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## Mini Grants Awarded as a Result of Community Conversations

With help from a Kansas Health Foundation grant, a collaborative initiative co-convened by SHIFT/GROW Labette County and Live Healthy Montgomery County came to action with two online community conversations in June. K-State Research and Extension's Wildcat District facilitated the conversations to gather community insight on thoughts and needs surrounding health. These conversations were open to residents and services in Labette and Montgomery Counties and over 30 participants attended one or both events.

“The health councils in both counties knew Labette and Montgomery Counties face similar challenges according to state health rankings,” said Tara Solomon-Smith, Wildcat Extension Agent facilitating the project. “These conversations sought to hear directly from residents what was impacting their health and how this impact was being felt.”

One opportunity presented to attendees was to apply for grant funds to support a health and wellness project within their community. The following mini grants have been awarded in the amount of \$350.00:

**Caney Community Betterment Group Foundation, Inc.** to assist with grocery store building  
**Parsons Area Community Foundation**, for the family community splash pad project  
**City of Independence**, for tobacco cessation materials  
**City of Edna**, for the Edna Community Garden  
**Genesis, Inc.**, assist this local food pantry serving the southern parts of Montgomery County  
**Kansas Children's Service League Healthy Families Program**, serving both LB and MG counties' overburdened families with minor emergencies  
**SKIL Resources**, assist with mercy boxes providing daily care needs, masks, and gloves

In addition to the community project mini-grant support, these community conversation events produced findings that were shared with health coalition groups in Labette and Montgomery Counties to assist with future project plans.

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