



# Four Years of Impact

Ottawa University received a Pathways grant to launch a new bike share program to meet student transportation needs, which included e-bikes accessed via an app and a system that allows bikes to be "checked out" from the library. Usage has been high, with Ottawa Bike and Trail providing maintenance. The bike share hubs are designated as commercial tobacco- and vaping-free zones.

The Ottawa Recreation Commission (ORC) utilized a Pathways grant to conduct a Health Lens Analysis on their newly developed Strategic Plan, leading to new approaches for enhancing access to ORC programs for all community members. Additionally, this initiative also built local capacity to conduct future health lens analyses.

The Franklin County Health Department utilized a Pathways grant to offer nutrition classes as part of the Community Health Improvement Plan. These monthly classes, drawing significant participation, are conducted in partnership with the Harvest to Home program, AdventHealth Ottawa, and K-State Research and Extension.



**Live Healthy Franklin County** 

(785) 521-3496 livehealthyfrco@gmail.com Facebook: LiveHealthyFrCo

## **Franklin County**

The **Live Healthy Franklin County** coalition purpose has been to provide strategic planning for improving community health, specifically in relation to chronic disease, by increasing physical activity, good nutrition and reducing tobacco use. The mission is to improve community health through policies that support healthy eating and active living. The vision is "Healthy People in a Healthy Environment."









Initiative Wide: In general, how would you rate the overall health of your community?

31.5% Very healthy/Healthy

49.4% Somewhat healthy

15.5%

Very unhealthy/Unhealthy



Thanks to the Pathways grant, we offered nutrition classes and food prep tools to facilitate healthier eating for all ages. Participation and feedback was great!

Brenda Pfizenmaier, Director, Public Health Franklin County

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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

Ottawa University engaged students to shape the bike share and healthier food pantry projects. Students without transportation suggested likely bike usage times and preferred hub locations. Students seeking food assistance shared insights into their specific food needs and preferences. These community voices were key to the projects' success.

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Implementation Grants \$400,000

Total Pathways Funding 6

Policies Passed 2,000+

Harvest to Home Produce Bundles

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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