



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.

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 tobacco-free 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.



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

71.3%
Strongly agree/Agree

18.3%
Neither agree nor disagree

4.7%
Strongly disagree/Disagree

“ 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 ”

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%.



**Stay Strong Live Long
Wilson County Coalition**
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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
Total Pathways
Funding

12
Policies
Passed

29
Partner Organizations
Engaged