



“We’re excited about how willing the city is to support community health policies. Pathways grants can help fund healthy new projects.”

Daphne Mertens, Emporia

Community Well-being Progress

Healthy Lyon County presented to the Emporia City Commission a request for a resolution supporting “Safe Routes to Healthy Food.” This plan would work to increase walking, biking and public transport access and infrastructure in food desert areas that lead to food sources such as grocery stores and farmers markets. The commission was supportive and asked the Multi-Use Pathway Planning board for their input and guidance.

Healthier Lyon County

Healthier Lyon County (HLC) is a program with a mission of supporting and encouraging initiatives, policies, and resources to improve the health and well-being of residents of Lyon County. Funding from the *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas* program and their technical assistance are helping HLC and our coalition partners to remove barriers and engage the community in ways that enable healthy eating and tobacco-free, active living to become a way of life.



Pathways Engagement Highlights

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| <p>1 Restaurant Pledged:
Radius Brewing Company</p> <p>2 Food Retail Stores Pledged:
<i>Emporia Country Mart,</i>
<i>Good’s Cash Saver</i></p> <p>2 Healthcare Providers Pledged:
Flint Hills Community Health Center,
Newman Regional Health
Family Medicine</p> | <p>1 Hospital Pledged:
Newman Regional Health</p> <p>5 Worksites Pledged:
Crosswinds Counseling and Wellness,
Emporia Child Care, Emporia Public
Library, Lyon County, Newman
Regional Health</p> <p>3 School Districts Pledged:
USD 251 North Lyon County, USD 252
South Lyon County, USD 253 Emporia</p> |
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Italicized entities have received grant funds.



Healthier Lyon County and the Emporia Farmer's Market are teaming up to expand into rural Lyon County. The partnership will specifically focus on food desert areas and establish physical locations to help bring in new vendors from across the area. A collaboration is being explored among two food retailers with *Pathways* pledges and the Emporia Farmers Market vendors to make local produce available in stores.



HLC is sponsoring a monthly Walk with a Doc program for healthy activity and a chat with a local health professional. The Emporia Recreation Commission is partnering with HLC on plans for a network of bike share locations. There are currently five bike racks available with locations planned for CrossWinds Counseling, Emporia High School and Logan Avenue Elementary. Central downtown and eastern Emporia locations are in the works.



HLC is coordinating with Newman Regional Health to update their tobacco policy, and HLC is working on a tobacco-free grounds policy with Crosswinds Counseling and Wellness. HLC partnered with Flint Hills Community Health Center to draft their policy around tobacco, healthy food, and physical activity for patients, and this policy was adopted by the board in February 2019.

Round 2: 2017-2020

Achievement/ Implementation Grants	Pathways Funds Available	Pathways Funds Awarded	Match from Community/Grants
Policy	\$100,000	\$0	
Community Well-being Projects	\$50,000	\$0	
Food Retail and Restaurants	\$70,000	\$12,000	
Health Care	\$20,000	\$4,000	
Schools	\$60,000	\$0	
Worksites	100,000	\$0	
Totals	\$400,000	\$16,000	\$0
		Total Benefits to Community: \$16,000	

Healthier Lyon County

Daphne Mertens

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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.