



Barber County United (BCU) strives to strengthen its communities by bringing people together to become healthier Kansans. Offering guidance and compassion, BCU connects people to services, ministries and organizations aimed at enhancing relationships and enriching lives as “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” BCU is driven to ignite and inspire the residents of the individual towns of Barber County, Kansas, into one united community.

Community Perception

- When asked how important it is for Barber County to develop a community commercial kitchen, fifty-percent of survey respondents say it is important or very important.
- Survey respondents identified maintenance costs and renter/ user accountability as potential challenges to developing a community commercial kitchen in Barber County. Selecting a location that will meet the needs of all communities across the county was identified as another challenge.
- When asked to select from a list of the benefits of a community commercial kitchen, 57.1% selected both a place for gardeners to process produce for local resale and an opportunity for healthy food cooking classes.

“Through the Pathways work, Barber County United will continue to build bridges with our countywide municipalities, organizations and community members as we strive to meet the most pressing needs of our county’s population.”

— Tom Lee
Board Member,
Barber County United

Barber County



Healthy Eating



We are thrilled to support **Kiowa, Kansas’ Hometown Market** in their efforts to bring the needs of the local **South Barber Food Bank** to the forefront. Their **Donor Awareness** initiative is cutting edge in battling food insecurity and has the potential to offer a model for rural grocers statewide.



Active Living



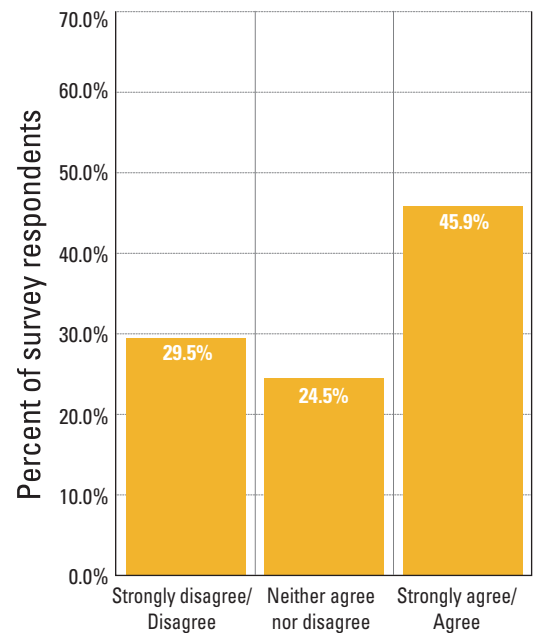
School districts USD 254 and USD 255 in Barber County have received *Pathways* grant funding to provide new opportunities and greater access to healthy living options for their students and staff. Both Boards of Education voted to update their district wellness policy language to model **Kansas State Department of Education** wellness policies.

Commercial Tobacco Control



We are passionate to instill a sense of community pride by increasing commercial tobacco-free areas across the county, including outdoor spaces of Barber County. We will encourage **anti-tobacco practices** empowering our citizens, including our youth, with tobacco and vaping prevention opportunities.

Initiative Wide: In general, my community has sufficient options for healthy eating.



Key findings:

More than two-in-five respondents across the 24 *Pathways* communities said their community has sufficient options for healthy eating.

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.



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Projects for Action Period 2

\$75,613

Grant Dollars Distributed So Far

4,228

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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