

The mission of the **Stay Strong Live Long Wilson County Coalition** is to educate, create support systems, and provide incentives as we advocate for healthy lifestyle choices and policies across all of Wilson County.

Community Perception

- Residents near Polk Park in Fredonia were surveyed about needed improvements to a nearby park. 100% of survey respondents suggested at least 3 improvement to their neighborhood park.
- When asked what type of park improvements should be made, 60% of survey respondents requested new equipment that is suitable for younger children including playsets or equipment.
- 60% of survey respondents said that picnic tables for families should be a part of the park improvements. One respondent also requested trash cans.



“Thanks to the funding provided by Pathways we were able to purchase a new commercial refrigerator. We can now offer more healthy options for our customers!”

— Susan John
Owner, Downtown Grill

Wilson County



Healthy Eating



The **Downtown Grill** received a *Pathways* grant to support their goal of providing healthy food options to their customers. Grant funds were used to purchase a new refrigeration unit that increased their capacity to offer fresh salads and add a light plate selection to their menu.

Active Living



We completed construction for the **Riverwalk Park walking trail** in partnership with **City of Neodesha** and the **Active Transportation Advisory Board**. Uniquely positioned between the county hospital and the downtown area, this trail will promote community pride and physical activity. It also bridges accessibility and economic vitality.

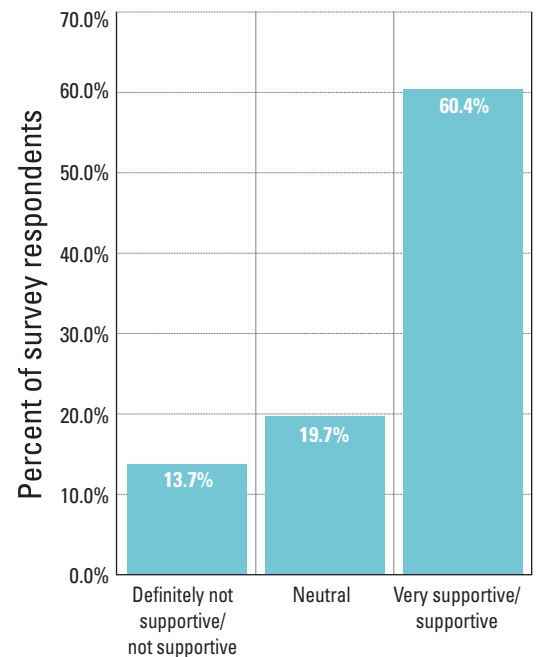


Commercial Tobacco Control



We support **Resist Chapters** in **USD 484, USD 461, and USD 387. Wilson County** is the only Kansas county with an active Resist program in all their school districts. In March 2023, Resist students went to the **State Capitol** to speak with their legislatures and advocate for commercial tobacco control.

Initiative Wide: Level of support for commercial tobacco control policies in outdoor spaces



Key findings:

Three-in-five respondents across the 24 *Pathways* communities support commercial tobacco control policies in outdoor spaces.

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

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Projects

\$291,150
Pathways Grant
Funding

\$305,540
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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