

# Leveraging Funding to Address Food Bank Access and Safety Challenges



# Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank

- Oldest known food bank in Kansas
- 67% increase in individuals being fed through the Weekly Grocery Program in 2022

*Filling pantries....and filling lives*



# Community Garden at Food Bank





- **5 handicapped accessible garden beds**
- **27 community garden raised beds**
- **A children's garden for neighborhood kids**
- **A Master Gardener's section raising produce for the Food Bank & running vegetable trails for K-State Extension**



# Live Well Saline County

- Began in 2009 as the Nutrition & Physical Activity Coalition of Salina.
- The primary goal was to engage community members to identify and create solutions to address barriers to eating healthy and being physically active.
- Initial core team members included Del Myers, Ellen Hogeland, Chris Curtis, and Daniel Craig.

INCREASE  
ACCESSIBILITY TO  
GOOD NUTRITION  
AND SAFE PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY

# LIVE WELL SALINE COUNTY

ENCOURAGE  
INDIVIDUALS TO  
CHOOSE HEALTHY  
EATING AND  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



CELEBRATING

PROMOTE HEALTHY  
EATING AND  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

# 15 YEARS

ENHANCE EXISTING  
PROGRAMS  
CENTERED ON  
HEALTHY EATING AND  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

**2009-2024**



# Past Accomplishments

- Received the 4-year Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation in 2013.
- Hosted numerous state-wide trainings including Live Well Healthy Foods Summit, Coalition Development Workshop, Eat Right for Life with Dr. Ann Kulze, and the Saline County Healthy Foods Conference featuring Dr. Will Bulsiewicz.
- Received the 4-year Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in 2020.

# 2017 Dane Hanson Strategic Doing

- Hosted by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and the Greater Salina Community Foundation, there was a series of “Strategic Doing” meetings that guided Saline County residents through a quick and sophisticated process of prioritizing, planning and implementing (or “doing”) community improvement projects.



# Strategic Doing Overview

- Projects and ideas that were developed from these meetings were eligible to apply for funding from Dane G. Hansen Foundation Community grant fund at the Greater Salina Community Foundation or directly to the Hansen Foundation.

# Local Foods Initiatives

- A variety of local foods topics were discussed including farmer's markets, CSA's, community gardens, and farm to school.
- The committee identified community gardens as the top priority and began discussing potential locations for a new community garden.

# Be Patient and the Right Project Will Emerge

- After meeting with several organizations about starting new community gardens on their locations and identifying barriers including no water access the committee learned about the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank community garden.

# Improve on What You Already Have

- The Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank community garden already had all of the key elements including plenty of space, water access, and potential volunteers.
- The community garden project also helped to engage the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank in the Live Well Saline County and they have been an active partner these past couple of years.

# Food Bank Community Garden

## Before and After Photos



# Organizations Involved in Grant Application

## **Key Organizations Involved in Writing the Grant**

- City of Salina
- Salina Family YMCA
- Kansas Wesleyan University
- Salina Public Library
- Salina Area United Way.
- Tammy Walker Cancer Center
- Prairieland Market

## **Additional Supporting Partners**

- Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank
- CKF Addiction Treatment
- Salina Family Healthcare
- North Salina Community Development
- K-State Research & Extension Central District
- Friends of the River Foundation.

# Year 1 Key Findings-Community Surveys

*The survey was completed by 378 community members.*

**Key Finding #1:** Survey respondents overwhelmingly identified more walking/biking trails as the number one improvement that could be made that would make it easier for them to be physically active.

**Key Finding #2:** Survey respondents said that having additional farmers markets and healthy restaurants would be the most important things Saline County could do to make it easier for residents and visitors to eat healthy.

# Year 2 Key Findings-Community Surveys

The survey was completed by 520 community members and was offered in Spanish and English.

- **Key Finding #1**-Almost half of survey respondents identified cost as the key barrier to accessing food.
- **Key Finding #2**-Ten percent of survey respondents reported walking, biking, or taking public transit (bus) to shop for food and 82% of respondents used their own car for food shopping.



# Community & Social Context

## Placemaking Package

- \$45,288 grant to Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank for installation of four solar lights and development of a site plan and recommendations for improved parking access, lighting for the community garden and adjacent areas.

