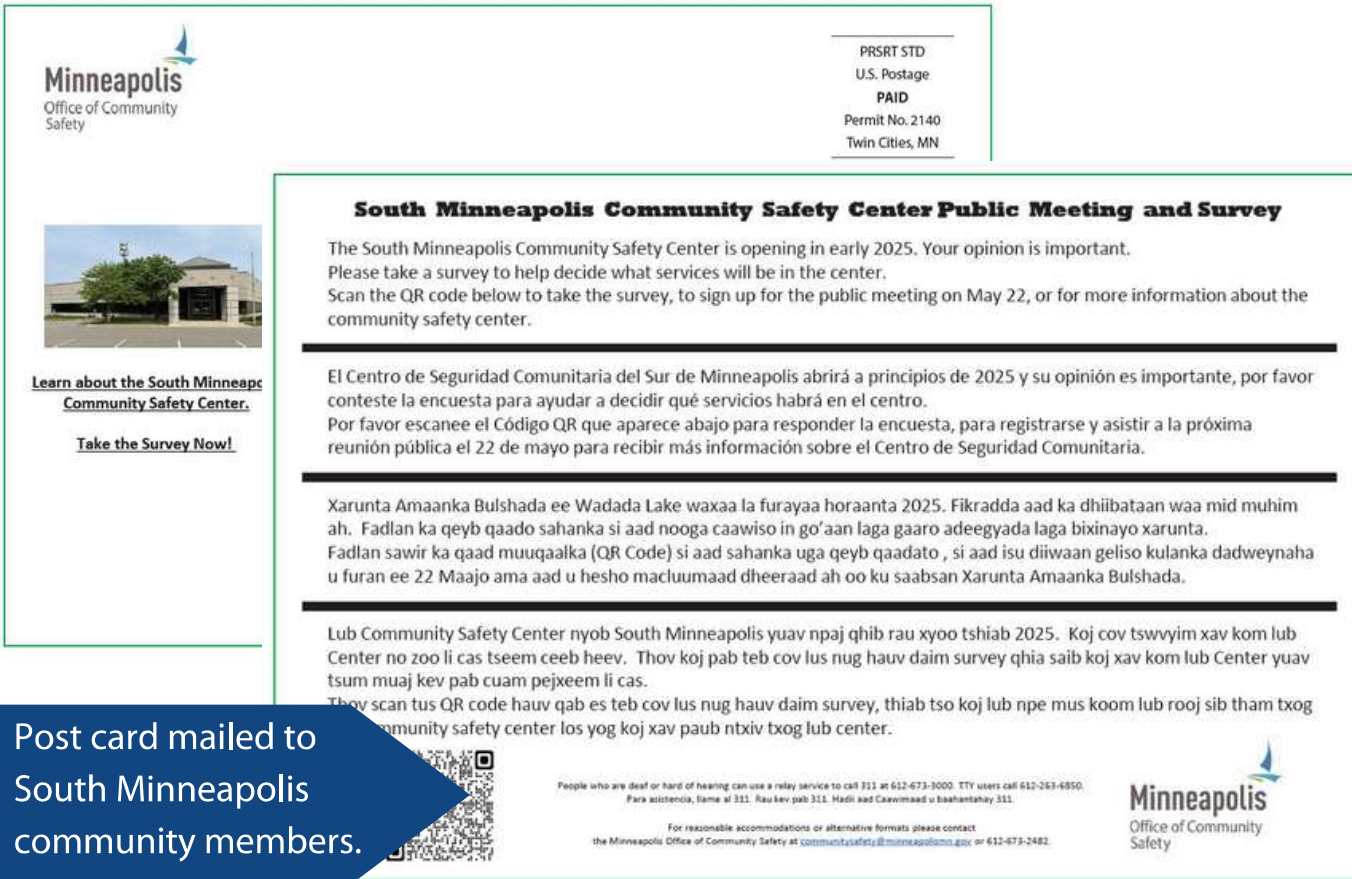
#### Gender Identity



\*Neighborhood demographic data of South Minneapolis taken from the 2020 Census.

