

News Release

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Selects Live Healthy Montgomery County and Grow Labette for Pathways to a Healthy Kansas Program

TOPEKA, Kan. (July 20, 2020) — [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas](#) (BCBSKS) announces it has selected Live Healthy Montgomery County and Grow Labette along with 23 other communities in Kansas as grantees for its second phase of [Pathways to a Healthy Kansas](#) initiative. This includes 12 returning communities that were selected in the initiative's first phase of grants.

Pathways to a Healthy Kansas is the largest community grant program ever funded by BCBSKS. Since the initiative began in 2016, BCBSKS has donated more than \$11.7 million in grants and assistance to communities throughout Kansas. The *Pathways* program was created to inspire long-lasting, community-wide health and wellness in communities across Kansas.

“We are excited to recognize our second cohort of Pathways grantees,” said Matt All, president and CEO of BCBSKS. “We have been rooted in Kansas for over 75 years and have a commitment to our neighbors to strengthen the health of all Kansans. Through our Pathways initiative, we are making strides toward this goal by helping remove barriers to accessing healthy foods, increasing physical activity and preventing commercial tobacco use. We are thrilled to continue this program with our new Pathways grantees.”

The grant funding includes a coordination grant of \$200,000 for each community. In addition, both Montgomery and Labette counties will have the opportunity to apply for non-competitive implementation grants amounting to \$300,000, for a total of up to \$500,000.

“We are excited to begin our collaboration with Grow Labette and start working towards a healthier region for southeast Kansas!” says Marci Roberts, representative for Live Healthy Montgomery County.

The *Pathways* grant addresses the three behaviors of focus – physical activity, commercial tobacco prevention, and healthy eating – that reduce risk for serious health conditions through six areas or work, or pathways. The pathways include Community & Social Context, Neighborhood & Physical Environment, Food, Healthcare, Education, and Economic Stability, and strive to improve conditions that are the drivers of health in a community.

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

For more than 75 years, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas has built a reputation of trust with its members and contracting providers by providing outstanding customer service while quickly and accurately processing claims; fairly administering benefit plans and contracts; offering programs, services and tools to help members improve or maintain their health; and operating under the highest ethical standards while being good stewards of premium dollars. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and is the state’s largest insurer, serving all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte. For more information, visit bcbsks.com.

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