The situation
Residents that are formerly homeless may have been abused in the past. This makes them sensitive to encountering other people, especially in a way that seems confrontational such as face to face unexpectedly. This sense can be exacerbated when living in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people.

Potential solution
If a floor plan creates corridor intersections where one could encounter another person unexpectedly or bump into them without prior warning, consider installing convex mirrors that provide a preview of someone else that is approaching from the other direction.

Location: Bahkita Gardens, Seattle.
Managing organization: Catholic Housing Services.
Architect and interior designer: Environmental Works Community Design Center. www.eworks.org

Key words
Corridors
Personal space
Safety
Orientation