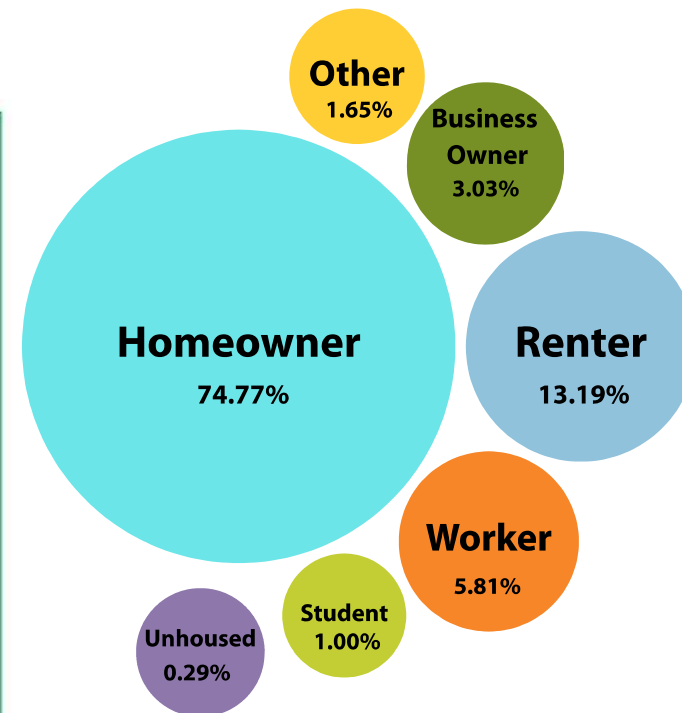
Note: Due to an unexpected technical difficulty, the online survey was inactive between 11:40 a.m. Sunday, May 19th - through 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 20th.

### WHO WE REACHED - SURVEY (1,270 respondents)



Post card mailed to South Minneapolis community members.

