

## Local Health Equity Action Teams (LHEATs): Impact Summary of 2025 PHIG Innovation Investments

LHEAT	Issue / Need Addressed	Innovation Project	Key Activities	Estimated Reach	Outcomes / Metrics
Barton County	Food insecurity	Container Gardening for Food Access	Purchase & distribute container gardening kits	~30 households/facilities	Number of kits distributed; participant survey
Bourbon County	Barriers due to lack of vital documents	Vital Records Assistance Program	Navigation, fee support, forms, outreach	20–25 residents	Documents obtained; participant feedback
Cowley County	Fragmented resource navigation	Referral Navigation & Community Conversations	Community conversations; referral tools; resource packets	150–200 reached; 40–60 participants	Participation counts; tool usefulness
Crawford County	Food access needs	Arma Holiday Healthy Food Baskets	Identify families; coordinate resources for holiday support; assemble and distribute baskets.	Families identified via schools/choir	Number of families served; qualitative feedback
Geary County	Winter clothing & essential needs insecurity	Winter Warmth & Essentials Partnership	Winter gear purchase/distribution; partner coordination	~400 individuals	Items distributed; partner/recipient feedback
Labette County	Nutrition skills + community identity & creativity needs	Cooking Demonstrations & Library Murals	Cooking classes; incentives; student-designed murals	150–200 participants; full library audience	Class surveys; visitor/ community engagement
Mitchell County	ESL inclusion + basic needs (laundry, hygiene, toys, books)	CIT Classes, Laundry Love, Toys & Hygiene Kits	ESL classes; Laundry Love; toy distribution; hygiene kits	CIT: ~10/class; Laundry Love: 15–20/event	Participation counts; participant feedback
Montgomery County	Limited nonprofit digital capacity	Social media & Fundraising Capacity-Building	Build social media platforms; training; toolkit creation	Multi-organization reach; ~10k impressions goal	Platform activity; toolkit use; engagement metrics
Sedgwick County	High menthol/vaping use among African Americans	Commit to Quit Pop-Ups	MLK event; four pop-ups; culturally tailored education	≥500 individuals reached; ≥150 Quit Kits	Reach metrics; Quit Kit distribution
Shawnee County	Multiple essential needs across populations	Shawnee Community Essentials & Safety Initiative	Eight mini-projects (child comfort room, hygiene kits, foster kits, trafficking awareness, blessing box, incontinence supplies, period	~1,000 individuals	Counts served per project; partner feedback

			products, admin support)		
<b>Thomas – Sherman Counties</b>	Winter isolation, mental health strain & basic needs	Winter Care Packets & Mental Health Chats	250 care packets; resource lists; mental health chat	~250 individuals	Distribution feedback; mental health session insights
<b>Wyandotte County</b>	Narrative inequity & lack of community representation	Stories of Wyandotte	Resident storytelling; videography; photography; equipment	20–25 storytellers	Stories produced; engagement metrics

The \$2,500 PHIG Innovation Funds empowered 12 Local Health Equity Action Teams (LHEATs) across Kansas to design and implement community-led projects that addressed locally defined needs while adhering to funding restrictions, including prohibitions on direct food purchases. Even within these parameters, LHEATs developed creative, high-impact strategies to strengthen food access, basic needs support, social connection, navigation of services, and community identity. Several teams advanced nutrition and food security indirectly by distributing gardening supplies, offering cooking demonstrations, coordinating community-led food basket initiatives, and enhancing access to resource information; approaches that built local capacity. Other LHEATs focused on providing essential non-food items such as winter gear, hygiene supplies, period products, comfort items for children, and incontinence supports, meeting needs that significantly affect health, dignity, and daily stability.

In addition to basic needs supports, LHEATs strengthened social and cultural well-being through efforts such as ESL and connection classes, youth engagement activities, human trafficking awareness tools, and nonprofit digital capacity building. Projects also reduced administrative barriers by assisting residents in obtaining vital documents and improving navigation of health and social services through referral maps, resource guides, and community conversations. Creative and community-centered initiatives such as storytelling projects, library murals, and mental health chats, promoted visibility, pride, and emotional resilience. Collectively, these 12 projects reached an estimated **3,000+ residents**, demonstrating how flexible, locally controlled innovation funds can catalyze practical solutions, deepen community partnerships, and advance health equity in ways that reflect community priorities and values.