

Seeking Help to Reach Out to Problem Gamblers

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – The [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG) has been getting nearly 14,000 calls annually to its Problem Gambling Helpline in recent years. That number, however, is just a small percentage of the actual number of people facing gambling problems in Wisconsin.

In an effort to reach more problem and compulsive gamblers, the WCPG is making **grants** available to organizations **to use for public awareness efforts**. The grants can range from \$2,000 - \$5,000 per project.

“We’re looking for groups and organizations that are interested in reaching out in unique ways or targeting specific groups like teens, women, seniors or those who also have another addiction,” said Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director. “Each time we find a new way to tell state residents about problem gambling and the resources available, we’ve seen a corresponding increase in calls to our Helpline.

WCPG is seeking innovative, collaborative projects that address diversity and leverage the resources provided. For grant applications to be considered, the proposed program must:

- Be directed to Wisconsin residents
- Support WCPG’s mission of providing resources, public awareness and education on problem and pathological gambling disorders
- Follow WCPG’s policy of neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling
- Include defined project outcomes and ways to measure and report those outcomes

The grants cannot be used for counseling services.

“We’re looking for **resourceful ways of getting the word out that there are resources and services available and problem gamblers do have a place to turn to get help**,” Gruber said. “We’ve found that local organizations can be very creative in developing and implementing public awareness programs in their communities.”

Applications for the Public Awareness Grants are available from the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Council by contacting WCPG at 1-800-GAMBLE-5. **The application deadline is August 31.** Applicants should be 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, serving the residents of Wisconsin, operating with a governing board and providing services without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, sexual preference or national origin.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

For more information, visit [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling.

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