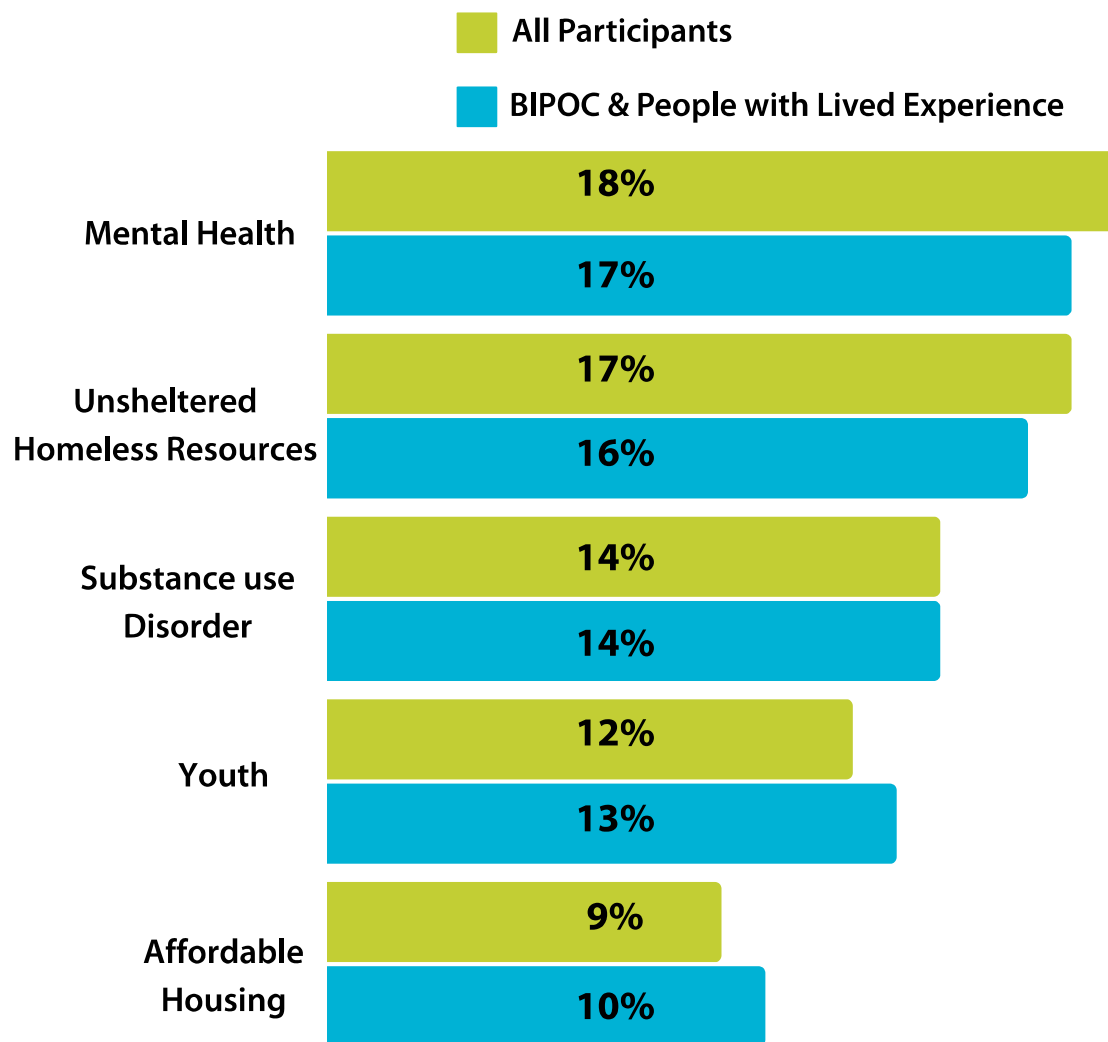
### Relationship to South Minneapolis



**Over 90%** of survey respondents live in South Minneapolis Neighborhoods.

### TOP FIVE SOCIAL SERVICES

“All participants” refers to all in-person participants, virtual participants, and online survey respondents. Analyzing the priorities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals and those with lived experience in the criminal justice and safety systems identifies their unique challenges in accessing social services, promoting equity and inclusivity in resource allocation and program development.



### KEY FINDINGS

The data shows all community members, including BIPOC individuals and those with lived experience in the criminal justice and safety systems, identified the same top five social services. This indicates common concerns across demographics and lived experiences.



Mental health services emerged as the top priority for all participants, including BIPOC and those with lived experience in the criminal justice and safety systems.



Unsheltered homeless resources were also highly prioritized, with slight differences between the groups.



Substance use disorder services were equally prioritized between the two groups.



Youth services are slightly more prioritized by BIPOC and those with lived experience (13%) compared to all participants (12%).

