





Four Years of Impact

The Kiowa District Healthcare Childcare Center utilized a Pathways grant to install sunshades in the outdoor areas of the child center. This addition will enable children and staff to spend more time outdoors, enhancing playtime and promoting health.

The Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Association (MLPTA) received a Pathways grant to install amenities to enhance the experience at the Intertribal Powwow Grounds and 5-Tribes Trailhead area. The Pathways funding also strengthened partnership efforts between BCU, MLPTA, the city and county by supporting engineering and environmental studies as well as policy work for a regionally impactful Transportation Alternative project, the Peace Treaty Connector Trail.

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Kiowa Hometown Market (HTM) was awarded a Pathways grant to replace a decades-old meat cooler, allowing access to increased options of fresh fish and poultry to shoppers. Prior to receiving this funding, HTM was a key partner in Pathways projects at South Barber Food Bank, Kiowa District Healthcare and USD 255.



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Barber County

Barber County United, Inc. (BCU) strengthens communities by bringing its citizens together to become healthier Kansans. Offering compassion, connecting people to solutions and providing services aimed at enriching lives. BCU is a progressive coalition instrumental in new approaches to wellbeing. Fostering an environment of awareness surrounding rural issues both countywide and regionally, BCU advocates for rural quality-of-life issues at the state level.



BCU helped the City of Sharon navigate the Pathways

process and was instrumental in making the Community Center

floor replacement a reality.

Wendy Crenner, City Council member, City of Sharon, KS



Initiative Wide: In general, my community has sufficient opportunities for physical activity.

60_6% Strongly agree/Agree

20.1% Neither agree nor disagree

15.8% Strongly disagree/Disagree

Note: Results are from a survey of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas members for whom e-mail addresses were available in communities that received Pathways funding. The survey response rate was 4.7% (N = 3,354). Blank response = 3.5%.

From Voices to Victories: The Impact of Community Engagement

The City of Hardtner's park project engaged community members through community conversations to gather ideas for developing the space. The community voted on the installation of a professional disc-golf course, pet clean-up station and additional accessible seating. This transformation was made possible by community voices.



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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