



Four Years of Impact

Pathways grant funding is revitalizing neglected parks in Fredonia and Neodesha, transforming them into vibrant community hubs. These parks promote health equity by offering inclusive, free access to physical fitness, reducing the risk of chronic illnesses and providing the calming benefits of nature.

The First United Methodist Church in Fredonia began its Communal Meal Program to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to serve the community. Partnering with the Stay Strong Live Long Wilson County Coalition and Pathways, the church expanded its program by providing a monthly, free, nutritious meal to aid prevention and management of chronic diseases.

Youth play a vital role in combating commercial tobacco use. The coalition supports local youth-led Resist chapters in their goal of becoming the first tobaccofree generation. With Pathways funding, these student-led initiatives actively challenge the tobacco industry and advocate for stricter policies. Wilson County is the only Kansas county with Resist Chapters in all school districts.



Stay Strong Live Long Wilson County Coalition

(620) 378-4455

ssll@wilsoncountykansas.org Facebook: SSLLWilsonCo

Wilson County

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









The park project brings joy to our community as well as new equipment, a safe space and encourages an active lifestyle for families. Thank you!

Miranda Carpenter, Community Member





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

71.3% Strongly agree/Agree

18.3%Neither agree nor disagree

4. / Yo Strongly disagree/Disagre

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 = 5.7%.

From Voices to Victories:

The Impact of Community Engagement

The coalition actively sought input from community members living closest to the parks on the most effective method for gathering feedback about desired improvements. Community members then participated in surveys, identifying the improvements they wished to see. The suggestions with the highest number of votes were selected for implementation.

13 Implementation

Grants

\$500,000 on Total Pathways Funding 12

Policies Passed **29**Partner Organizations

Engaged

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.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. BLUE CROSS®, BLUE SHIELD® and the Cross and Shield Symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans. Stay Strong Live Long Wilson County Coalition is not affiliated with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.