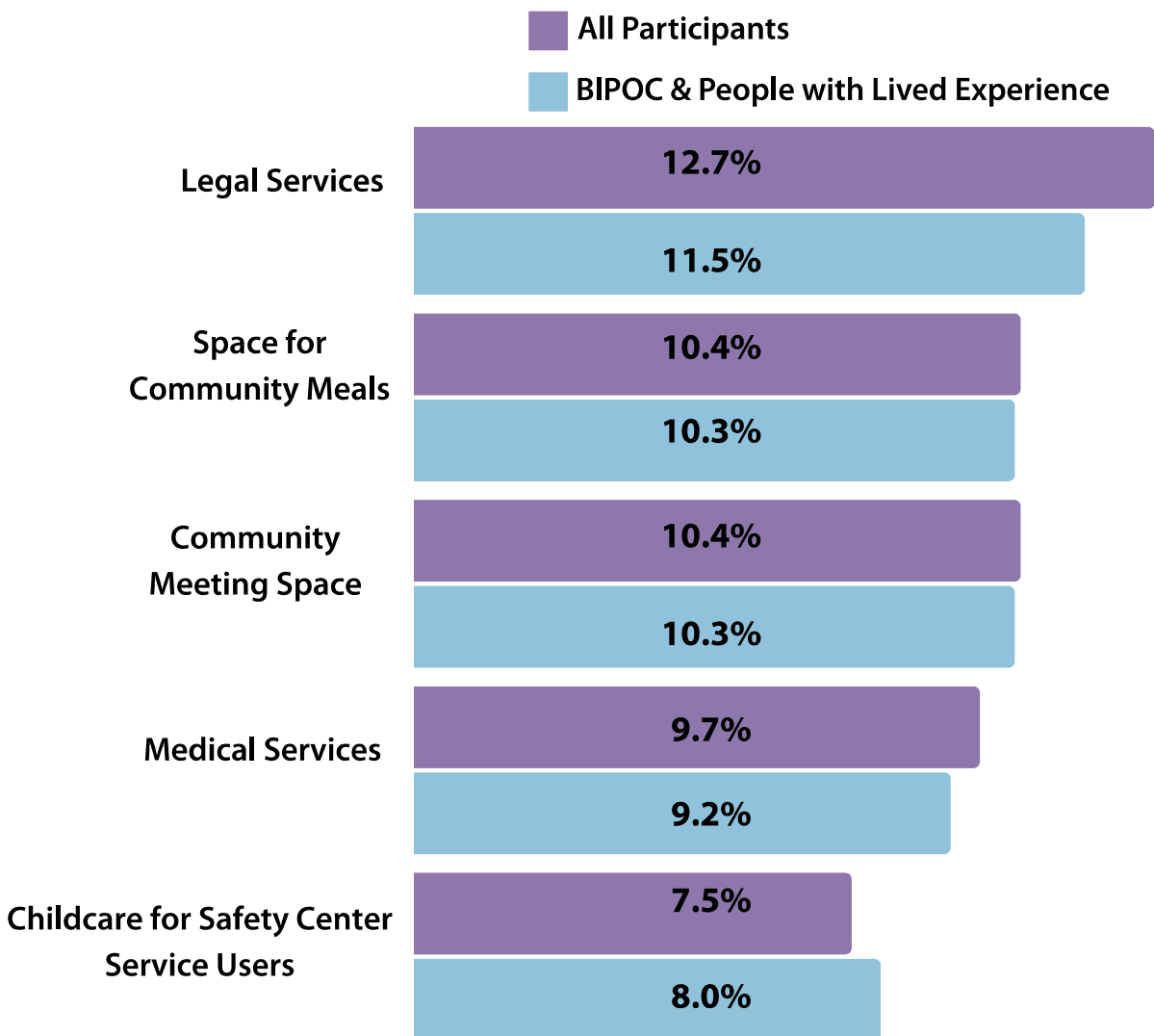


Affordable housing is recognized as essential by all participants, with a slightly higher prioritization among BIPOC and those with lived experience.



### TOP FIVE RESOURCES AND OTHER USES

“All participants” refers to all in-person participants, virtual participants, and survey respondents. Analyzing the priorities of BIPOC individuals and those with lived experience in the criminal justice and safety systems identifies their unique challenges in accessing social services, promoting equity and inclusivity in resource allocation and program development.



### KEY FINDINGS

The data shows all community members, including BIPOC individuals and those with lived experience in the criminal justice and safety systems, identified the same top five resources and other uses. This indicates common concerns across demographics and lived experiences.



Legal services emerged as the top priority for all participants, including BIPOC and those with lived experience in the criminal justice and safety systems.



Both space for community meals and community meeting space are equally prioritized by both groups.



Medical services are also highly prioritized, with a very slight difference between the groups.



Childcare for those utilizing Safety Center services shows a slightly higher prioritization among BIPOC and those with lived experience compared to all participants.

### WHAT DO THESE SERVICES MEAN TO THE COMMUNITY?

Event participants and survey respondents were asked to describe what the social services, resources, and other building uses meant to them when they selected them as a priority. Below are the themes that emerged from those responses.



