

**Neighborhood Planning  
for Community  
Revitalization**

**Liberty Plaza, Inc.  
Residents' Needs Survey Report**

A CONSORTIUM PROJECT OF: Augsburg College; College of St. Catherine; Hamline University; Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs; Macalester College; Metropolitan State University; Minneapolis Community College; Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program; University of Minnesota (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs; Children, Youth and Family Consortium; Minnesota Extension Service); University of St. Thomas; and Minneapolis community and neighborhood representatives.

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# Liberty Plaza Residents' Needs Assessment Survey Report

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*Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation  
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## I. Background

### Liberty Plaza Housing Development

Liberty Plaza is a 173-unit low-income housing development in the Summit-University neighborhood (District 8) of the City of St. Paul. The facility has been housing underserved families for over 30 years. Liberty Plaza, Inc., a non-profit corporation controlled by the Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church (DAPC) originally completed the development in 1969. At that time, the DAPC made a long-term commitment to remain in an economically depressed area within the City of St. Paul and become a provider of safe and affordable housing for the broader community.

Liberty Plaza (LP) is comprised of 173 units, in 15 buildings including a common community building on nearly 5 acres of land. The unit mix includes 76 walk-up apartments (10-efficiency, 42-one bedroom, 24 two bedroom) and 97 multi-level town homes (16 two bedroom and 81 three bedrooms). For more than 30 years, the DAPC remained intently focused on its' goal of keeping rents as low as possible for residents. The unintended consequence of this worthy goal has been the steady decline in the ability of the property to perform regular maintenance and the necessary capital improvements.

Recently, the Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation (TCHDC), a nonprofit developer and owner of affordable housing in the seven county metro areas of the Twin Cities, became a joint owner of the property when it formed a partnership with Liberty Plaza, Inc. TCHDC was created by the Family Housing Fund in 1983 and to date, the corporation has participated in the development of 29 projects with over 800 units at a total development of \$51 million.

### Demography of Residents

At the time this survey was launched, close to 400 residents in 123 households were living at Liberty Plaza. Demographically, residents were highly diverse in terms of racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as income levels. Recent African immigrant/refugees and Southeast Asian particularly Hmongs formed the two largest racial groups in the housing complex. According to records on file, 85% of the families had household income below 60% of the area median income (AMI), 4% had between 60%-80% and 10% made over 80% of AMI. Overall, 47 households were below the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size.

### LP's Renovation Project

A much needed multi-million dollar rehabilitation project for LP was at the final stage of planning at the time the survey was conducted. The project plan called for completing the rehab work in 12-18 months, and providing sanitary and safe housing units to low-income households below 30% of the AMI. Recent immigrants make up a higher percentage of this income group in the City of St. Paul.

## II. Survey Design and Analysis

### Design

The survey was designed as a quantitative study aimed at determining outcome/results on the basis of the analyses of quantitative variables. Data was gathered through a combination of a mail survey as well as guided interviews. The SPSS Base 10.0 statistical software package for Windows was used for data entry and analyses. Statistical procedures such as "Frequencies", for obtaining data descriptors like counts, percentages, cumulative percentages as well as "Crosstabulation", for measuring association between variables were performed.

### Purpose of the Survey

The planned LP rehab project includes a component for the expansion of the current on-site community room so as to provide adequate space for bringing programs and services to residents. Reliably determining residents' needs and identifying programs to meet those needs was found to be crucial for appropriately designing the community center. This survey was launched to generate that vital data and information necessary both for the physical design of the community space but also for determining types of programming and services that need to be offered to residents.

### The Survey Instrument

The basic survey instrument used in this study was earlier developed by the Wilder Research Center for a phone interview of public housing residents under the Saint Paul Public Housing Authority (PHA). Under permission from the PHA, TCHDC modified the instrument to make it shorter and more suitable to Liberty Plaza residents. A few additional items were also added to meet the specific goals of this study. The final version of the adult instrument contained 50 items. Two versions of this instrument were developed. One version was a Mail Survey, which was directly mailed to residents for them to complete and mail-back to TCHDC using stamped and preaddressed envelopes provided. The second version was an interview type, which was used to collect data from LP residents with English language limitations. The youth survey had 27 items and it was an interview type instrument.

The modified instruments were circulated within TCHDC, DAPC and the Gavzy Group, the property management company for LP, for comments. Attempts were also made to solicit comments and inputs from LP residents particularly about the cultural appropriateness of the items in the survey. A five-member residents advisory group was constituted for reviewing the instrument.

### **Data Collection and Analyses**

Data collection took place between mid-July to early September 2001. Since 123 of the 173 units were occupied at the time of the survey, it was decided to carry out a census study of the current heads of household. A slightly different approach was used as regards the children and youth. It was decided to cover only the children 8-18 years old. The sample thus included 64 children in the age bracket of 8-12 and 35 youth 13-18 years old.

### **Response Rate**

An overall response rate of 85% was achieved for adults. This means that 105 of the 123 heads of household completed the survey. By contrast, the response rate for the children turned out to be low, only 32%. A further breakdown revealed that the response rate for those in the age bracket of 8-12 years was 31% (n = 20) and for those 13-18 years old, it was 34% (n = 12). Over half (53%) of the respondent children were girls and boys made up 47% of the group. The main reason for the low response rate among the children may be attributed to parents' refusal to grant permission for the children to participate in the study. While the majority of the head of households completed the survey, it was not clear why parents declined repeated requests to let the children participate in the study.

### III. Results of the Survey

**Note:** To facilitate the proper reading of the tables provided in this section of the study, a brief explanation on the variables coding system used would be in order. In the first column of a table, SPSS lists the "valid" value labels for the variables considered. For instance, in table 1 below, for the variable 'sex' of the heads of household, the labels used are "female", "male" and "missing" for those who may have not marked that item. The "Frequency" column shows the count or how many times that value label occurred. The "Percent" column shows the percentage of the total sample size for each value label. When data are missing, the "Valid Percent" column is used since percentages are calculated based on the numbers of value labels present instead of the total number of cases in the sample. The value label for "Missing" items is "99".

#### A. Adults' Survey Results

##### Residents' Characteristics

##### **Household Profile:**

In 103 of the 105 households that completed the survey, 365 household members or residents were identified. The breakdown of the residents revealed 182 adults, 153 children under the age of 12 and 30 teenagers between the ages of 13-18.

Males headed 52% (n = 54) of the households surveyed while females headed 48% of the households. Fifty three percent (n = 54) of the respondents were married or were in marriage-like relationships. On an average, there were, 1.77 adults per household and 13 households had three or more adults. Anyone 18 years old or above is regarded as an adult. Details are given in tables below:

**Heads of household by gender**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Female	49	46.7	47.6
	Male	54	51.4	52.4
	Total	103	98.1	100.0
Missing		2	1.9	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 1

### Marital status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Married	49	46.7	48.0
	Marriage-like relationship	5	4.8	4.9
	Separated	7	6.7	6.9
	Divorced	13	12.4	12.7
	Widowed	10	9.5	9.8
	Single	18	17.1	17.6
	Total	102	97.1	100.0
Missing		3	2.9	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 2

### Adults in the households

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	1	40	38.1	38.8
	2	50	47.6	48.5
	3	10	9.5	9.7
	4	3	2.9	2.9
	Total	103	98.1	100.0
Missing		2	1.9	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 3

### Educational Level of Heads of Household

A third of the heads of households or 31% (n = 30) had no formal education, 11% (n = 11) had an eighth-grade equivalent, 10% (n = 10) had some high school and 24% (n = 23) were high school graduates or equivalent (GED). A little over 15% (n = 15) had some college level education, 4% (n = 4) were college graduates and about 3% (n = 3) had some graduate level or professional training. The educational level of another adult in the household, besides the head of the family, was also assessed. The findings revealed that, 31% (n = 31) did not have formal education and only 15% (n = 15) had high school/GED level education. Details are shown in Tables 4 and 5.