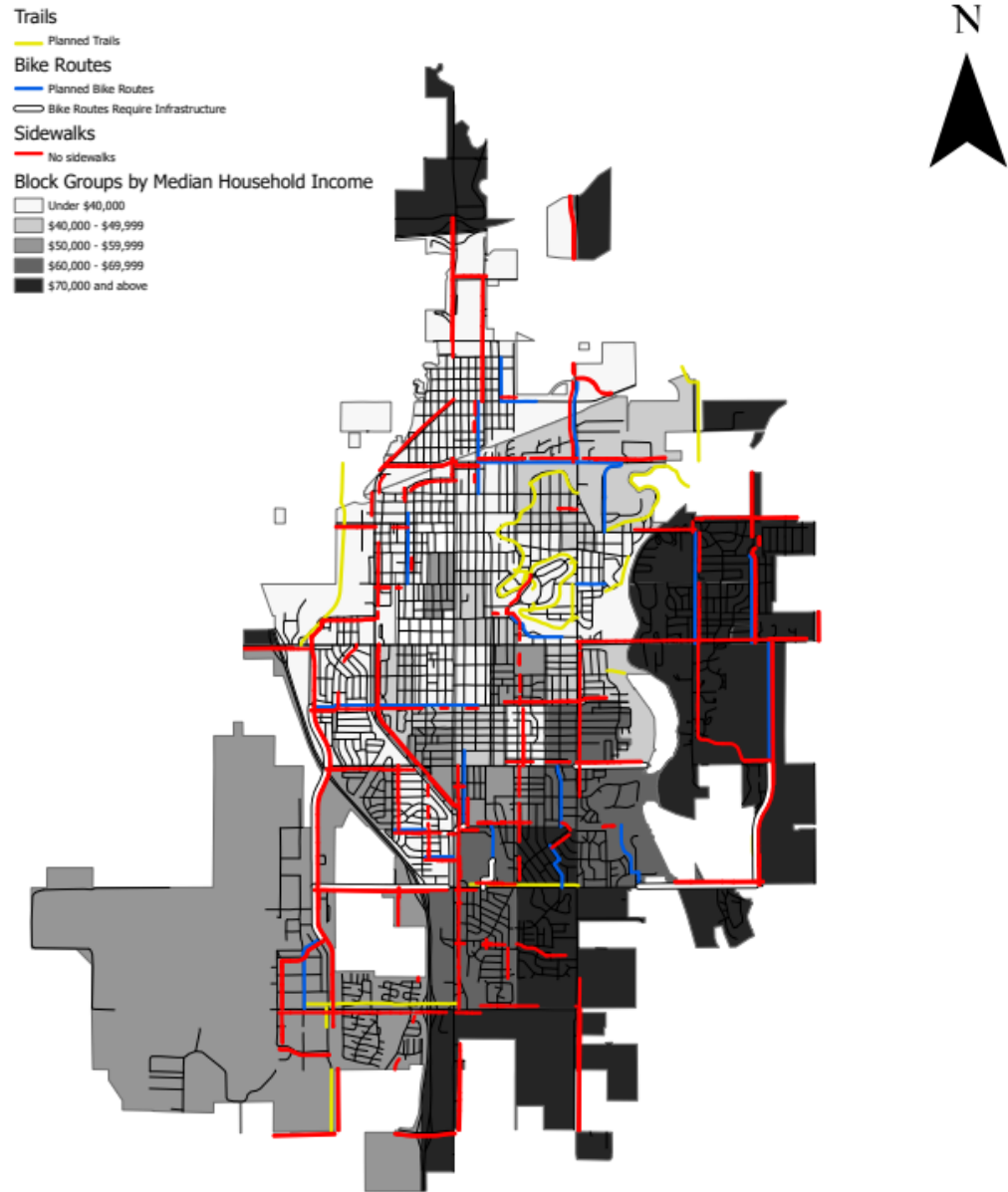


# Neighborhood & Physical Environment

## Multimodal Transportation and Recreational Trail Infrastructure

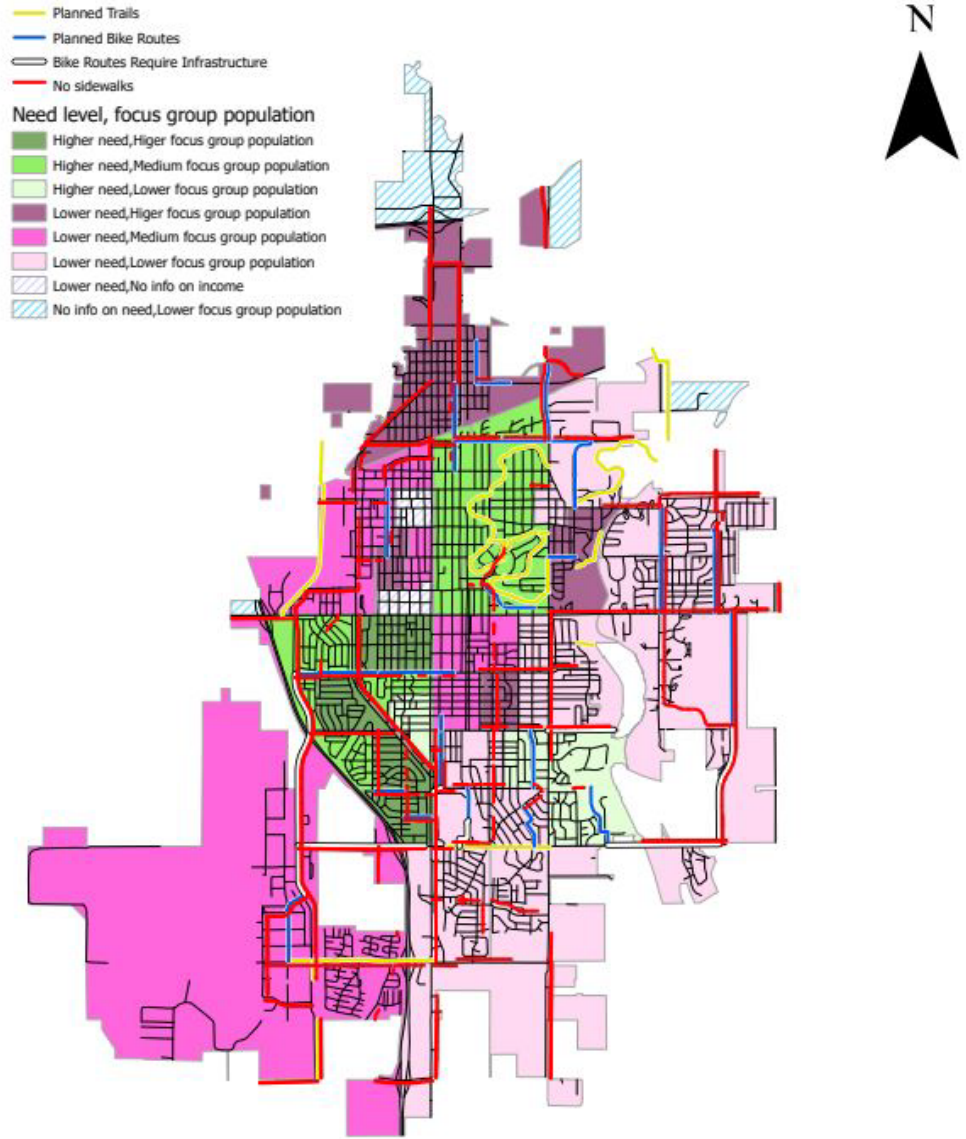
- The City of Salina received a \$100,000 grant through Pathways for sidewalk connectivity between the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank, the Broadway business corridor, and South Street neighborhood, including links to OCCK bus stops.
- This project fit into the City of Salina “Sidewalk Gap Funding Decision Matrix.” Prioritizes sidewalk development where: public safety risk, documented use by pedestrians, OCCK bus stop or route, and need to provide access to food outlets.

2021 Maps  
Created by:  
**Ross Daniels, AICP**  
Community Planner/Policy Analyst  
Public Health Law Center

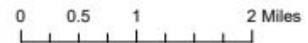


Planned Multimodal Projects in Salina by Socioeconomic Status

2021 Maps  
 Created by:  
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 Community Planner/Policy Analyst  
 Public Health Law Center



Planned Multimodal Projects in Salina by Focus Group and Need





Current OCCK Bus Stop Location

existing sidewalk

336 feet new sidewalk proposed

805 feet new sidewalk proposed

386 feet new sidewalk proposed

Salina Food Bank

existing sidewalk

Current OCCK Bus Stop Location

Current OCCK Bus Stop Location

293 feet new sidewalk proposed

Ace Hardware

existing sidewalk

existing sidewalk

200 100 0 200 Feet





# Food Pathway

- **Safe Routes to Food Package**-Interviews were completed with clients of the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank last month.
- The interviews were transcribed and we worked with the Kansas Health Institute to identify key barriers to accessing food at the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank.



