

The **Quality of Life Coalition** serves as a catalyst to promote social, physical and mental well-being for the residents of Dickinson County, and to foster a thriving environment in which to live, work, play and learn.

Community Perception

- Interview respondents at childcare centers expressed interest in additional staff training for development of gross motor activities and modeling active play for the children.
- Respondents are proud their childcare centers are commercial tobacco-free environments.
- Respondents would like to see more education offered to parents to encourage commercial tobacco-free home environments too.



The Pathways grant allowed Memorial Hospital and Village Manor an opportunity to diversify campus plantings. Establishing flower/vegetable beds will provide ground attractiveness and food items.”

— Vernon Wranosky,
Village Manor Resident and Hospital Garden Designer



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Dickinson County

Healthy Eating



Memorial Health System's Village Manor

received a *Pathways* grant to design and construct a hospital garden giving residents the opportunity to grow their own fresh produce. Extra produce will be shared with staff and community agencies. This increases access to nutritious foods for seniors and those with limited financial resources.



Active Living

The Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad Association



received a *Pathways* grant and funding from other organizations to construct Phase 2 of the **Iron Horse Trail**. This 18-mile walking and biking path will provide free and safe outdoor activities for the community and will connect Abilene and Enterprise, Kansas.

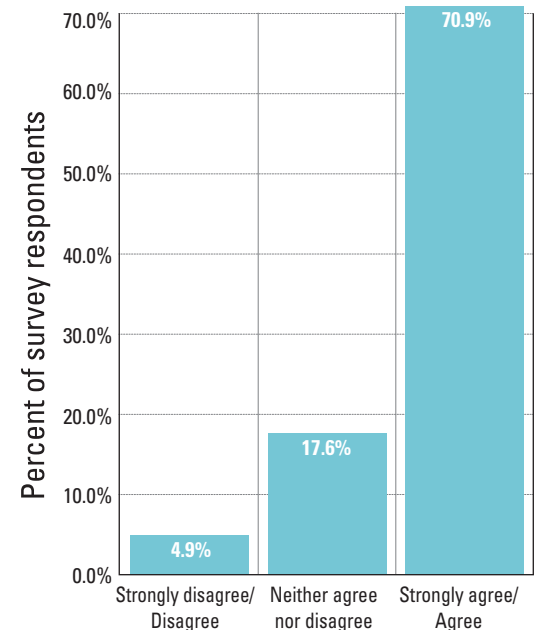


Commercial Tobacco Control



Quality of Life Coalition is working with three licensed **childcare centers** in **Dickinson County** who have made the commitment to increase physical activity time for the children in their care, as well as providing a tobacco-free environment that includes limiting exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke.

Initiative Wide: Community conditions (e.g. housing, transportation, education) impact overall health.



Key findings:

Seven-in-10 respondents across the 24 *Pathways* communities agree or strongly agree that community conditions such as housing, transportation and education impact overall health.

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, 6.6 percent of respondents did not provide an answer (blank response).

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Projects

\$253,000

Pathways Grant Funding

\$133,412

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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