**Highest grade or years of schooling completed by heads of household**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No formal education	30	28.6	30.6
	Eighth grade or lower	11	10.5	11.2
	Some high school	10	9.5	10.2
	High school/GED	23	21.9	23.5
	Some college	15	14.3	15.3
	College graduate (BA, BS)	4	3.8	4.1
	Don't know	2	1.9	2.0
	Graduate /professional school	3	2.9	3.1
	Total	98	93.3	100.0
Missing		7	6.7	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 4

**Highest grade or years of schooling completed by any other adult in the household**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No formal education	31	29.5	44.0
	Eighth grade or lower	4	3.8	6.0
	Some high school	11	10.5	16.0
	High school/GED	15	14.3	21.0
	Some college	8	7.6	11.0
	College graduate (BA, BS)	1	1.0	1.0
	Total	70.00	66.7	99.0
	Not applicable	30	29.0	
Missing		5	4.8	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 5

**Length of Stay at Liberty Plaza**

Most of the families at Liberty Plaza are long-term residents. A third of them, 30% (n = 31), have lived at the property for over ten years. Almost an equal number of families, 28% (n = 29) have lived at Liberty Plaza five to ten years. Less than 2% (n = 2) of current residents have lived at Liberty Plaza for less than a year.

**Years of stay at Liberty Plaza**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Less than one year	2	1.9	1.9
	One to three years	29	27.6	27.6
	Three to five years	14	13.3	13.3
	Five to ten years	29	27.6	27.6
	Over ten years	31	29.5	29.5
	Total	105	100.0	100.0

Table 6

**Children at Liberty Plaza**

A total of 183 children under the age of 18 were found in some 52 households. This is an average of 3.5 for those households with children. Eighty four percent (n = 153) of the children were 12 or under and only 16% (n = 30) were 13-18 years old.

**Number of children age 12 and under per household**

Number of Children per Household	Number of Households	Total Number of Children
1	12	12
2	12	24
3	12	36
4	5	20
5	7	35
6	2	12
7	2	14
Missing	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>153</b>

Table 7

**Number of children over 12 years old in households at LP**

Number of Children per Household	Number of Households	Total Number of Children
1	10	10
2	7	14
3	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>

Table 8

## Socio-Economic Conditions of Households at Liberty Plaza

### MFIP Participation

Forty six percent (n = 36) of the respondents were receiving MFIP benefits at the time of the survey, and 17% (n= 13) started receiving benefits but stopped for a variety of unspecified reasons. Thirty seven percent (n = 29) reported that they never were enrolled in MFIP. Only 9% (n = 5) of those receiving benefits knew how much time was left for them before their benefits are terminated, 20% (n = 12) did not know and 70% (n = 41) were not sure.

MFIP status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Never received benefits	29	27.6	37.0
	Started but stopped receiving	13	12.4	17.0
	Receiving benefits	36	34.3	46.0
	<b>Total</b>	78	74.3	100.0
	Not applicable	21	20.0	
Missing		6	5.7	
<b>Total</b>		105	100.0	

Table 9

### Employment

Nearly half (48%) of the households that participated in the survey indicated that all the adults in the households were working outside the home. Thirty-one percent (n= 32) of the families reported that there were adult members of their households who were looking for work. There were 182 adults in the households surveyed and one may deduce that nearly 50% of them were working at the time the survey was completed. The details are shown in tables 10 and 11.

Are all adults in your household currently employed outside the home?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	49	46.7	47.6
	No	54	51.4	52.4
	<b>Total</b>	103	98.1	100.0
Missing		2	1.9	
<b>Total</b>		105	100.0	

Table 10

**Are there adults in your household currently looking for work?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	32	30.5	30.8
	No	70	66.7	69.0
	Total	102	97.2	
	Not applicable	2	1.9	100.0
Missing		1	1.0	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 11

**Crime and Safety**

Asked about the current level of crime at Liberty Plaza compared to a year ago, 32 (n= 32) of the respondents reported that it was less, 14% (n= 14) stated that it was at about the same level, and 46% (n= 46) maintained that crime has never been a problem at LP. Close to a third, 28% (n= 28) of those surveyed reported that the incidence of vandalism has also declined in the housing complex from where it was a year ago while 16% (n= 16) felt that it was at about the same level. Forty eight percent (n=48) of the respondents reported that vandalism has never been a problem in LP. As far as groups of individuals, mainly young people, hanging out in some areas of LP is concerned, 36% (n= 37) respondents stated that it is less now than a year ago, 16% (n= 17) said it was at about the same level while 37% (n= 38) maintained that it has not been a problem for Liberty Plaza.

A quarter, 25% (n = 26), of the residents surveyed had called for police or sought the intervention of the property management office for resolving problems at Liberty Plaza. Most respondents had not sought such interventions. It was not clear from the survey whether this was due to the absence of problems or due to the reluctance of the residents to report problems to either the police or management. Seventy percent (n = 21) of those who sought assistance reported that something was done about the problem.

**Households that contacted the management office or police about problems at LP**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	26	24.8	25.0
	No	77	73.3	74.0
	Don't Know	1	1.0	1.0
	Total	104	99.0	100.0
Missing		1	1.0	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 12

Was something done about the problem?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Yes	21	20.0	70.0
No	7	6.7	23.3
Don't know	2	1.9	6.7
Total	30	28.6	100.0
Missing	75	71.4	
Total	105	100.0	

Table 13

As may be observed from the following three tables, residents' perception of safety is mixed. Most residents have a general sense of safety while they are at home at night. Only about 16% (n = 16) reported that they feel unsafe or somewhat unsafe in their homes at night. Forty eight percent (n = 49) of the residents find walking alone at night at Liberty Plaza to be unsafe or somewhat unsafe.

Residents also seem to have a sense of safety for their children while they play outside. Only about 19% (n= 13) of the parents felt that Liberty Plaza is less safe for their children now than a year ago. Overall, 81% (n = 56), of the residents felt that crime was less or at about the same level as the previous year.

How safe do you feel alone at night in your home?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid Very safe	33	31.4	32.0
Somewhat safe	54	51.4	52.4
Somewhat unsafe	12	11.4	11.7
Very unsafe	4	3.8	3.9
Total	103	98.1	100.0
Missing	2	1.9	
Total	105	100.0	

Table 14

How safe do you feel out alone at night walking in LP?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Very safe	16	15.2	16.0
	Somewhat safe	33	31.4	33.0
	Somewhat unsafe	39	37.1	39.0
	Very unsafe	9	8.6	9.0
	Don't know	4	3.8	4.0
	Total	101	96.1	101.0
	Not applicable	2	1.9	
Missing		2	1.9	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 15

How safe are your children playing outdoors compared to one year ago?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less safe	13	19
About the same	42	61
Safer	14	20
Total	69	100

Table 16

Compared to one year ago, crime in LP is

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Less	32	30.5	31.7
	About the same	14	13.3	13.9
	More	3	2.9	3.0
	Not a problem a year ago and now	46	43.8	45.5
	Don't know	6	5.7	5.9
	Total	101	96.2	100.0
Missing		4	3.8	
Total		105	100.0	

Table 17

## Adult Education and Training

Seventy-one individuals or 39% of the adults in the households covered by the survey were found attending some type of training. English as a second language (ESL) appears to be the single most important training with about 40% enrolled in such a program. The relative popularity of ESL appears to be in line with the percentage of adults who do not speak English. About 21% (n= 20) of the households had no adult member who speaks English. Fifty-six percent of those that participated in the survey reported to have, at least, one adult who fluently speaks, easily reads and writes English. Another 16 households had two adults and 3 households had 3 adults with good English skills.

Other educational or training programs adults were found involved in were: Computers (15%), College (15%), Community Education (11%), and GED (10%) and vocational training (7%).

**Are any adults in your household currently attending any classes or training programs?**

Type of Training	Number Participating	Percent
ESL	29	41
Computer	11	15
Community Education	8	11
GED	7	10
College	11	15
Vocational Training	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>99</b>

Table 18

### Adults speaking English fluently, read and write easily

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid 1	30	28.6	28.6
2	8	7.6	7.6
3	3	2.9	2.9
4	1	1.0	1.0
Missing	63	60.0	60.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 19

### Childcare needs and children's school-readiness Preparation

There are 70 children under the age of 5 in 56 families covered in the survey and affordable childcare appears to be a concern for many of the parents. In this regard, some of the remarks made by respondents were: "Need help with babysitting", "unable to afford childcare", "I just had a newborn" and "I have to be around my 6 year-old daughter when she's off school."