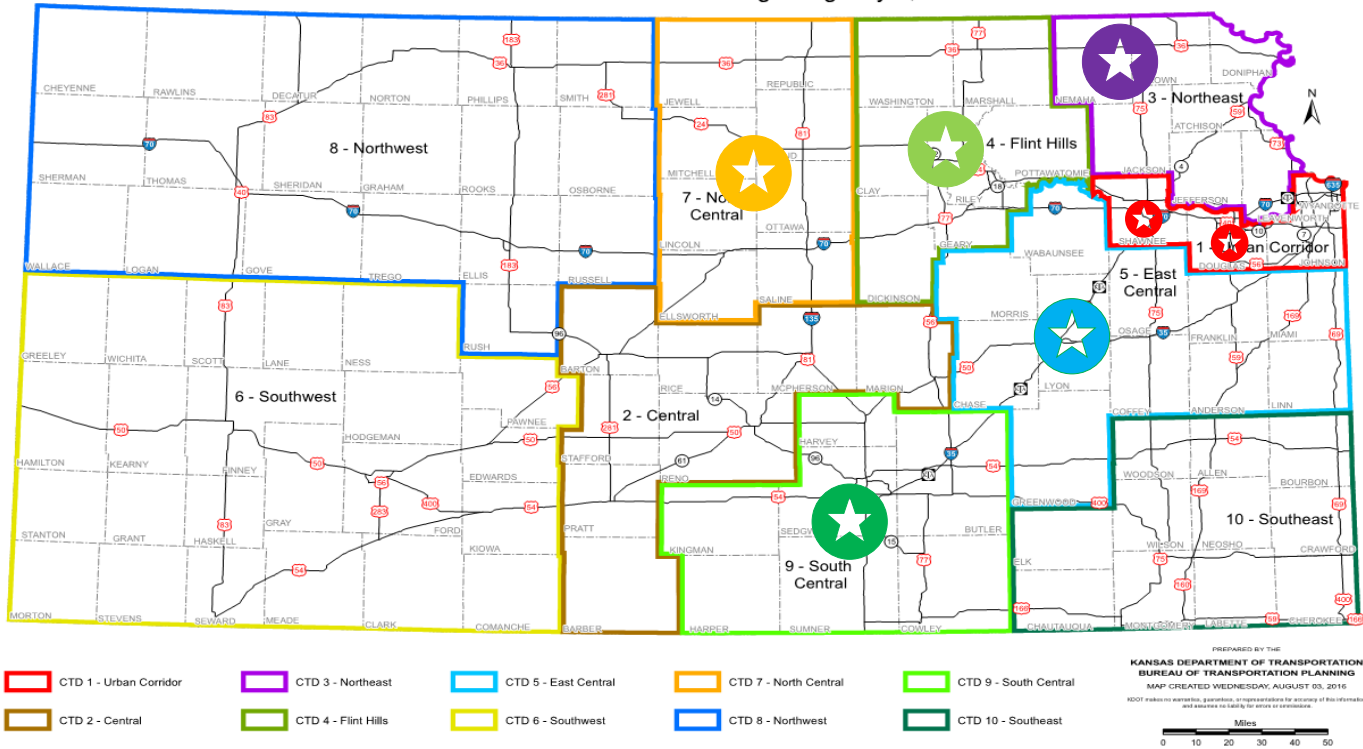
# About Me – Michelle Coats

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- Mobility Manager for North Central Kansas
- Worked in Public Transit since 2016
- First Full Time Mobility Manager in the state
- Helped to establish 81 Connection, Kansas Rides website, KANcycle regional bike sharing, Mobility Week, Moving Kansas Network, Saline County FACT, Salina Mobility Working Group



### Coordinated Transit Districts - Beginning July 1, 2015



CTDs with Mobility Managers as of 8/23/24

# What do we do?

- **Increase awareness of public transit options**
  - Marketing, brochures, websites, social media, presentations
- **Help build ridership in services**
  - Education and outreach
  - Travel Training
  - Amenities
- **Plan and develop projects and services**
  - Project facilitation
  - Needs assessments
- **Act as a community resource**
  - Transit experts
  - Resource for rides
  - Education for agencies
- **Connect people**
  - Start conversations
  - Attend meetings
  - Build collaboration and coordination



A Project of  mobility  
management

- Statewide Public Transportation Resource
  - Organized by County
  - Find a Ride
  - News and Events
  - Multimodal options
- [www.ksrides.org](http://www.ksrides.org)



# Year 3-Food Bank Client Interviews

## Key Finding #1

The most frequently mentioned obstacles identified by clients who were interviewed that make it difficult to access the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank's services were transportation and having to wait outside in the inclement weather.

# Year 3-Food Bank Client Interviews

## Key Finding #2

When asked about recommendations for changes to the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank's space the clients we interviewed listed more parking and an expanded area with shelter for clients who are waiting for their food.

# Year 3 Food Bank Client Interviews

## Key Finding #3

Clients we interviewed identified having more produce available and offering healthier options as the key recommendations for changes to how the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank distributes food.

# Safe Routes to Food

## **\$100,000 Grant**

- 12 additional parking stalls (one of which will be handicap accessible)
- 6 bike racks
- The total cost of the parking lot and other improvements is estimated to cost \$158,530. The Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank secured the remaining funding through local foundations and donors.