#### Social Services

##### Affordable Housing

- Referrals to housing support programs and services.
- On-site support to assist individuals find and apply for housing.

##### Mental Health

- On-site support from mental health practitioners.
- Referrals to crisis response and substance use disorder practitioners.
- Access to affordable, culturally specific services.

##### Substance Use Disorder

- Safe space for peer support groups.
- Access to harm reduction resources.
- Narcan distribution and training.
- Referrals to chemical dependency treatment facilities.
- On-site substance use disorder counseling support.

##### Unsheltered Homeless Resources

- Referrals to housing options.
- Referrals to wrap-around support.
- Temporary safe space and/or shelter in the building.

##### Youth

- A safe space for youth to play and gather.
- Employment and internship support and opportunities.
- Leadership development through after-school mentorship programs and/or summer programs.

#### Resources and/or other uses



##### Community Meals

- Free meals for individuals with limited food access.
- Space for free food distribution.
- Community gathering and meal sharing.
- Space for community bonding.

##### Community Meeting Space

- Free open space for community members to reserve for events.
- Space to host community meetings.
- Space for peer support groups

##### Childcare for those Utilizing Safety Center Services

- Free resource for adults utilizing services in the Safety Center to drop off their children for supervision.

##### Medical Services

- Affordable walk-in clinic for basic medical services.
- Preventative services such as vaccines, blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol testing.
- Referrals to medical clinics and/or medical specialists.

##### Legal Services

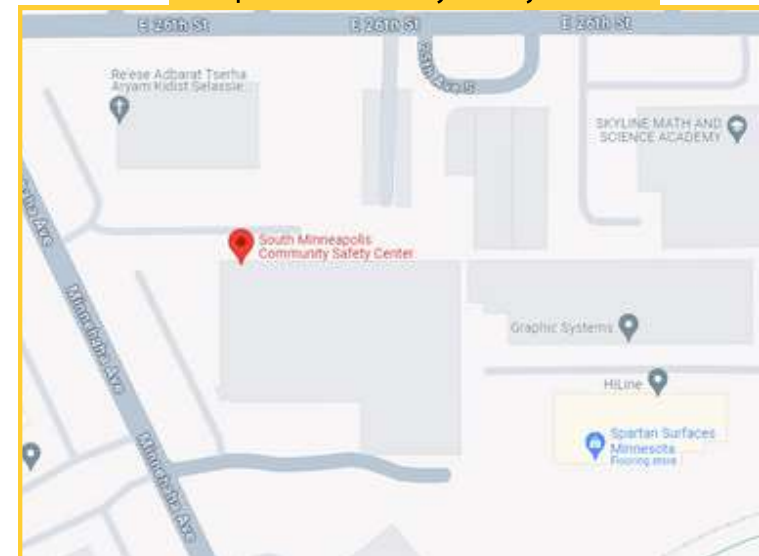
- Free or low-cost legal support.
- Advice and support for navigating the legal system.
- Legal guidance for immigration and rental/housing issues.
- Referrals to low-cost or sliding-scale lawyers.

### DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION WORK

OCS staff are working on the next phase of the design work, which includes:

- Requesting City Council approval for contracts including a design firm, construction company, and service providers.
- Implementing a fair application process for service providers, gauging interest from community-based organizations, promoting creative ideas that come from the organizations, and responding to the needs of both the organizations and community.
- Partnering with community agencies to provide services. Services may be through no-cost contracts, existing contracts with the City, or creating new contracts.
- Balancing the needs of community while avoiding duplication of services.
- Returning to the community to continue engagement on this project.
- Accessing available funding including City funds, grants, or donors.

Map of Community Safety Center



### PLANNING AND TIMELINE

Below is a timeline highlighting the milestones for design and implementation of the South Minneapolis Community Safety Center.



\*Indicates projected City Council actions.

## APPENDIX A

**Table 1:** Themes that emerged from past community engagement and used as a starting point for discussions with community members.