By way of school-readiness preparation, most parents of preschoolers, 88% (n= 29) reported that they were satisfied with the school readiness of their children. Headstart appeared to be the most popular program where most, 55% (n= 18), of the preschoolers were enrolled followed by private preschools with 24% (n= 8) of the children. About 12% (n = 4) of the preschoolers were found enrolled in Early Childhood and Family Education programs (ECFE). Eight percent of the children attended licensed private day care centers. Overall, close to 50% of the preschoolers at LP were enrolled in various school-readiness programs.

#### Parents' satisfaction with their children's school-readiness preparations

Are you satisfied with your preschool child's school-readiness?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	88
No	4	12
Total	33	100
Not Applicable	68	
Missing	4	
Total	105	

Table 20

#### Children's school-readiness enrollment by type of school

Preschool Type	Enrollment	Percent
Headstart	18	55
Private preschools	8	24
ECFE	4	12
Licensed Private Daycare	3	9
Total	33	100

Table 21

## Academic Performance of School-Age Children

There were 113 school-age children in 75 families surveyed. Most parents, 91% (n = 40), who responded to an item in the survey dealing with academic achievement of the school-age children reported that they were satisfied with their childrens' performances. The few that were dissatisfied raised the inability of schools to work one-to-one with the students. Others complained of the lack of inclusion of Hmong [language] in the curriculum. Still others felt that schools were not doing enough to control troublemakers in schools. Only one household reported about disciplinary problems at school involving the children in their household. The parent remarked, "I've gotten calls at home [from school]. I think it's the teacher's fault." The result of the survey also showed that 70% (n= 32) of the parents of school-age children participated in the PTA during the previous academic year.

Asked whether or not the school-age children had someone to help them with their homework on a regular basis, nearly 27% (n = 28) of the heads of household confirmed that to be the case. A further investigation revealed that parents and siblings are the primary helpers with homework.

### Parents' satisfaction with the academic performance of their school-age children

Are you satisfied with the academic performance of your school-age child/ren?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	40	91
No	3	7
Don't know	1	2
Total	44	100
Not Applicable	57	
Missing	4	
Total	105	

Table 22

### Does anyone regularly help the (child/children) in your household study and answer questions about homework?

Does anyone regularly help ... about homework?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	28	60
No	19	40
Total	47	100
Not Applicable	55	
Missing	3	
Total	105	

Table 23

Families were also asked about their school-aged childrens' access to educational resources at home. The following table summarizes the findings.

### Educational resources at home

Does your child has access to? ...	Affirmative Responses (n)	Total Responses (N)	Percent (%)
A dictionary	36	51	71
An encyclopedia	9	50	18
Non-school books	30	51	59
Magazines	16	50	32
Newspapers	22	51	43
A calculator	35	52	67
A computer	22	52	42
The Internet	10	51	20
A quiet and well-lit study	22	50	44
A desk or a study table	18	44	41
Educational toys	6	46	13

Table 24

### Afterschool and Summer Activities

Respondents were asked about the type of afterschool activities their school-age children engaged in during the previous year either for entertainment or academic enrichment purposes. The results are shown in the following table.

### Afterschool activities children participated in during the previous year

During the past year, did the school-age child/ren who lives/live with you participate in? ...	Affirmative Responses (n)	Total Responses (N)	Percent (%)
Any YMCA/YWCA activities	5	47	11
Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or Camp Fire Boys and Girls	3	47	6
Team sports	10	48	21
Junior Achievement	0	44	0
Choir, band, orchestra or other musical groups	4	47	9
Drama or dance	3	47	6
School paper or yearbook	6	47	13
Hobby club or group such as language club, science club, and so forth	6	48	13
Any organized activity for children at LP	8	47	17
Other organizations or extra curricular activities	9	46	20

Table 25

Parents were also asked to identify factors that may have prevented their school-age children from participating in afterschool activities. Only 12% (n= 12), offered responses to this item. Some of the factors identified as impediments included costs involved with participation, lack of transportation, and childcare and English language limitations on the part of the parents. Uncertainty with the safety of the children as they take part in afterschool activities was another factor mentioned by respondents.

There was no report of significant afterschool activity for the children at the time the survey was conducted. Programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Hmong Dancing Club, YMCA swimming etc. were mentioned by a very few respondents.

Respondents were further asked about their childrens' access to public libraries and how often they visit such facilities. Possessing public library cards was taken as a proxy for access and it was found that 54 school-age children in 28 reporting families had library cards. Thirty seven percent (n = 17) of the children in the reporting families visited libraries either once or twice a week.

**How many children in your household had library cards?**

Number of cards per household	Number of households	Number of children with library cards	Percent
1	7	7	25
2	15	30	54
3	3	9	11
4	2	8	7
Don't know	1		4
Total	28	54	101

Table 26

**How often do the children in your household visit a public library?**

	Number of households	Percent
Once a week	6	13
Twice a week	11	24
Less than once a week and more than once a month	6	13
Once a month	4	9
Less than once a month and more than once a year	3	7
Never/almost never	12	26
Don't know	4	9
Total	46	101

Table 27

**Needs Assessment**

heads of households were asked to identify social services needs both for adults as well as for the children in the housing development. Lists of possible service need areas were presented to the respondents and each one was asked to evaluate how much that particular service was needed. Respondents were further asked if they (their families) would participate in the programs if the programs were to be offered at the on-site Community Center. The following table shows the results of the inquiry.

If the community room in Liberty Plaza is to be enlarged and programs and services are to be made available to residents, how much do you or anyone in your family <u>currently need</u> and want programs for	How much is the Service/program needed?						How likely is it that you would participate in the program if it were available?					
	A lot	Some	A little	Not at all	Don't Know	N	Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't Know	N
A. Parenting education sessions such as those offered by ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education)	33 (35%)	14 (15%)	11 (12%)	26 (28%)	10 (11%)	94 (101%)	16 (24%)	25 (37%)	12 (18%)	09 (13%)	06 (9%)	68 (101%)
B. Health clinic or health services	58 (60%)	10 (10%)	03 (3%)	17 (18%)	09 (9%)	97 (100%)	44 (58%)	20 (26%)	04 (5%)	05 (7%)	03 (4%)	76 (100%)
C. A class or club on sewing and making crafts	43 (44%)	16 (17%)	07 (7%)	24 (25%)	07 (7%)	97 (100%)	31 (44%)	22 (31%)	03 (4%)	10 (14%)	05 (7%)	71 (100%)
D. Emergency food services	60 (61%)	15 (15%)	07 (7%)	10 (10%)	06 (6%)	98 (99%)	45 (55%)	22 (27%)	07 (9%)	03 (4%)	05 (6%)	82 (101%)
E. WIC (Women, Infants and Children) clinic	37 (39%)	08 (9%)	09 (10%)	31 (33%)	08 (9%)	93 (100%)	21 (33%)	13 (20%)	06 (9%)	18 (28%)	06 (9%)	64 (99%)
F. GED (General Educational Development) preparatory classes	59 (59%)	09 (9%)	06 (6%)	22 (22%)	04 (4%)	100 (100%)	41 (53%)	18 (23%)	06 (8%)	10 (13%)	03 (4%)	78 (101%)

