

# Ohio Problem Gambling Funds Expenditure Guide & Requirements for Gambling Disorder Treatment Providers



## Overview

In partnership with OhioMHAS, Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO) has developed the following recommendations to assist county Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards, and agencies currently receiving funding for problem gambling services. These recommendations include: *Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Workforce Development*, which have been identified as key areas to support Ohio's gambling service system. Strategies include both *Internal* and *External* activities. The following may be implemented using *Problem Gambling and Casino Addiction* funds as appropriate.

As you establish your plans, board-specific gambling prevalence data is available to create an informed approach. Email [Info@PGNOOhio.org](mailto:Info@PGNOOhio.org) for additional information and to obtain board-specific data.

## Promotion

Problem gambling is a universal disorder and exists throughout Ohio. Board-specific data regarding problem gambling prevalence is available to Board areas and agencies. Providers looking to identify community members with Gambling Disorder may benefit from an increased focus in targeted communications and awareness messaging surrounding problem gambling and treatment resources. PGNO can assist agencies with the following internal and external promotions:

### **Internal**

- Include information about gambling services in new-hire orientation
- Update agency website and materials to include problem gambling prevention and treatment as services

### **External**

- Distribute marketing messages aimed at referring problem gamblers to a specific agency
- Disseminate messaging for family members to encourage seeking help for a loved one OR themselves
- Increase awareness of problem gambling resources through social media, newsletters, and other marketing channels such as the [Get Set Before You Bet](#) and [Change the Game Ohio](#) campaigns.

## Prevention

Early gambling experiences can increase the risk of developing problem or disordered gambling later in life. For those who gamble, evidence-based programs that encourage legal, responsible betting choices and provide education on gambling and problem gambling can be effective in preventing problem gambling and reducing harmful effects. Agencies already engaged in prevention programming may utilize problem gambling-specific evidence-based models, as well as integrate problem gambling education into current prevention efforts.

### **Internal**

- Identify problem gambling-specific evidence-based models or curricula
- Conduct community readiness assessments to determine how best to implement problem gambling prevention
- Allocate staff for gambling prevention and/or integrating gambling into programming
- Develop processes for problem identification and referral

### **External**

- Share lower-risk guidelines to prevent gambling problems
- Conduct environmental scans or compliance checks on local lottery or other gambling retailers
- Implement evidence-based prevention models such as [Stacked Deck](#) or *Risky Business*
- Collect data and use incentives for participants

## Treatment

As opportunities to gamble continue to expand, ensuring ample and qualified treatment services are available in Ohio is essential in supporting those with a gambling problem. In addition to developing clinicians who are qualified to treat gambling disorder, agencies can also use funds to build out more robust problem gambling screening and treatment services and integrate gambling into existing treatment systems.

### **Internal**

- Purchase platforms and equipment to support telehealth
- Provide micro-grants to partner agencies to help identify and refer clients
- Integrate gambling into electronic health record systems
- Develop processes for case identification and transition to care

### **External**

- Treat individuals identified
- Provide treatment and support for loved ones impacted by gambling, including individual and group therapy as well as opportunities for financial management
- Engage peer recovery supporters to assist with client aftercare

## Workforce Development

Based on national research and Ohio's data, as gambling expands and more are exposed to opportunities to gamble, there is an increased demand for prevention, intervention, and treatment services. Further developing Ohio's gambling support service system through professional and educational opportunities is essential to supporting those in need.

- Workforce development opportunities provided by PGNO include:
  - Stage I: Gambling, Problem Gambling & Ohio's Service System
  - Treatment Stage II: Approaches & Applications in Treating Gambling Disorder
  - Prevention Stage II: Strategies in Preventing Problem Gambling
  - Stage III: Understanding the Roles of Family
  - Stage III: Finance in Problem Gambling
  - Gambling Disorder Case Presentations
  - Supervision & Consultation Virtual Meetings
- PGNO offers training across the continuum of care, with opportunities for counselors and clinicians to receive the required education for the GAMB Endorsement, gambling treatment competencies, or International Certified Gambling Counselor (ICGC) certification. Prevention professionals can also receive introductory and advanced education on problem gambling and responsible gaming.
- The Annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference and National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gaming offer professionals opportunities to receive education from field experts and network with other problem gambling and responsible gaming professionals.
- Problem Gambling/Responsible Gaming Professional Associations, such as [PGNO](#) or [National Council on Problem Gambling](#) (NCPG), provide professionals with field updates, education and training, and networking opportunities.
- Licensing: Funding may be used to cover expenses directly and indirectly related to receiving or upgrading gambling-related credentialing, including: GAMB endorsement through the [Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board](#), ICGC certification through the [International Gambling Counselor Certification Board](#) (IGCCB) and the ICGC-I/II examination fee.
- Funding may be used to cover expenses for upgrading gambling-related education and/or workforce development for clinicians who may be eligible to treat for Gambling Disorder with the minimum of 30 hours of gambling-specific training (see list of trainings above and required credentials on the next page).

## Who Can Provide Gambling Treatment Services in Ohio?

Problem Gambling is a behavior that disrupts multiple aspects of life and can be diagnosed in a clinical setting as Gambling Disorder, categorized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Illness Fifth Edition (DSM 5) under Substance Use and Related Disorders. As recognized in diagnosis criteria, Gambling Disorder has many similarities in consequence, treatment modalities and planning and recovery support as that of other substance use disorders.

Gambling Disorder does, however, display and present nuanced challenges in both experiencing the behavior as well as treating the individual, including but not limited to further understanding of the financial and family impacts, cognitive distortions and increased ease and access. Furthermore, Gambling Disorder rarely presents solely; often accompanied by co-occurring substance use or co-morbid mental health diagnoses. Because of this, it is recommended that treatment professionals encountering Gambling Disorder in their practice be prepared to meet these challenges with problem gambling-specific training.

### Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board

- An active LCDCII-GAMB under proper supervision
- An active LCDCIII-GAMB under proper supervision
- An active LICDC-GAMB

### Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

- An active LSW with demonstrated competency\* under proper supervision
- An active LPC with demonstrated competency\* under proper supervision
- An active MFT with demonstrated competency\* under proper supervision
- An active LISW with demonstrated competency\*
- An active LPCC with demonstrated competency\*
- An active IMFT with demonstrated competency\*

### Ohio Board of Psychology

An active clinical psychologist with demonstrated competency\*

### International Gambling Counselor Certification Board

An active ICGC-I

An active ICGC-II

\*To establish competency, PGNO recommends a minimum of 30 hours of gambling-specific education, 100 hours of gambling-specific clinical experience and 4 hours of clinical supervision by an individual with gambling competency who is independently licensed.

\*To maintain competency, PGNO recommends a minimum of 4 hours of gambling-specific continuing education every two years.