

Barber County United (BCU) strengthens our community by bringing people together to be healthier. BCU connects people to services, ministries and organizations that enrich lives. BCU is a quality-of-life coalition leading innovative efforts for wellness in rural communities.

Community Perception

- During a Community Conversation for Hardtner's Achenbach Memorial Park Project, 31 attendees voted on potential park projects. Installing a disc golf course received 28 first-choice votes.
- Eighteen participants selected improved seating as their second-choice preference. Suggestions were made to incorporate Hardtner School's alma mater colors into park additions. Both the installation of a disc golf course and seating enhancements are anticipated.
- Conversations generated momentum towards future park improvements including preserving a fading mural and the possibility of a water feature. Considering the integration of memorials with new benches and picnic tables may provide additional funding for these enhancements.

“Pathways grant funding and Barber County United enhanced Kiowa District Healthcare's Healthy Hospital Initiative, providing affordable, accessible and nutritious food.”

— Janell Goodno
CEO, Kiowa District Healthcare

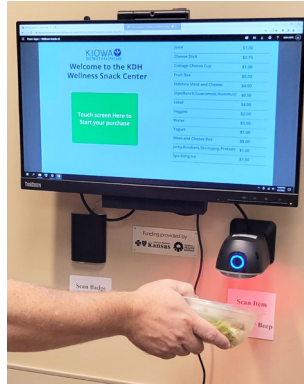
Barber County

Healthy Eating



Barber County United (BCU) supports new wellness initiatives at **Kiowa District Healthcare (KDH)**. Pathways funding allowed for the installation

of equipment to offer healthier food and beverage options for employees, patients and visitors throughout the hospital. Access to fresh food and healthier beverages is now available 24-hours a day, reflecting KDH's commitment to promoting overall health.



Active Living



With support from the *Pathways Initiative*, new hiking trails were developed at **Memorial Peace Park**. These efforts will enhance physical activity opportunities for Barber County residents. **Peace Treaty Association, Barber County Economic Development and Barber County United (BCU)** were honored to showcase these efforts at the Capital Rotunda in Topeka for the **2023 Trails Appreciation Day**.

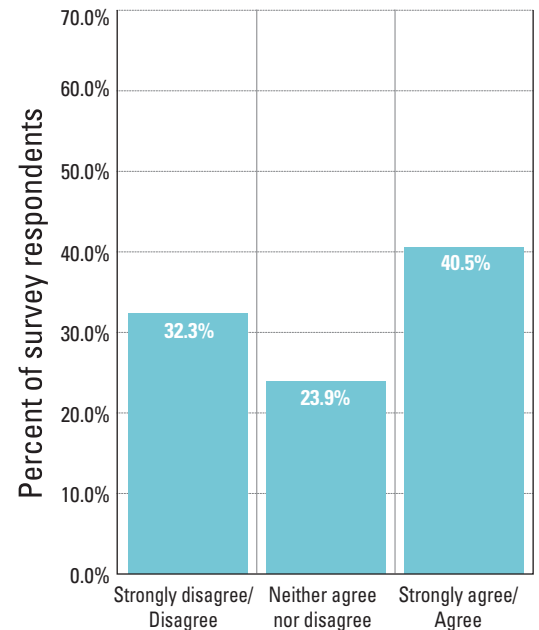


Commercial Tobacco Control



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

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



Key findings:

Nearly one-in-three respondents across the 24 Pathways communities said their community does not have 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 = 3,708. The survey response rate was 5.3 percent. For this question, 3.2 percent of respondents did not provide an answer (blank response).

12
Projects

\$259,776
Pathways Grant
Funding

\$99,000
In-Kind, Matching, and
Related Grant Funding

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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