If the community room in Liberty Plaza is to be enlarged and programs and services are to be made available to residents, how much do you or anyone in your family <u>currently need</u> and want programs for	How much is the Service/program needed?						How likely is it that you would participate in the program if it were available?					
G. Social events, or entertainment programs for adult residents	49 (51%)	15 (16%)	08 (8%)	19 (20%)	06 (6%)	97 (101%)	36 (49%)	24 (32%)	06 (8%)	04 (5%)	04 (5%)	74 (99%)
H. Employment support services (Help in finding a job)	59 (61%)	16 (17%)	04 (4%)	12 (12%)	06 (6%)	97 (100%)	38 (44%)	24 (28%)	08 (9%)	11 (13%)	06 (7%)	87 (101%)
I. ESL (English as a Second Language) classes	63 (64%)	10 (10%)	06 (6%)	13 (13%)	06 (6%)	98 (99%)	40 (49%)	18 (22%)	07 (9%)	11 (13%)	06 (7%)	82 (100%)
J. Academic enrichment, tutoring/help with homework	51 (53%)	07 (7%)	07 (7%)	26 (27%)	06 (6%)	97 (100%)	32 (46%)	12 (17%)	07 (10%)	13 (19%)	05 (7%)	69 (99%)
K. Resources for getting help with domestic violence & child abuse	36 (38%)	13 (14%)	04 (4%)	29 (31%)	13 (14%)	95 (101%)	15 (25%)	11 (18%)	09 (15%)	23 (38%)	02 (3%)	60 (99%)
L. Classes for learning computer and internet skills	71 (74%)	10 (10%)	02 (2%)	08 (8%)	05 (5%)	96 (99%)	51 (65%)	11(14%)	05 (6%)	10 (13%)	02 (3%)	79 (101%)
M. Citizenship classes	62 (65%)	12 (13%)	05 (5%)	11 (11%)	06 (6%)	96 (100%)	45 (59%)	11 (15%)	09 (12%)	08 (11%)	03 (4%)	76 (101%)
N. Access to a computer	67 (70%)	13 (13%)		11 (11%)	06 (6%)	97 (100%)	50 (63%)	15 (19%)	04 (5%)	09 (11%)	02 (3%)	80 (101%)
O. Access to internet services	63 (68%)	11 (12%)		12 (13%)	07 (8%)	93 (101%)	52 (67%)	14 (18%)	03 (4%)	06 (8%)	02 (3%)	77 (100%)
P. Summer activities for children	51 (56%)	11 (12%)	03 (3%)	21 (23%)	05 (6%)	91 (100%)	38 (64%)	11 (19%)	02 ((3%)	05 (9%)	03 (5%)	59 (100%)
Q. Home buying classes	49 (51%)	18 (19%)	05 (5%)	17 (8%)	07 (%)	96 (100%)	36 (52%)	14 (20%)	06 (9%)	11 (16%)	02 (3%)	69 (100%)

If the community room in Liberty Plaza is to be enlarged and programs and services are to be made available to residents, how much do you or anyone in your family <u>currently need</u> and want programs for	How much is the Service/program needed?						How likely is it that you would participate in the program if it were available?					
R. Social events for Liberty Plaza residents	45 (47%)	26 (27%)	06 (6%)	11 (12%)	08 (8%)	96 (100%)	38 (51%)	22 (30%)	05 (7%)	04 (5%)	05 (7%)	74 (100%)
S. A Family Fun Club (where parents and kids together could go for family outings to museums, parks, etc.	47 (50%)	16 (17%)	05 (5%)	18 (19%)	08 (9%)	94 (100%)	34 (54%)	17 (27%)	04 (6%)	03 (5%)	05 (8%)	63 (100%)
T. Gardening, food preserving, cooking, nutrition	52 (55%)	15 (16%)	04 (4%)	15 (16%)	09 (10%)	95 (101%)	39 (60%)	11 (17%)	05 (8%)	04 (6%)	06 (9%)	65 (100%)

Table 28

Other needs expressed include: Exercise room equipment, tutor for math and science, cross-cultural education, ethics and tolerance toward cultural differences race and faith (morality).

## Health-Related Issues:

### 1. Health Insurance

Nearly all the children (88%) in the households surveyed were found to have health insurance and 81% had dental coverage as well. The coverage for adults was found to be somewhat lower. Only 76% of adults in the households surveyed reported having health insurance and 71% had dental coverage. Asked whether or not families were able to get the health care services they needed in the last six months most respondents, 77%, confirmed that they were able to get services. A few respondents reported that they were denied services for a number of reasons. Lack of health insurance was cited as the primary barrier for this group of residents. Remarks made by those who were denied health care services include: "I don't have health insurance", "I was denied medical assistance but my kids got it."

### 2. Mental Health

A little over a quarter of the respondents (26%) reported the existence of mental health concerns or problems such as depression in their households.

### 3. Drugs and Alcohol

According to those surveyed, there is no problem related to drugs and alcohol abuse at LP. Twelve percent of the respondents reported the existence of such problems in their households. When asked about drug use by residents of Liberty Plaza in general, 25% reported that the problem was less this year than a year ago while 52% of the respondents maintained that drug use by residents has never been a problem. Asked about open-air drug dealings in Liberty Plaza compared to a year ago, 26% of the respondents said it had declined and 54% said it has not been a problem. Regarding concealed drug dealings, 24% said it was less and again 54% said that it has never been a at Liberty Plaza.

### 4. Domestic Violence

A very small number of respondents (9%) reported the existence of domestic violence problems in their households. And another 10% were not sure. But, the majority of the respondents, 81%, reported that, domestic violence was not a problem in their households.

### 5. Other comments or suggestions

Residents surveyed offered the following comments or suggestions regarding family concerns, needs, what should be done to improve Liberty Plaza etc.

- Any help given is very appreciated
- Should not charge a fee for fixing up the house. Parking areas need to be fixed

-Last 6 months a lot of cars have been broken and stolen some items. We should do

something about it

- Driveway and parking lot terrible. Mice, bugs, plumbing
- It's going to be very hard moving out and back in after repairs. Also I may not afford the price
- Need some fixing up on the houses
- Just the increase in rent
- Had an incident with security guy and got hurt. Reported the incident to police and main office
- LP needs regular security services
- Just the increase in rent
- Houses need a lot of repairs. Fixing with plumbing and electricity
- Too many mice in the house
- Need help to cook and clean
- Leave her at her own home
- Wants to stay in the same place that she's in. Don't want to move out of this place
- Very happy with the way Rebecca is managing the office. She's very helpful. Everything is good
- Management people are doing a good job. They come when you call them. Nice people at the main office
- Make this place safer. It's noisy, messy, and dangerous. Everything is in bad condition. -
- Past management did a better job (Jay). Wonder why they are charged for things that need to be fixed in the house
- Need help with homework with kids, need help with daycare and family planning
- Concerned about rent increase
- Any help will do
- We need police watching out and investigating drug use and dealing in LP. More security for residents, especially for kids
- Rent too high. LP needs to be improved
- Upgrade the basement; fix the doors, water leak in the house
- Everything works very well. I'm happy with the way things are now
- House too small. Need 4-5 bedrooms, need to fix up the house
- Too many African American on the yard. Need to monitor the parking lots more
- Parking lot should be remodeled first. Trash collection area should be cleaned every two days
- Smell in the hallways. Need to change carpets, too many roaches in the house
- We need more activities at LP
- Any thing that will help the elders
- Problems with people cooking and smoking at the building entrance
- Parking issues
- Since new management came in everything is very secure and safe. LP is very nice now
- Renting increase
- Lots of things need to be fixed at home. Management has increased rent twice in the last 2 years
- She's very pleased with the way things are going now. Crime is down, there is no one sleeping in the hallway or on the stairway. Cars are not being vandalized. I feel very safe
- We need a playground
- Playground
- Improve houses' conditions

-A lot of infrastructure problems

- After school programs for kids such as math or science classes. Better system for plowing
- New playground
- Do something to reduce noise in houses facing the highway
- There are some "stray" kids messing with the mail and mailbox in our unit
- Fixing units. Being able to return to the same unit after renovation is completed
- Do something to understand each other resident better
- Having ESL classes at the community center would be very helpful
- Need help with cleaning and cooking
- Police driving every 30 minutes or hour after 10 p.m. Parking during parties/celebrations and residents have to park on the street. Teach adults employment services, home buying, WIC, activities for children
- Kids need to be watched out. Some parent don't care about where their kids are or what they're doing
- Concern about the condition of the playground, people broke glasses there. I'm afraid kids may get hurt while playing in the playground
- My family heartily touched by your survey if you do it practical at LP
- A specific playing area. Currently kids play basket, draw and drop food on sidewalks
- Playground equipment and exercise room in Community Center

## B. Children and Youth Survey Results

### Afterschool and Leisure Activities

Respondents were provided with a list of afterschool activities and asked to mark those that they engage in for play or fun. Furthermore, respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they would like to participate in those activities if they were made available. The responses are shown in the following table.