2/28/2024

 **Kansas**  **LIVEWELL**

PAID TO THE ORDER OF *Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank* \$100,000.  
*One Hundred Thousand and 00/100* DOLLARS

 **LiveWell**

*Virginia*  
Virginia Bureau, Director, Blue Health Initiatives

# Quotes from Key Stakeholders

Karen Couch

Executive Director

Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank:

*Pathways funding literally paved the way for the Salina Food Bank to improve access to our facility and programs, not only for those seeking food assistance, but for the entire neighborhood to enjoy our lovely garden!*

# Quotes from Key Stakeholders

Virginia Barnes

Director Blue Health Initiatives

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas built the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas initiative around the idea that transformative community change happens when we find ways to work together to improve health. That has certainly been the case in Saline County. The way Live Well Saline County worked across sectors to engage the City of Salina, OCCK and many additional partners to improve access to healthy food for their neighbors who utilize the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank is inspiring. Together, the community partners are making a difference in Saline County!

# Quotes from Key Stakeholders

Mary Marrow

Seed 2 Roots

The collaboration between Live Well Saline County, the Salina Emergency Food Bank and the City of Salina as part of the Pathways initiative led to comprehensive investments and improvements at the food bank through the expansion of lighting, parking and sidewalk infrastructure. Community surveys and client interviews provided essential information and feedback from food bank clients to ensure the needs of those experiencing food insecurity were prioritized. The comprehensive approach taken by these partners exemplifies the power of community partners to improve conditions of those in need through informed decision-making, and strategic investment.

## Next Steps – Food Bank

- Funding for hydroponic grow towers
- Funding to underwrite cost of CSA baskets for clients
- Parking lot project will start first week of September
- Volunteer recognition in October



# Community Celebration Event

- A community celebration event will be held this fall at the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank.
- It will provide an opportunity to showcase the need for food donations and financial donations to continue meeting the needs in our community.



**Our mission is to build a strong, culturally appropriate local food system and improve access to healthy food for all in Saline County.**

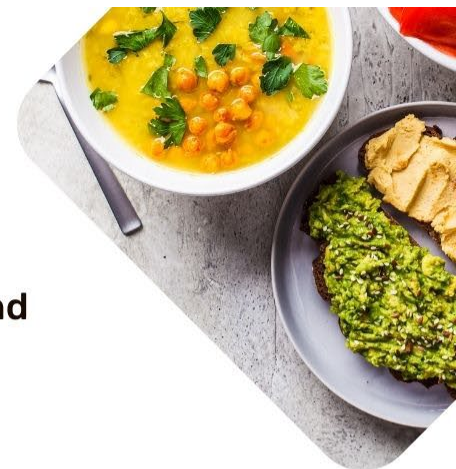
**We envision a thriving community with open pathways leading to healthy living fueled by local food resources.**

**OUR MEMBERS**



**WHAT'S UP**

- Salina has a food insecurity problem. 67% increase people served by Salina's Food Bank.
- Over 90% of our food comes from other states.
- Food/food access has traditionally not been in comprehensive planning
- Strong network of community agencies and committed leaders committed to promoting a high quality of life in our community



# OUR PLANS



## Food Assessment

To identify our community's areas of concern and guide future FACT actions. Can include food access, food insecurity and food policies.



## Food Directory/Website

A listing of agencies and other resources where people can find food. The website will be an online tool that can be accessed by anyone at anytime.



## Community Gardens

We will provide support to local gardening efforts across the community to increase access to nutritious food.



## Policy Work

Work to help inform policy decisions, assist with advocacy, and improve community health indicators as a result.



# WALKING ACTION PLAN

MICHELLE GRIFFIN  
SALINA, KANSAS

## Next Steps – Salina Mobility Working Group

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- Identified partners
- Regular meetings
- Identifying goals and objectives
  - Community collaboration
  - Walking audits
  - Infrastructure improvements
  - Comprehensive and Strategic Plans
  - Community Health Outcomes

America Walks  
Kansas State Walking College  
September 2018



# Next Steps

- CDRR Planning Grant
- Applying for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Pathways to A Healthy Kansas two-year grant.

# Strategic Planning

- Live Well Saline County is expanding its focus area to include mental health and tobacco prevention/cessation.
- Vision: Liveable Healthy Saline County
- Mission: Engaging community partners to cultivate a holistic approach to well-being in Saline County.

# Website

- A community health & wellness website will be launched later this fall.
- The goal is to be a one-stop site for everything wellness related in Saline County.

# Questions?



# Contact Us

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