

Personal Impact of Storage Surveys

The Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC) is an advisory body comprised of individuals with lived experience with homelessness in Austin. Their work is facilitated and administratively supported by Downtown Austin Community Court.

At AHAC's meeting on May 13, 2019, the Members completed the following surveys regarding the personal impacts of availability of storage options. The Members authorized these documents to be shared publicly as part of the storage discussion that is posted on the June 7, 2019 Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board agenda.

For questions or more information regarding AHAC, please contact the following Downtown Austin Community Court Staff:

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AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

During my homeless experience I would try and have one bag & one back pack. I had to leave w/ my bag every day. When

I would have 2 bags, one to watch my bags and I lost many clothes, valuables & keepsakes while homeless.

2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

I'm currently housed.

But I believe if storage needs were met, I believe people would be able to not stress while making appointments and other things.

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

Fortunately I have a storage. When I had my home, an I helped the homeless with situations associated with their belongings I noticed the following:

1. Having a place to put their, identification, Birth certif.
2. Being able to store their most precious valuables like family memoirs.
3. Lack of Access to clean clothings.

Were, major issues for them, it limited their ability to stay clean, save important documents, have proper documentations.

2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

- they would have confidence that their valuables were safe
- their important documents would be safe and ^{easy} accessible
- they would have access to clean clothing
 - clothing

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO AUSTIN, I HAD TO LEAVE MY BELONGINGS TO GO TO A JOB INTERVIEW.

WHEN I RETURNED, I DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN.

I GOT THE JOB, BUT HAD TO SPEND THAT WHOLE FIRST WEEK WITH ONLY THE CLOTHES I WAS WEARING.

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

I CURRENTLY PAY \$100 FOR A STORAGE UNIT. IT PROVIDES SOME SMALL BIT OF STABILITY. A PLACE TO KEEP MY STUFF SAFE AND ORGANIZED. A PLACE TO GATHER MY THOUGHTS AND GET AWAY.

THIS STORAGE UNIT ALSO HELPS KEEP MY FILM GEAR, BOOKS, AND CLOTHING. THIS ALLOWS ME TO PURSUE BOTH MY CREATING PURSUITS AND MY ADVOCACY.

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

Extremely - living with items everywhere makes it very hard to do anything. Take a shower - have to get those things packed; then get ready / put shower things back / get dressed - iron / probably hot. Do I have to carry clothes, papers everything for days or longer? Very hard on my back. If you go in a public place - you are noticed at best. I have storage units right now that cost more than if I had a place. I have 2 units costing \$200. Rent \$380 - my cat is not with me. It is a never-ending circle that makes no sense.

2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

I would have \$200 more a month to use for basic necessities. I would have my things with me that I need. I ~~would~~ feel my things should be with me

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

A friend I know who deals with paranoid schizophrenia needs use storage while he is homeless. Currently he hides a bike with two mine train cart attachments. I feel like he is a target to be robbed and also that the constant logging around of belongings is contributing towards chronic stress. The storage not being available to him I believe is what led him to seek out support from a toxic person in his life. This person not 100% with alcohol and substance abuse, was 20 years his senior ish. and was able to convince cops of him allegedly abusing her. ~~has~~ him not having access to storage and being vulnerable with a mental handicap which skews his discernment.

Access resources @ lockers with social workers or Youth Care Provider

2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

Storage would be good for my friend because he is easily stigmatized for his economic and social ~~background~~ status and mental handicaps. The less he carries and lugs around the more time he has to look at the future and the design goals. Not having this brings chronic stress mentally and physically.

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

Very simply UNABLE to meet obligations!
medical, Housing, Job opportunities A sense of
security for what little might be left?

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

The ability Just to move forward.

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

yes how can you get that job
my friend she need to place her
bed roll, and for me I try carry
my Backpack now I one I
got my shopping cart and put
my stuff in

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

Storage is important in so many ways
of every day life, but it not for
the years I think one year is long
enough

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

No continuity of resources;
thefts, property destruction,
makes recovery in
destitution impossible.

lost CRUCIAL things which affect
other areas (phones, computers,
docs.)

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

wouldn't lose books / mss to
theft / rain anymore.

peace of mind now if secure

Carrying things has become back pain,
neuropathy,

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

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- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

My friend lost all of her personal possessions because she had no place to store them

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

it would make things easier for me because I would not have to carry everything around with me i.e. doctor appointments, job interviews

Donnie

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

* Have to carry "everything" I own on my back.

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

* Would allow me to have numerous sets of clothing. Allow me to save certain things or have valuables that would normally would be subjected to being stolen. I

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- 1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

~~Not Having~~ Having Room For Thing

- 2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

Dont Have to Worry About MY Things

AHAC Opening Writing Activity

Please take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

1) How has lack of storage impacted you personally or someone you're close to?

12/14

2) If your storage needs were met, what specific ways would that help you in your daily life and in achieving your long term goals?

12/14