**Afterschool Fun Activities**

For play or fun, do you? ...	Response		Would you like to...?		
	Yes	Total number of respondents (N)	Yes	Don't Know	Total number respondents (N)
A. Learn how to use the computer (better)	16 (52%)	31	12 (71%)	03 (18%)	17
B. Read by yourself?	26 (84%)	31	04 (67%)		
C. Do homework?	29 (94%)	31			
D. Work on a hobby?	18 (58%)	31	06 (43%)	05 (36%)	14
E. Go to the library?	16 (52%)	31	06 (43%)	03 (21%)	14
F. Learn something you could do for a job?	14 (45%)	31	06 (46%)	04 (31%)	13
G. Learn something you could do to Help other people?	19 (59%)	32	08 (73%)	03 (27%)	11
H. Play sport?	24 (75%)	32	08 (73%)	01 (9%)	11
I. Play computer games?	21 (72%)	29	08 (73%)	02 (18%)	11
J. Hang out with your friends?	25 (78%)	32			
K. Listen to music?	26 (81%)	32			
L. Play a musical instrument or sing?	12 (38%)	32	05 (36%)	02 (14%)	14
M. Write poems or stories?	18 (58%)	31			
N. Make stuff or do crafts?	16 (53%)	30			
O. Ride bikes, jump rope, or do other active things outdoors with you friends that aren't organized by any body?	28 90%	31			
P. Participate in a club, youth group, or other organized activity?	16 (52%)	31			

Table 29

## Desired Changes at Liberty Plaza

The children were asked what they would like to change about Liberty Plaza. The following table lists of some their responses:

- A good playground
- Building a basketball court
- Change any broken parts or old parts
- Don't know
- Fix playgrounds
- I don't like the price [rent] of the house to be too high
- I think the [Liberty Plaza] is good enough
- I would like to have two bathroom in my house
- I would like to make it bigger [apartment]
- Make the door bell work, change color to black, and put in air conditioning, lock
- More lights [exterior lights]
- More playgrounds for kids to play
- New house and new friends
- No kids outside home after 10:00 pm
- Playground, change the house, make better improvements
- The house itself.

Table 30

## Impediments to Having Fun

The children were asked whether or not they had faced difficulties that prevented them from having fun at Liberty Plaza. A little over a quarter, (26%), of the respondents reported that they have had such difficulties. When they were further asked to specify what the problems were, some of them mentioned the following:

### Impediments for fun

- Sometimes kids pick on me and want to start problems but I just walk away.
- Neighbors shouting at night.
- Other kids calling my name and making fun of me.
- Black people teasing her sister. Some girls have told them they don't deserve to live here, and told her sister they wanted to kill her.
- Children don't have more things to play around LP.
- I don't feel safe at Liberty Plaza.

Table 31

### Adult Friend

Half or 50% (n = 16) of the children reported that they had an adult friend or a neighbor at Liberty Plaza they could go to for help if their parents or the people they live with were not at home.

### Educational Resources At Home

Respondents were asked about their access to key educational resources at home. The following table shows their responses.

Educational resources at home

Resource	Yes	Percent	Total Number of respondents (N)
Do you have a quiet room to do your homework or just to relax?	25	78	32
Do you have access to a computer at home?	17	53	32
Do you have internet access at home?	8	25	32

Table 32

### Attitude Toward Academic Achievement

For most, 91% (n= 29), of those surveyed doing well at school was very important or somewhat important. And 88% (n = 28) of the respondents were very happy or somewhat happy with their grades at school. Nearly 72% of the respondents had someone at home or in the neighborhood to help them with their homework. But, a third (33%) of the children believe they would need additional help with their schoolwork. Math, reading, and homework are areas identified as priority areas.

### Needs Assessment

The following table shows the responses of the children to a series of possible afterschool activities presented to them for their evaluation. They were asked to indicate how important each service or program will be to them and how likely they would participate in it if the current Community Room is enlarged into a Community Center and the programs were made available.

## Programs/services needed by the children at LP

A. Program or Services	B. How much is the service or program needed						How likely is that you would participate in the program (Column A) if it were available?				
	A lot	Some	A Little	Not at all	Don't Know	N	Very Likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	N
A. Computer lab	17 (61%)	07 (23%)	02 (7%)	01 (3%)	02 (7%)	32 (101%)	14 (50%)	12 (42%)	02 (7%)		28 (99%)
B. Internet Access	19 (61%)	07 (23%)	02 (6%)	01 (3%)	02 (6%)	31 (99%)	13 (45%)	12 (41%)	03 (10%)	01 (3%)	29 (99%)
C. Homework help	19 (63%)	02 (7%)	07 (23%)	01 (3%)	01 (3%)	31 (99%)	15 (50%)	07 (23%)	07 (23%)	01 (3%)	30 (99%)
D. A quiet reading or study space	11 (36%)	09 (29%)	04 (13%)	06 (19%)	01 (3%)	31 (100%)	12 (48%)	01 (4%)	12 (48%)		25 (100%)
E. A place to "hang-out" with friends	15 (48%)	06 (19%)	03 (10%)	07 (23%)		31 (100%)	13 (50%)	08 (31%)	02 (8%)	03 (12%)	26 (101%)
G. Summer fun activities	19 (61%)	09 (29%)	03 (10%)			31 (100%)	20 (65%)	07 (23%)	04 (13%)		31 (101%)
H. Snacks and foods	18 (58%)	03 (10%)	06 (19%)	03 (10%)	01 (3%)	31 (100%)	17 (65%)	03 (12%)	06 (23%)		26 (100%)
I. Supply of reading materials	19 (61%)	05 (16%)	03 (10%)	03 (10%)	01 (3%)	31 (100%)	13 (46%)	09 (32%)	02 (7%)	04 (14%)	28 (99%)
J. Clubs, sport teams, hobby groups	20 (65%)	06 (19%)	02 (7%)	03 (10%)		31 (101%)	18 (60%)	09 (30%)	02 (7%)	01 (3%)	30 (100%)
K. Art classes	18 (58%)	04 (13%)	03 (10%)	06 (19%)		31 (100%)	15 (58%)	05 (19%)	03 (12%)	03 (12%)	26 (101%)
L. Sewing club to make clothes	12 (39%)	05 (16%)	01 (3%)	13 (42%)		31 (100%)	10 (44%)	06 (26%)	02 (9%)	05 (22%)	23 (101%)
M. Book club	17 (57%)	02 (7%)	05 (17%)	05 (17%)	01 (3%)	30 (101%)	14 (54%)	05 (19%)	03 (12%)	04 (15%)	26 (100%)
N. A place to listening to music	15 (48%)	06 (19%)	01 (3%)	08 (26%)	01 (3%)	31 (99%)	13 (54%)	07 (29%)	03 (13%)	01 (4%)	24 (100%)
O. Applying to college or changing schools	12 (39%)	06 (19%)	01 (3%)	09 (29%)	03 (10%)	31 (100%)	11 (44%)	09 (36%)	01 (4%)	04 (16%)	25 (100%)

Table 33

### Suggestions/Comments

Respondents offered the following comments regarding what they would like to see made available to the children and youth at Liberty Plaza.

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A big swimming pool and a basket court</li> <li>• Arcade room</li> <li>• Basketball court</li> <li>• Football field</li> <li>• If you build little quiet library I think that will help for kids to study</li> <li>• More playing area to enjoy</li> <li>• More things to do</li> <li>• More writing course, reading, music</li> <li>• Need help with grades and be a good student</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Study courses</li> <li>• Toys, dolls</li> </ul> |
|---|

Table 34

#### IV. Summary and Conclusion

- The study has achieved its goal in the sense of identifying what residents may need by way of social services. This is particularly true with adult respondents where a response rate of 85% was achieved. Even though the response rate for the children was low, nevertheless, the study has provided useful insight into what the children want.
- The study uncovered a strong need for programming and services both for adults as well as for children. Adult residents' needs may be broadly grouped into four categories. These are economic, social, family entertainment and children-related needs. Support services for improving the economic stability of residents such as employable skills upgrading training programs were clearly in demand. Based on the combination of the responses labeled as "a lot" and "somewhat", computer and internet training (84%), access to computers (83%), and internet access (80%) appear to be on top of the list of support services residents need. Availing onsite employment services, 78%, ESL, 74%, and GED with 68% rating also stood out as the most in demand in this category of needs.