Social services	Resources and/or other uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Affordable Housing</li> <li>● Mental Health</li> <li>● Economic Support</li> <li>● Education Support</li> <li>● Employment Support</li> <li>● Food Security</li> <li>● Harm Reduction</li> <li>● Unsheltered Homeless Resources</li> <li>● Mentoring Program</li> <li>● Substance Use Disorder</li> <li>● Youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Art</li> <li>● Appeal Hearings</li> <li>● Charging Stations</li> <li>● Childcare for people utilizing services in the Safety Center</li> <li>● Community Meeting Space</li> <li>● Free Office Space for Small Businesses</li> <li>● Gun buyback</li> <li>● Homework Hub</li> <li>● Legal Services</li> <li>● Medical Disposal Box</li> <li>● Medical Services</li> <li>● Memorial</li> <li>● Office Space for Neighborhood Safety Contractors</li> <li>● Opioid Overdose Medicine Distribution</li> <li>● Quiet/Resting Space</li> <li>● Regular Presentations for Community</li> <li>● Resource Hub</li> <li>● Space for Community Meals</li> <li>● Space for Donations</li> <li>● Space for Marketplace Exchanges or Parental Exchanges</li> <li>● Space for Supervised Parental Visits</li> <li>● Technology Access</li> <li>● Tool/Toy Library</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX B: References

*Minneapolis safe and thriving communities report.* City of Minneapolis. (2023, July).

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/31955/Minneapolis-Safe-and-Thriving-Communities-Report-and-Plan.pdf>

*Office of Community Safety.* City of Minneapolis. (2024, May).

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/community-safety/>

### Community engagement feedback and reports:

A full list of reports from community engagement opportunities can be found on the City of Minneapolis - Office of Community Safety webpage using this link:

- <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/community-safety-centers/community-engagement/community-engagement-feedback/community-feedback-reports/>

**Table 2:** List of community engagement opportunities with a report summary.

Event name	Date	Event Name	Date	Event Name	Date
Longfellow Event	March 27, 2024	Waite House Event	April 27, 2024	Honoring our Youth	May 15, 2024
East Lake Street Walking Engagement	April 4, 2024	Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio – Food Shelf Event	May 1, 2024	Minnesota Advisory Council on People with Disabilities Event	May 15, 2024
Little Earth	April 8, 2024	American Indian Center Event	May 1, 2024	Stanford Middle School Powwow	May 17, 2024
Youth Day Event	April 15, 2024	Oromia 11 Event	May 4, 2024	Better Futures Event	May 21, 2024
Franklin Avenue Walking Engagement	April 19, 2024	Westminster Event	May 6, 2024	Peace House Event	May 21, 2024
South High School Engagement Session	April 19, 2024	NAACP Event	May 8, 2024	Phillips Event	May 21, 2024
Lao Center of Minnesota Event	April 20, 2024	Lived Experience Engagement Event	May 9, 2024	Online Conversation Event	May 22, 2024
Masjid Al Hikmah	April 23, 2024	Latine Business Owners	May 10, 2024	Waite House Event	May 22, 2024
Bossen Park Event	April 24, 2024	Cinco de Mayo Festival	May 12, 2024	Roosevelt High School Event	May 23, 2024
Minnehaha Senior Living Event	April 26, 2024	3rd Precinct Open House	May 14, 2024	NENA and SENA Event	May 23, 2024
Franklin Library Event	April 26, 2024	LGBTQIA+ Event	May 14, 2024	Chippewa Tribe Office Event	May 24, 2024

- In the report 40 engagement opportunities were cited while the above table references 33. The difference is that not every engagement opportunity resulted in a report. At some opportunities, a presentation was made and participants were asked to submit their feedback through the online survey or chose not to provide feedback.

## APPENDIX C: Demographic Information

**Table 3:** Demographic breakdown of in-person and virtual engagement participants. Some participants selected multiple choices, causing certain percentages to exceed 100%.

