



North Carolina Problem Gambling Program

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\$5,000 College and University Mini Grant At a Glance

What You Need to Know

- Gambling is legal in every state except Utah and Hawaii and has become a \$100 billion industry.
- Ninety-three percent of youth have access to the internet and 700,000 young adults gamble online monthly utilizing over 3,000 gambling websites.
- Youth with gambling problems are more likely to use tobacco, drink heavily and use drugs.
- Approximately six percent of college students in the U.S. have a serious gambling problem.
- Youth rates of being at-risk for problem gambling are two to three times higher than adult rates.
- Athletes are at a high risk for sports gambling because of their competitive personalities.
- Gambling addiction has the highest suicide rate of all addictions.
- Nearly all U.S. colleges and universities have policies on student alcohol use; however, only 22 percent have a formal policy on gambling.

Defining Problem Gambling

Problem gambling, or gambling addiction, includes all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt or damage personal, family or vocational pursuits. The essential features are increasing preoccupation with gambling, a need to bet more money more frequently, restlessness or irritability when attempting to stop, “chasing” losses and loss of control. In extreme cases, problem gambling can result in financial ruin, legal problems, loss of career and family or even suicide.

The NC Problem Gambling Program

The North Carolina Problem Gambling Program was established to provide and support effective problem gambling prevention, education, outreach and treatment programs throughout the state.

The College and University Grant Program

The North Carolina Problem Gambling Program offers mini grants of up to \$5,000 to colleges and universities to promote problem gambling education and outreach to students, faculty and staff. The program initially followed a three-prong approach with focus on screening for problem gambling, outreach programs and policy changes to include campus-wide policy on gambling. In order to include more colleges and universities that may not have formal counseling centers, the program broadened its approach to include programs that better fit each campus. Currently, 19 colleges and universities across NC receive grant funding to increase outreach events and raise awareness of the problem gambling services available. Departments such as counseling centers, marketing and graphic design have collaborated to create outreach materials and events to increase awareness.

The College and University Grant Program

The North Carolina Problem Gambling Program provides a workshop series called Sure Bet across the state of NC several times per year. The registration fee and room and board can be included in the grant budget to be reimbursed at the state rate.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
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