

**Grow Labette and Live Healthy Montgomery County** are implementing policies that promote healthy eating and increase food access to food with local retailers, hospitals and food pantries. Our work with the *Pathways* grant will also help us increase access to walking trails and community gardens in both counties.

### Community Perception

- 210 Montgomery County community members were surveyed. When asked if our community has enough options for healthy eating, over half (54%) of survey respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- When survey respondents were asked what additional resources would allow them to consume healthier foods, the top responses were healthier restaurants, farmers markets, lower costs, and community gardens.
- In focus groups, members of the Labette County community garden said they want the community garden to focus on children and low-income population to increase access to healthy foods.



“The *Pathways* grant will allow Independence to enhance safety on in our community by providing lighting for walking trails.”

— Lacey Lies  
Finance Director

# Labette & Montgomery Counties



### Healthy Eating

The **Crosstimbers Food Pantry** received a *Pathways* grant to support their work to provide healthier food to the clients they serve. Grant funds were used to purchase a variety of new items such as shelving, shopping baskets, and scales, and invested in a partnership to purchase local, fresh eggs.

### Active Living

The **City of Independence** was awarded funding by *Pathways* and other organizations to improve safety by providing lighting for a new centrally located walking trail. This trail will also provide improved access for citizens with limited mobility and enhance this community gathering space.

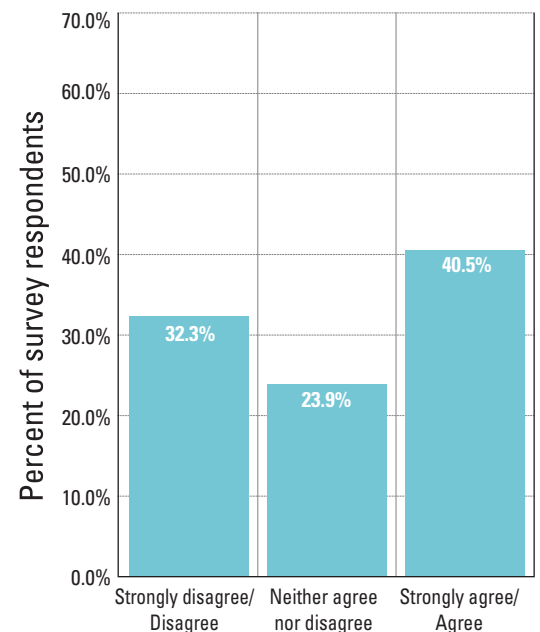


### Commercial Tobacco Control



The **Landbank project in downtown Caney** will offer a commercial tobacco free gathering space for the citizens and visitors of Caney. Community members will have the opportunity to host an event or simply sit on a bench and enjoy a beautiful day in downtown Caney.

### 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).



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**10**  
Projects

**\$273,999**

Pathways Grant  
Funding

**\$674,106**

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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