Variables	Values	Percent
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Female	48.84%
	Male	43.60%
	Preferred not to answer	2.33%
	Genderqueer	1.16% each
	Gender non-conforming	
	Transgender Male	
	Two-Spirit	0.58% each
Agender		
Non-Binary		
<b>Race</b>	White	46.15%
	Black or African American	22.49%
	Indigenous American/Native American or Alaskan Native	9.47%
	Asian	7.10%
	Other	5.33%
	Prefer not to answer	2.34%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.59%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Other	17.88%
	European	17.88%
	African-American	11.92%
	Prefer not to answer	9.27%
	Ojibwa	5.96%
	Oromo	5.96%
	Mexican	5.30%
	Somali	4.64%
	Hispanic	3.97%
	Ethiopian	3.31%

	Lao (non-Hmong)	2.65%
	Hmong	2.65%
	Indian	1.32%
	Afro-Latino/a/e/x	0.66% each
	Japanese	
	Afro-Caribbean	
	Dakota	
	Ukrainian	
	Cuban	
	Chinese	
	Nigerian	
	Filipino	
	Jamaican	
	Vietnamese	
<b>Relationship to South Minneapolis</b>	Homeowner	37.87%
	Renter	24.26%
	Other	14.79%
	Worker	10.06%
	Student	5.92%
	Business owner	4.73%
	Unhoused	0.59%
	Prefer not to answer	1.78%
<b>Zip code</b>	55406	21.77%
	55417	17.01%
	55407	12.24%
	55404	12.24%
	55408	5.44%
	55411	4.08%
	55412	2.72%
	55429	2.04% each
	55405	
	55454	1.36%
	55401	1.36%

	55403	1.36%
	55128	1.36%
	55446	1.36%
	55108	0.68% each
	55415	
	55421	
	55413	
	55447	
	55425	
	55433	
	55423	
	55443	
	55444	
	55409	
	55430	
	55431	
	55414	
	55118	
	55311	
	55130	
	55391	
	55418	
	55410	



**Table 4:** Demographic breakdown of total survey responders. Some survey participants selected multiple choices, causing certain percentages to exceed 100%.

Variables	Values	Percent
<b>Gender Identity</b>	Female	58.17%
	Male	33.19%
	Prefer not to answer	9.10%
	Non-binary	3.68%
	Gender non-conforming	1.80%
	Prefer to self-describe	1.53%
	Genderqueer	1.63%
	Transgender Male	0.68%
	Agender	0.43%
	Two-Spirit	0.26%
	Transgender Female	0.17%
<b>Race</b>	White	75.46%
	Prefer not to answer	13.15%
	Black or African American	3.90%
	Other	3.82%
	Asian	1.99%
	Indigenous American/Native American or Alaskan Native	1.61%
	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.08%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	European	48.25%
	Prefer not to answer	21.12%
	Other	20.44%
	African American	2.66%
	Mexican	1.29%
	Hispanic	0.76%
	Ukrainian	0.61%
	Chinese	0.46%
	Ojibwa	0.38%
	Japanese	0.38%

	Indian	0.38%
	Filipino	0.38%
	Puerto Rican Korean Afro-Latino/a/e/x	0.30% each
	Oromo Nigerian Lebanese	0.23% each
	Vietnamese Somali Guatemalan Ethiopian Cuban Colombian	0.15% each
	Salvadoran Lao Hmong Haitian Ecuadorian	0.08% each
<b>Relationship to South Minneapolis</b>	Homeowner	74.77%
	Renter	13.19%
	Worker	5.81%
	Business owner	3.30%
	Other	1.65%
	Student	1.00%
	Unhoused	0.29%
<b>Zip code</b>	55406	46.02%
	55407	22.14%
	55417	20.09%
	55404	2.99%
	55419	
	55408	1.97%
	55409	0.79%

55418	0.71%
55405	0.39%
55414	0.32%
55410	0.24%
55423 55401 55403	0.16% each
55347 54407 55307 55415 55413 55412 55111 55454 55116	0.08% each