



**“ Pathways funding is a shot in the arm for us to continue working on becoming a healthy, more active community.”**

Jane Foltz, Abilene

## Community Well-being Progress

Respondents to the Dickinson County Community Perceptions Survey expressed concern about a shortage of sidewalks and biking/hiking paths. Fittingly, QLC’s first major success was a Complete Streets resolution passed by the City of Chapman. A *Pathways* grant is helping to build 2-1/2 miles of sidewalks to connect several parts of Chapman. Leaders in Abilene, Solomon and Woodbine are noting Chapman’s progress and reviewing their own walkability/connectivity.

## Quality of Life Coalition Dickinson County

The Quality of Life Coalition (QLC) serves as a catalyst to promote social, physical and mental well-being for the residents of Dickinson County, placing an emphasis on the reduction of youth substance abuse, and to foster a thriving environment in which to live, work, play and learn. With the BCBSKS *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas* grants, members of QLC will lead the community in these efforts with a focus on community policy, community well-being, food retail, health care, restaurants, schools and worksites.



## Pathways Engagement Highlights

- 1 Food Retail Store Pledged:**  
Our Store
- 1 Healthcare Provider Pledged:**  
Memorial Health System
- 1 Hospital Pledged:**  
Memorial Health System
- 7 Worksites Pledged:**  
Abilene Parks & Recreation, City of Chapman, Enterprise Estates Nursing center, KSRE-Dickinson County, Memorial Health System, USD 393 Solomon, USD 481 Rural Vista
- 5 School Districts Pledged:**  
USD 393 Solomon, USD 435 Abilene, USD 437 Chapman, USD 481 Rural Vista, USD 487 Herington

*Italicized entities have received grant funds.*



Initiatives are underway to increase healthy, locally sourced produce. For example, with a *Pathways* grant, the cities of Chapman and Solomon are installing and administering community gardens, and efforts are being made to expand this success to other communities. The owners of Our Store in Woodbine are using a *Pathways* grant to build a greenhouse next to their store, and are working to increase healthy children's snack options.



QLC leaders are in contact with a medical clinic in Chapman about organizing a "Walk with a Doc" program. The mayor and city council of Woodbine are considering projects to increase physical activity, neighborhood walking and use of their parks. Seven employers with active *Pathways* pledges, plus several others, are participating in Worksite Wellness workshops that promote active living at work and at home.



The City of Woodbine passed a tobacco-free parks policy and *Pathways* funds are helping them install signage throughout their play areas. QLC is exploring possibilities for tobacco-free signage that would be posted at community gardens in Chapman, Solomon and Herington. And discussions are ongoing to promote and expand tobacco prevention programs such as Resist among the area school districts.

## Round 2: 2017-2020

### Achievement/ Implementation Grants

### Pathways Funds Available

### Pathways Funds Awarded

### Match from Community/Grants

Achievement/ Implementation Grants	Pathways Funds Available	Pathways Funds Awarded	Match from Community/Grants
Policy	\$100,000	\$20,000	
Community Well-being Projects	\$50,000	\$32,275	\$9,250
Food Retail and Restaurants	\$70,000	\$0	
Health Care	\$20,000	\$0	
Schools	\$60,000	\$0	
Worksites	\$100,000	\$0	

### Totals

**\$400,000**

**\$52,275**

**\$9,250**

**Total Benefits to Community:**

**\$61,525**

### Quality of Life Coalition, Inc.

#### Vicki Gieber

#### Executive Director

(785) 263-1550  
director@qlcdkcoks.org  
Facebook: @QLCDickinsonCo  
QualityOfLifeCoalition.org  
Dickinson County Kansas  
300 N Cedar, Suite 210  
Abilene KS 67410

For more information about  
Blue Health Initiatives, please contact:

#### Virginia Barnes

Director of Blue Health Initiatives  
(785) 291-8004  
Virginia.Barnes@bcbsks.com



PATHWAYS to a  
**HEALTHY  
KANSAS**

*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 BCBSKS.