

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

Partnering in your community

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS), we help our neighbors and communities thrive. Service has long been central to who we are as a company and we want to make our communities better, healthier places to live. Hutchinson is home to the one of our 11 BCBSKS office locations. Our employees are actively involved in their community, coaching little league teams, volunteering with non-profits and supporting local businesses.

Key projects we've helped fund recently

Through our **Pathways to a Healthy Kansas** initiative, in partnership with **Heal Reno County**, your community has received partnered with us since 2016 to implement sustainable changes that will improve healthy living, healthy eating and commercial tobacco use. With 35 implementation grants awarded since then, keep reading to learn more about some of the more recent Pathways projects funded in your area.

The **On the Table** documentary highlights the food insecurity issue in Reno County. It outlines the factors contributing to food insecurity while it also works to improve access to nutritious food by supporting the Food Pantry and Farmers Market.

The **Food Bank of Reno County** received a grant to support increased access to healthy options and to support a client choice food pantry model. The grant funded refrigeration units and supported a volunteer coordinator.

Over the life of the Pathways initiative, the **City of Buhler** and their local school district have done tremendous work to transform their community. The **Mustard Seed, Buhler Market and local schools** have received funds to help promote healthy food options and encourage physical activity. BCBSKS also helped fund a walking trail that serves local residents, specifically those at the Sunshine Retirement Community. It encourages physical activity and improves access to the local market and restaurants.

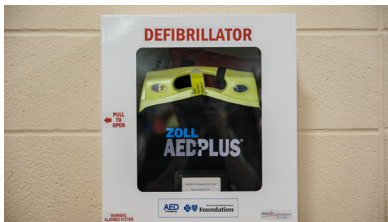
New Beginnings, Inc. recently received a grant to build out their Bisonte Food Service Communal Meal Program, designed to provide balanced meals and nutrition education to people in recovery. Every type of substance that is misused has a nutritional deficiency associated with it, so this program will be tailored to the individual to support them in their recovery.



We proudly support local schools through BCBSKS Foundation **Healthy Habits for Life grants (HHFL)** and scholarships for health-related degrees. These grants support improving the overall health and well-being of local students. Local schools that received HHFL grants in the past year include the **Transitional Learning Center, Haven High School** and **Buhler Grade School**. **Hutchinson Community College** received funds for health-related degree scholarships.



BCBSKS Foundation funding supported **First Tee of Kansas**, covering 18 Kansas counties. First Tee integrates the game of golf with life skills curriculum, creating learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence and resilience that kids carry to everything they do.



BCBSKS Foundation funded the addition of automated external defibrillator (AED) devices at the **Kansas State Fair Grounds**. Prior to Aug. 2022, there were no AEDs available on the fairgrounds and the Fair had to rely on the Hutchinson Fire Department or Emergency Medical Services. In their first year of use, they even helped save a life. Additional units were funded in 2023.

BCBSKS employees participate in an annual employee-giving campaign to support local **United Ways** across our state. The campaign involves financial giving from both employees and the company and community service efforts.

BCBSKS Foundation also awarded grants to Horizons Mental Health Center and PrairieStar Health Center to help provide health services to the uninsured.



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Other local organizations and events that have received support from BCBSKS include Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimers and Memory Walk, Homecare and Hospice of Reno County Festival of Remembrance, Cancer Council of Reno County - Reno Roundup benefit, Hutchinson Chamber Annual Meeting, Hutchinson Chamber Awards Night, and more.



Visit us at bcbsks.com



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