Important social services identified for strengthening the family included, citizenship classes (78%), emergency food (76%), home buying classes, 70%, and health services (70%). By way of social events and family fun activities, gardening, 71%, entertainment programs for adults, 67%, family fun club, 67%, and a class on sewing, 61% were the highest score getters in this category.

Children-related need identified by parents included both afterschool and summer activities. Summer programs received a combined rating of 68% while afterschool academic enrichment programs were rated at 60%.

- Generally, residents feel quite safe living at Liberty Plaza. They, however, appear to be asking for more police patrol, more external lighting and additional security installation such as security doors in apartments.
- There appears to be an incipient racial tension that needs to be carefully handled. In this regard both training programs on diversity and creating events for bringing residents together need to be explored. Occasions need to be created to enable the various subcultures interact with each other more.
- Respondents indicated a strong level of potential participation rate if and when the programs are available at the planned onsite Resource Center. For instance, 79% of those respondents who identified the need for computer training indicated that they would very likely or somewhat likely to participate in such programs if the services are made available. Eighty five percent of the respondents believe they would use internet services if it were to be made available at the Resource Center.
- For the children and youth summer programs (91%), computer lab (84%), Internet access (84%), sport./fun club (84%), homework help (70%), a place to hang out (67%), a place to listen to music (67%) etc. were the major needs identified

- The children also appear to be quite anxious to take advantage of the services if they are available at Liberty Plaza. For instance, 92% of the respondents indicated that they would very likely or somewhat likely to use the computer lab if it was to be made available at the proposed Community Center.

Appendixes

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Appendix A

**Liberty Plaza, Inc.  
Residents' Needs Survey (Adult Section)**

Liberty Plaza, Inc. is doing a survey of families in this housing complex. The survey is being done, mainly, to identify the services and support programs that are most needed by families who live here.

Your participation in the survey is voluntary. Your housing at Liberty Plaza will not be affected by the survey. Your answers will be kept strictly confidential. Your name will not be used in any report. It's safe to do. We will offer you a \$15 rent coupon after you complete the survey, and we will provide you an interpreter if you need one.

With your permission, we would also like to ask your child/children to complete the kids section of the survey. Some of the questions are similar to the adult's version, but the children survey focuses on what kind of academic and extracurricular activities the youth would like to have on-site at Liberty Plaza.

---

About your neighborhood at Liberty Plaza and about your family

1. The head of your household is a:

Female \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many years have you lived in Liberty Plaza?

- Less than one year.....1
- One year to less than 3 years,.....2
- Three years to less than 5 years, .....3
- Five years to less than 10 years, or .....4
- Ten years or more?.....5

3. Have you ever called or talked to the management office or the police concerning a problem in Liberty Plaza?

- Yes .....1
- No.....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....2
- Refused .....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....7
- Don't know .....(SKIP TO Q. 5).....8

4. Was something done to help address the problem?

Yes ..... 1  
 No..... 2  
     Refused ..... 7  
     Don't know ..... 8

5. Are you currently

Married, ..... 1  
 Living with someone in a marriage-like relationship but not  
 legally married, ..... 2  
 Separated, ..... 3  
 Divorced, ..... 4  
 Widowed, or ..... 5  
 Other... ..... 6  
     Refused ..... 7

6. How many adult members are there in your household (those over age 18)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Tell us about the children in your family:

How many children under 12 years of age \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many youth 13 to 17 years of age \_\_\_\_\_

**Experience you may have with MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) or welfare.**

8. Which of the following best describes your involvement with MFIP or welfare? Would you say

Never received MFIP benefits, ..... (SKIP TO Q. 10)..... 1  
 Started with MFIP benefits but decided to stop, ..... 2  
 Receiving MFIP benefits and have been sanctioned, or ..... 3  
 Receiving MFIP benefits? ..... 4  
 No Applicable ..... (SKIP TO Q. 10)..... 9

9. Do you know how much time you have left within your five-year limit?

Yes ..... 1  
 No..... 2  
 Not sure..... 3

**About school and work involvement.**

10. Are any adults in your household currently attending any classes or training programs? Please check all applicable

	Yes	No
ESL	_____	_____
Computer	_____	_____
Community Education	_____	_____
GED	_____	_____
College	_____	_____
Vo Tech	_____	_____

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. About English skills

How many adults in your household speak English fluently? \_\_\_\_\_

How many adults in your household write in English easily? \_\_\_\_\_

How many adults in your household read in English easily? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are all adults in your household currently employed outside the home?

- Yes.....1
- No.....2
- Refused .....7
- Don't know .....8

13. Are there any adults in your household currently looking for work?

- Yes .....1
- No.....2
- Refused .....7
- Don't know .....8

IF THERE ARE NO CHILDREN IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLEASE GO TO QUESTION # 34

About your family's childcare needs and your children's schooling

14. What are your greatest problems or concerns about your current child care arrangements, if applicable?

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15. Are your preschool children enrolled in... Please check all applicable

	Yes	No
Headstart?	_____	_____
Preschools?	_____	_____
Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) Programs?	_____	_____
Private daycare licensed	_____	_____
Others (Specify): _____		

16. Are you satisfied with your preschool child/ren's school-readiness preparation?

Yes .....(SKIP TO Q. 18).....1  
No .....2

17. If not satisfied, what in particular is not satisfactory to you? Please explain:

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18. Are you satisfied with the academic performance of your school-age child/ren?

Yes .....(SKIP TO Q. 20).....1  
No .....2

19. If not satisfied, what in particular is not satisfactory to you? Please explain:

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20. Are your children facing any discipline problems at school?

Yes .....1  
No ..... (SKIP TO Q. 22).....2

21. If "yes," what kind of problem?

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22. Does anyone regularly help the (child/children) in your household study and answer questions about homework?

Yes.....1  
No .....(SKIP TO Q. 24).....2

23. If yes, who helps them? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Does your child (do your children) have access to any of the following at your home? Please check all applicable.

	Yes	No
A. A dictionary?		
B. An encyclopedia?		
C. Other books that are not their school books?		
D. Magazines?		
E. Newspapers?		
F. Calculator?		
G. Computer?		
H. Internet access?		
I. A quiet and well-lit place to study?		
J. A desk or study table (not the dinner table)?		
K. Toys or materials to support special academic interests such as a chemistry set, microscope, and so forth?		
L. Other (Specify)		

25. During the past year, did the school-age (child/children) who (lives/live) with you in your household participated in... Please check all applicable.

Activity	Yes	No	Don't Known
A. Any YMCA/YWCA activities			
B. Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, or Campfire Girls?			
C. Team sports?			
D. Junior Achievement?			
E. Choir, band, orchestra or other musical groups?			
F. Drama or dance?			
G. School paper or yearbook?			
I. Hobby club or group such as language club, science club, and so forth?			
J. Any organized activity for children at Liberty Plaza?			
K. Other organizations or extra curricular activities?			

26. Was (is) there any thing that kept/keeps the school-age (child/children) in your household from participating in after school activities?

Yes.....1  
 No..... (SKIP TO Q. 28).....2

27. If "yes", what was (is) the problem? Financial? Transport? Child care? Please explain

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28. Do you have any concerns regarding summer activities for your child (children)?

Yes .....1  
 No ..... (SKIP TO Q. 30).....2

29. If "yes", what is the concern or problem and why?

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30. During the past year, did you attend a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) meeting or participated in any activity at school?

- Yes.....1
- No.....2
- Refused .....7
- Don't know.....8

31. How many of the children in your household have a Ramsey County or St. Paul Public Library card?

\_\_\_\_\_

32. About how often (does the child/do the children) in your household visit a public library?

- More than once a week.....1
- About once a week.....2
- Less than once a week but more than once a month.....3
- Once a month.....4
- Less than once a month but more than once a year.....5
- Never or almost never?.....6
- Refused .....7
- Don't know.....8

**About any neighborhood programs used by members of your household**

33. Tell us about any programs, such as YMCA, Boy Scouts, etc., that any children in your household currently participate in. If you don't know the exact name of a program, you can describe what the program offers to participants.

List up to five programs

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

34. Tell us about any programs or classes or activities you and any other adults in your household currently participate in. If you don't know the exact name of a program, you can describe what the program offers to participants. List up to five programs

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**About family well-being and health**

36. Are all children in your household covered by health insurance (medical assistance/MA, Medicare, HMO, MinnesotaCare or private insurance)?

