

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

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TO: *Kansas media outlets*

**BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS
SEEKING COMMUNITIES
FOR *PATHWAYS TO A HEALTHY KANSAS* GRANTS**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) is continuing efforts to improve the health and wellness in communities across Kansas. The company has released its Request for Application for Phase II of *Pathways to a Healthy Kansas* grant. The four-year coordination grants will award \$200,000 each for up to 24 communities.

Pathways to a Healthy Kansas is the largest community grant program ever funded by BCBSKS. The *Pathways* program provides community coalitions with the tools and resources needed to remove barriers and engage their communities in ways that enable healthy eating and tobacco-free, active living to become a way of life. Communities that are awarded a coordination grant will have the opportunity to access additional non-competitive grant funding.

The funding period is from Aug. 1, 2020, to July 31, 2024. BCBSKS is accepting letters of intent from communities interested in applying for the grant. Letters of intent must be submitted no later than Jan. 17 in order to receive an application packet. Applications are due March 20. Awardees will be announced on July 1.

"Ultimately, the goal of *Pathways to Healthy Kansas* is to cultivate a healthy culture that is sustainable for future generations," said Virginia Barnes MPH, director of Blue Health Initiatives. "Through *Pathways*, Blue Cross and local coalitions are helping build healthy communities that contribute to a high quality of life for all Kansans."



According to Barnes, eligible communities are required to:

- Be within the 103-county service area of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte).
- Represent the community through an active health-related coalition.

Coalitions that can show multi-sector membership and authentic engagement with a diverse group of community stakeholders will be given priority consideration in the review process.

Phase I of the *Pathways* grant runs from Aug. 1, 2016, through July 31, 2020. The 16 communities funded include: Atchison County; Bourbon County; Chanute in Neosho County, Cowley County; Crawford County; Dickinson County; Franklin County; Geary County; Harvey County, Hoisington & northern Barton County; Kearny County; Lyon County; Reno County; Seward County, Wichita County; and Cheyenne, Rawlins, and Thomas in Northwest Kansas.

More information is available at www.bcbsks.com/pathways.

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About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

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.