

Grow Labette and Live Healthy Montgomery County are implementing policies that promote healthy eating and increase access to food with local retailers, hospitals and institutions of higher education. Funding from the BCBSKS Pathways grant will also enable us to improve our built environment with improved walking trails and increasing ease of access to recreation and shopping in both counties.

Community Perception

- Sixty-two percent of community members surveyed in Montgomery and Labette counties said “higher price” might be a barrier to offering healthier items at food pantries.
- Respondents said they chose what items to donate by responding to food pantries’ calls for a specific item, choosing the most economical, non-perishable items or donating by check or cash.
- When asked what information would be helpful in donating healthier food items, about 37% of respondents said “a list of healthier food choices.”

“The connections being made within communities and across county lines as a result of this collaboration are an inspiration!”

— Tara Solomon-Smith,
Community Partner



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Labette & Montgomery Counties



Healthy Eating



Healthy food initiatives combine education and hunger relief efforts for our communities.

We look forward to **Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP)** to increase awareness of healthy options for consumers at local food pantries. **Community garden efforts in Parsons and Coffeyville** will bolster healthier options and create a sense of community.



Active Living



We are working to enhance current outdoor trails to improve safety, accessibility and connectivity to recreation and retail settings.

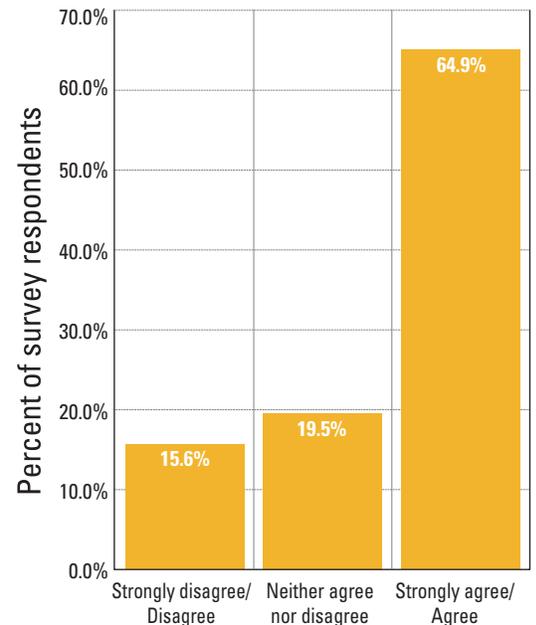
The **City of Independence** signed a BCBSKS Pathways Pledge to work towards a **multimodal trail**. In **Labette County**, the **Parsons Rotary Club** signed a pledge to expand the **Parsons Arboretum trails**.

Commercial Tobacco Control



We are excited to create anti-tobacco policies in **Altamont** in collaboration with **K-State Research and Extension, Labette County High School**, and the **City of Altamont**, we are planning an “environmental scan” with high school students to remove cigarette butts left in the park and a kick-off event for new anti-smoking policies.

Initiative Wide: In general, my community has sufficient opportunities for physical activity.



Key findings:

About two-thirds of respondents across the 24 Pathways communities said their community has sufficient opportunities for physical activity.

Results are based on data from an initiative-wide survey of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas members for whom e-mail addresses were available in each of the 26 counties in which BCBSKS has funded coalitions as part of the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Initiative. N = 4,845. The survey response rate was 6.9 percent.

11
Projects for Action Period 2

\$21,050
Grant Dollars Distributed So Far

51,670
Population Impacted

Pathways to a Healthy Kansas combines evidence-based solutions and promising practices for improving healthy eating, active living and tobacco prevention to make a large impact in communities. The program provides community coalitions with the tools and resources needed to remove barriers and engage their communities – and represents the largest community grant program ever funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

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