- Yes .....1
- No.....2
- Refused .....7
- Not applicable .....9

37. Do all the children in your household have dental insurance coverage?

- Yes ..... 1
- No .....2
- Not applicable.....9

38. In the past 6 months, have you been able to obtain needed health care for yourself and/or your family?

- Yes .....(SKIP TO Q. 40).....1
- No.....2
- Not Applicable .....(SKIP TO Q. 40).....9

39. If "no", what was the health care needed and what prevented you from receiving it?

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40. Do you and all other adult members of your household have health insurance?

- Yes .....1
- No.....2
- Not sure.....3
- Refused .....4

41. Do all adult members of your household have dental insurance coverage?

- Yes .....1
- No.....2
- Not sure.....3
- Refused .....7

42. Are there any mental health concerns, such as depression, inability to cope, etc., in your household?
- Yes .....1  
 No.....2  
 Not sure.....3  
 Refused .....7
43. In your opinion, is there a problem with alcohol or drug use in Liberty Plaza?
- Yes .....1  
 No.....2  
 Not sure.....3  
 Refused .....7
44. Have you heard of any reports of domestic violence in Liberty Plaza in the last six months?
- Yes .....1  
 No.....2  
 Not sure.....3  
 Refused .....7

**About safety in your neighborhood. Please answer the following questions about safety in Liberty Plaza and the immediate neighborhood**

45. How safe do you feel

	(Would you say...)			
	Very Safe,	Somewhat Safe,	Somewhat Unsafe, or	Very Unsafe?
A. Alone at night in your home?				
B. Out alone at night walking in Liberty Plaza?				
C. Out alone during the day walking in Liberty Plaza?				

46. Compared to one year ago, how safe do you feel about your children playing outdoors in Liberty Plaza during the day? Would you say
- Less safe,.....1  
 About the same, or .....2  
 Safer .....3  
 Not Applicable.....9

47. Compared to one year ago, is there less, about the same, or more of the following occurring in Liberty Plaza? Please check all applicable. Would you say

	(Would you say...)			
	Less	About the Same	More	Not a Problem a Year Ago and Not a Problem Now
A. Crime				
B. Vandalism or graffiti				
C. Groups hanging out				
D. Concealed drug dealing				
E. Open-air drug dealing				
F. Drug use by residents				
G. Young people controlling the building or area in which you live				

48. What is the highest grade or year of school the head of the household completed?

- No formal education ..... 1
- Eighth grade or lower..... 2
- Some high school..... 3
- High school graduate or GED..... 4
- Some college (include 2 year or less degree)..... 5
- College graduate (BA, BS) ..... 6
- Graduate work or professional school ..... 10
- Don't know ..... 8

49. What is the highest grade or year of school completed by any other adult in the household?

- No formal education ..... 1
- Eighth grade or lower..... 2
- Some high school..... 3
- High school graduate or GED..... 4
- Some college (include 2 year or less degree)..... 5
- College graduate (BA, BS) ..... 6
- Graduate work or professional school ..... 10
- Don't know ..... 8
- No Applicable ..... 9

50. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about your family's concerns and needs, or about what should be done to improve Liberty Plaza?

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Thank you for your help. As it is stated at the beginning of the survey, we would like to speak to two youths, if applicable, in your family. We would like to talk to a child in the age bracket of 8-12 and another one 13 years and above. Among other things, we will ask them about programs and services needed by children in those age groups. Do you give me permission to talk with your child/ren? It will take about 15 minutes for each one of them to complete the survey.

- Yes, I give you my permission .....1
- No.....2
- Not applicable .....9

What's a good time to talk to your child/children? \_\_\_\_\_

Child name (8-12 year old): \_\_\_\_\_

Child name (13-17 year old): \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix B**

**Liberty Plaza, Inc.  
Residents' Need Survey (Youth Section)**

Youth's first name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Hi. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I work for Liberty Plaza, Inc. We're doing a survey of families and youth living in this housing complex. The survey is being done to identify services and programs that are most needed by residents here.

The survey is voluntary. Your housing and benefits will not be affected by the survey. Your answers are private. Your name will not be used in any report. It's safe to do.

1. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

2. Are you a:

Male.....1

Female.....2

3. Please tell me what kinds of things you do for play or fun after school and on weekends?

Activity				Would you like to?		
	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Don't Know
A. Learn how to use the computer (better)						
B. Read by yourself?						
C. Do homework?						
D. Work on a hobby?						
E. Go to the library?						
F. Learn something you could do for a job?						
G. Learn something you could do to help other people?						
H. Play sport?						
I. Play computer games?						
J. Hang out with your friends?						

K. Listen to music?						
L. Play a musical instrument or sing?						
M. Write poems or stories?						
N. Make stuff or do crafts?						
O. Ride bikes, jump rope, or do other active things outdoors with you friends that aren't organized by any body?						
P. Participate in a club, youth group, or other organized activity?						
Q. What else do you do for play or fun? _____ _____						

4. If you could change one thing about your house or Liberty Plaza, what would you change?

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5. Have you ever had any difficulty or problem in Liberty Plaza that kept you from having fun/enjoying yourself?

Yes.....1  
No.....(SKIP TO Q. 7).....2

6. What was the difficulty or problem?

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7. Have you ever had any difficulty or problem at a program site in the neighborhood (like a recreational center) that kept you from having fun/enjoying yourself?

Yes.....1  
No.....SKIP TO Q. 9) .....2

**Appendix B**

**Liberty Plaza, Inc.  
Residents' Need Survey (Youth Section)**

Youth's first name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Hi. I'm \_\_\_\_\_. I work for Liberty Plaza, Inc. We're doing a survey of families and youth living in this housing complex. The survey is being done to identify services and programs that are most needed by residents here.

The survey is voluntary. Your housing and benefits will not be affected by the survey. Your answers are private. Your name will not be used in any report. It's safe to do.

1. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

2. Are you a:

Male.....1

Female.....2

3. Please tell me what kinds of things you do for play or fun after school and on weekends?

Activity				Would you like to?		
	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes	No	Don't Know
A. Learn how to use the computer (better)						
B. Read by yourself?						
C. Do homework?						
D. Work on a hobby?						
E. Go to the library?						
F. Learn something you could do for a job?						
G. Learn something you could do to help other people?						
H. Play sport?						
I. Play computer games?						
J. Hang out with your friends?						

K. Listen to music?						
L. Play a musical instrument or sing?						
M. Write poems or stories?						
N. Make stuff or do crafts?						
O. Ride bikes, jump rope, or do other active things outdoors with you friends that aren't organized by any body?						
P. Participate in a club, youth group, or other organized activity?						
Q. What else do you do for play or fun? _____ _____						

4. If you could change one thing about your house or Liberty Plaza, what would you change?

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5. Have you ever had any difficulty or problem in Liberty Plaza that kept you from having fun/enjoying yourself?

Yes.....1  
No.....(SKIP TO Q. 7).....2

6. What was the difficulty or problem?

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7. Have you ever had any difficulty or problem at a program site in the neighborhood (like a recreational center) that kept you from having fun/enjoying yourself?

Yes.....1  
No.....SKIP TO Q. 9) .....2

8. What was the difficulty or problem?

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9A. Tell me about any after-school programs or activities that you or other kids in your household participate in currently. If you don't know the exact name of a program, you can describe what the program offers to youth. List up to five programs		9B. How much do staff in this program know and understand about working with youth? Would you say...				
	Do you participate in this program?	A lot,	Some,	A little,	Not much	Ref/DK
1. _____ _____	Yes → No					
2. _____ _____	Yes → No					
3. _____ _____	Yes → No					
4. _____ _____	Yes → No					
5. _____ _____	Yes → No					

*Now I'm going to ask you about safety in your house and Liberty Plaza.*

10. Have you seen or heard of violence among family members in Liberty Plaza in the last six months?

- Yes.....1  
 No.....2  
 Not Sure.....3  
 Don't know.....8

	(Would you say...)			
	Very Safe,	Somewhat Safe,	Somewhat Unsafe,	Very Unsafe?
11. How safe do you feel out alone at night walking in Liberty Plaza?				
12. How safe do you feel out alone during the day walking in Liberty Plaza?				

