



# HBCAT NEWS

Issue 34 • June 2024



The Healthy Bourbon  
County Action Team  
Newsletter

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# Kansas Food Action Network Engages Local Communities to Address Root Causes of Food Insecurity

6/4/2024

Eight coalitions awarded \$55,000 per year over three years to assess and address the root causes of food insecurity in their community

MANHATTAN, Kansas, June 4, 2024 – Kansas Food Action Network, a program of KC Healthy Kids, today announced the launch of the Food Secure Communities Initiative, which aims to end hunger in Kansas by addressing the policy, systems and environmental barriers to food security, also known as “root causes.”

“Root cause work is often considered antihunger’s last frontier because the solutions are tied to fixing systems that, when broken, result in food insecurity,” said Miranda Miller-Klugesherz, senior director of Kansas Food Action Network. “The Food Secure Communities Initiative will put systems-change in the hands of the coalitions and community members with lived experience who are uniquely positioned to understand and address the root causes of food insecurity in their region.”

Kansas Food Action Network unveiled eight Kansas health and wellness coalitions selected as inaugural members of the Food Secure Communities Initiative. Each member will receive funding of \$55,000 per year over three years, plus peer networking and strategic assistance.

## Food Secure Communities Initiative Members

- Bourbon County (Healthy Bourbon County Action Team)
- Thomas County (Thomas County Coalition)
- Cowley County (RISE Cowley)
- Harvey County (Healthy Harvey Coalition)
- Lyon County (Healthier Lyon County)
- Sedgwick County (Health and Wellness Coalition of Wichita)
- Seward County (Liberal Area Coalition for Families)
- Shawnee County (LiveWell Shawnee County)

The initiative will create a community of practice where coalitions will share best practices, resources and strategies to advance food security at the local level. It is brought about with generous support from the Kansas Health Foundation and United Methodist Health Ministries Fund.

“We know when kids don’t have consistent access to healthy food, it’s harder for them to learn, grow and thrive,” said Rachael McGinnis Millsap, vice president of policy and programs at KC Healthy Kids. “Therefore, Kansas Food Action Network is an important part of our mission to address food insecurity in Kansas and create sustainable and lasting change in ways that will ultimately have a positive impact on the children within those communities.”

## About KC Healthy Kids

Founded in 2005, KC Healthy Kids is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit dedicated to addressing the physical and mental health challenges impacting children in the Greater Kansas City area, including western Missouri and all of Kansas. Through food policy and local food initiatives, mental health support, and active community initiatives or advocacy, KC Healthy Kids and their partners promote health for thousands of local kids and their families. Find out more at [www.kchealthykids.org](http://www.kchealthykids.org).

## About Kansas Food Action Network

Kansas Food Action Network, a program of KC Healthy Kids, is committed to creating a Kansas where all residents have dependable access to food for an active, healthy and productive life. The network supports communities as they identify and address local food system priorities by offering support, resources and partnerships. As a result of their efforts, an estimated 73% of Kansans are represented by a local food council, the highest per capita rate in the United States.

“Kansas Food Action Network Engages Local Communities to Address Root Causes of Food Insecurity.” KC Healthy Kids, 4 June 2024, <https://www.kchealthykids.org/news>. Accessed 9 July 2024.




# Kansas Prevention Collaborative Community Initiative (KPCCI) Substance Use Prevention Planning Grant

The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team is the recipient for the \$40,000 Substance Use Prevention Planning Grant.

As a requirement for this grant HBCAT was part of the Introductory grant in 2023 to build the capacity of the Local Healthy Equity Action Team coalition. The LHEAT went through various trainings and exercises to strengthen membership and partners throughout the year. The LHEAT conducted 10 Community Readiness Interviews to develop an action plan on addressing substance abuse among youth specifically tobacco and alcohol misuse.

HBCAT is excited to participate in the planning phase of this grant which will include developing a strategic plan to implement. We will rely on our strong partnerships through the LHEAT coalition to implement policy, system, and environmental changes related to drug prevention. The LHEAT will be actively finding funding to implement these strategies.





**We are very excited to announce the winners from the recent Children's Business Fair!!**  
**HBCAT and NetWork Kansas sponsored cash prizes for the winners! 1st: \$50, 2nd:\$25, 3rd: \$10.**  
**Other event sponsors were Landmark National Bank and Papa Don's Pizza!**

**The winners are:**

**Age (5-7)**

- 1st Judah Whitson-Judah's Bakery**
- 2nd Harriet Bowman-Harriet's Hope Fund**
- 3rd Ethan Nilges-Crayon Town**

**Ages (8-10)**

- 1st Asher Whitson-Art by Asher**
- 2nd Anna Handley-Kitty Design**
- 3rd Camren Lamb-Camren's Corner**

**Ages (11-14)**

- 1st Isabelle Nilges-Fizzies and Sprays**
- 2nd Macie Hueston-MJ Creations**
- 3rd Malachi Whitson-Made by Malachi**



# Childcare Mentorship Program

MEET THE MENTORS

START WITH US!



“Hi my name is Susie Castleberry, I have been married for 28 years to my best friend Adam. We have four kids, 2 boys who are 26 and 28, 2 girls who are 15 and 16. We also have one grandson and one grandbaby on the way in July. I have been a daycare profession here in Fort Scott for 24 years. I started out watching my own kids and now I get to watch their kids. I also have been serving in the Children’s Program at church for 22 years and the past 2 years as a youth group leader. I enjoy spending time with my family, camping, bowling, hanging out with the youth group teens and going to the go cart track in Branson.”

“Hi, I’m Leah Myers. I have been in the early childhood education field for over 25 years. I began my journey at a local childcare center where I worked for over 5 years. I transitioned into a home childcare setter shortly after and I am currently beginning my 20th year as a home provider.

I am here to share my experience and answer any questions you may have about becoming a childcare professional.”



Contact [info@hbcats.org](mailto:info@hbcats.org) if your interested in the mentorship program!