13. What needs to change in order for youth to feel safer in Liberty Plaza?

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14. What activities for children and youth would you like to see in your Liberty Plaza or immediate neighborhood?

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15. Do you have an adult friend or neighbor at Liberty Plaza who you could go to for help if your parents/the people you live with were not at home?

- Yes.....1
- No.....2
- Refused.....7
- Don't know.....8

*The next few questions are about learning. We're interested not only in the learning that you do in school, but also things you can learn after school and weekends.*

16. Where do you go to school?

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of school)

17. Do you have a quiet room or place in your home to do your homework or just go and be comfortable and quiet by yourself?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- Refused..... 7
- Don't Know..... 8

18. Do you have access to a computer at home?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- Refused..... 7
- Don't Know..... 8

19. Do you have internet access at home?

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2
- Refused..... 7
- Don't Know..... 8

20. In the last month, how often have you used the computer outside of school or the public library?

- Once or less in the last month..... 1
- More than once in the last month, but less than every week..... 2
- At least once a week..... 3
- Refused ..... 7
- Don't know ..... 8

21. How important is it to you to do well in school? Is it ...

- Very important..... 1
- Somewhat important..... 2
- Not important..... 3
- Refused..... 7
- Don't know..... 8

22. How happy are you with your grades in school? Would you say....

- Very happy..... 1
- Somewhat happy..... 2
- Not happy..... 3
- Refused..... 7
- Don't know..... 8



27. Is there anything else you would like to see made available to kids here in Liberty Plaza?

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Thank you. We have completed the survey!

## Appendix C

How much is parenting education needed? \* Would you participate if parenting education classes are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if parenting education classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is parenting education needed?	A lot	15	11	2			28
	Some		7	4		1	12
	A little		4	4		1	9
	Not at all		1		6		7
	Don't know	1			1	3	5
Total		16	23	10	7	5	61

How much is a health clinic/health service needed? \* Would you participate if a health clinic/health service made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if a health clinic/health service made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is a health clinic/health service needed?	A lot	39	10	1		1	51
	Some	2	6	2			10
	A little	1	1	1			3
	Not at all				2		2
	Don't know				2	1	3
Total		42	17	4	4	2	69

How much is a sewing/craft club needed? \* Would you participate if sewing/arts club is made available?  
Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if sewing/arts club is made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is a sewing/craft club needed?	A lot	29	7		1		37
	Some	2	10			1	13
	A little		2	3	1		6
	Not at all				6		6
	Don't know					3	3
Total		31	19	3	8	4	65

How much is emergency food service needed? \* Would you participate if emergency food service is made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if emergency food service is made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is emergency food service needed?	A lot	42	10	1		1	54
	Some	2	7	2	1	1	13
	A little		2	4	1		7
	Don't know					1	1
Total		44	19	7	2	3	75

How much is WIC service needed? \* Would you participate if WIC services are made available?  
Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if WIC services are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is WIC service needed?	A lot	18	8	1	2	2	31
	Some	1	2	2	2		7
	A little		2	3	3		8
	Not at all				9		9
	Dont' know				1	2	3
Total		19	12	6	17	4	58

How much is a GED preparatory class needed? \* Would you participate if GED classes are made available?  
Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if GED classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is a GED preparatory class needed?	A lot	38	8	1	1	1	49
	Some		5	1	2		8
	A little		1	3	1		5
	Not at all		1	1	6		8
	Dont' know					1	1
Total		38	15	6	10	2	71

How much are social event/entertainment programs needed? \* Would you participate if social events are organized?  
Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if social events are organized?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are social event/entertainment programs needed?	A lot	32	10	1	1		44
	Some	2	10			1	13
	A little			4	1		5
	Not at all	1		1	2	1	5
	Don't know					1	1
Total		35	20	6	4	3	68

How much is an employment service needed? \* Would you participate if employment services are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if employment services are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is an employment service needed?	A lot	34	12	1	2	1	50
	Some	1	9	5	1		16
	A little		1	1	1		3
	Not at all				7		7
	Don't know			1		3	4
Total		35	22	8	11	4	80

How much are ESL classes needed? \* Would you participate if ESL classes are made available?  
Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if ESL classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are ESL classes needed?	A lot	38	11	1	4		54
	Some		5	2	1	1	9
	A little		1	4			5
	Not at all				4		4
	Don't know				1	2	3
Total		38	17	7	10	3	75

How much are academic enrichment programs needed? \* Would you participate if academic enrichment classes are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if academic enrichment classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are academic enrichment programs needed?	A lot	28	7	2	4	2	43
	Some	1	2	1	1		5
	A little		1	4	2		7
	Not at all				4		4
	Don't know				1	2	3
Total		29	10	7	12	4	62

How much is getting help with domestic violence needed? \* Would you participate if domestic violence resources are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if domestic violence resources are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is getting help with domestic violence needed?	A lot	14	5	3	6		28
	Some		2	3	3		8
	A little		1	3			4
	Not at all		1		11		12
	Don't know				2	1	3
Total		14	9	9	22	1	55

How much are computer/Internet classes needed? \* Would you participate if computer/internet classes are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if computer/internet classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are computer/Internet classes needed?	A lot	49	5	2	3		59
	Some		2	3	1		6
	Not at all				6		6
	Don't know					1	1
Total		49	7	5	10	1	72

How much are citizenship classes needed? \* Would you participate if citizenship classes are made available?  
Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if citizenship classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are citizenship classes needed?	A lot	43	6	3	2		54
	Some		3	3	1	1	8
	A little			3	1		4
	Not at all		1		2		3
	Dont' know				1	1	2
Total		43	10	9	7	2	71

How much is access to a computer needed? \* Would you participate if access to a computer is made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if access to a computer is made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is access to a computer needed?	A lot	49	5	2			56
	Some	1	6	2			9
	Not at all				8		8
	Dont' know					1	1
Total		50	11	4	8	1	74

**How much is internet access needed? \* Would you participate if internet services are made available?  
Crosstabulation**

Count

		Would you participate if internet services are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is internet access needed?	A lot	51	5	1			57
	Some	1	4	2			7
	Not at all		1		6		7
	Don't know					1	1
Total		52	10	3	6	1	72

**How much are summer activities needed? \* Would you participate if summer activities for children are made available? Crosstabulation**

Count

		Would you participate if summer activities for children are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are summer activities needed?	A lot	35	4	1	1		41
	Some	1	4		1		6
	A little		1	1			2
	Not at all				3		3
	Don't know					1	1
Total		36	9	2	5	1	53

How much are home buying classes needed? \* Would you participate if home buying classes are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if home buying classes are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are home buying classes needed?	A lot	34	2	2			38
	Some	1	9	2	1		13
	A little			2	2		4
	Not at all				8		8
	Don't know					1	1
Total		35	11	6	11	1	64

How much are social events needed at LP? \* Would you participate if social events are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if social events are made available?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much are social events needed at LP?	A lot	34	3		1		38
	Some	1	16	2			19
	A little		1	3	1		5
	Not at all		1		2		3
	Don't know	1				3	4
Total		36	21	5	4	3	69

**How much is a family fun club needed at LP? \* Would you participate if a family fun club is organized?  
Crosstabulation**

Count

		Would you participate if a family fun club is organized?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is a family fun club needed at LP?	A lot	32	3	1	1		37
	Some		10				10
	A little		1	3	1		5
	Not at all				1		1
	Don't know	1				3	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>57</b>

**How much is gardening, food preserving ... classess needed? \* Would you participate if gardening, food preserving, cooking... classes are organized? Crosstabulation**

Count

		Would you participate if gardening, food preserving, cooking... classes are organized?					Total
		Very likely	Somewhat likely	A little likely	Not likely	Don't know	
How much is gardening, food preserving ... classess needed?	A lot	37	3	1	1	1	43
	Some	1	6	1	1		9
	A little			3			3
	Not at all				1		1
	Don't know				1	3	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60</b>

How much is .... needed at LP? \* Would you participate if ....  
are made available? Crosstabulation

Count

		Would you participate if .... are made available?	
		Very likely	Total
How much is .... needed at LP?	Exercise room/Equipment	1	1
	Tutor for math and science. Cross-cultural education, ethics and tolerance toward cultural differences, race and faith (morality)	1	1
Total		2	2