



The **Nevada Council on Problem Gambling** is a non-profit information and referral agency whose efforts are focused on addressing the impact of problem gambling on our citizens, businesses, and communities in the State of Nevada. The Council serves as a resource for information and as an advocate and provider of programs and services to meet the needs of everyone affected by problem gambling.

The Council is a 501(c)(3) organization supported by charitable contributions, grant funding, and nominal fees for services, where applicable. The Nevada Council on Problem Gambling is one of 33 State Affiliates of the National Council on Problem Gambling and does not take a position for or against legalized gambling.

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling to generate awareness, promote education and advocate for quality treatment of problem gambling in the State of Nevada.

The American Psychiatric Association has recognized problem gambling as a diagnosable and treatable mental health disorder since 1980. In 2013, the clinical diagnosis of “Gambling Disorder” became the first and only behavioral condition to be included in the revised category of “Substance Related and Addictive Disorders” in the most recent edition of the DSM-5*.

Problem gambling can be defined as an addictive disorder in which the individual experiences “persistent and recurrent problematic gambling behavior that disrupts personal, family or vocational pursuits.” People suffering from a gambling problem can no longer control their gambling, regardless of the outcome of the game, and despite increasing negative consequences.

Our Vision

The Nevada Council on Problem Gambling works with all stakeholders to provide sustainable programs and services to reduce the impact of problem gambling in Nevada.

It is estimated that up to 6% of Nevada adults may have a gambling problem. Problem gambling does not discriminate and its impact affects individuals, families, and the community at large. This impact can be reduced through public policy that supports increased awareness, education, prevention, treatment, and research efforts.

OUR GOALS

- Reduce stigma and increase public awareness of problem gambling as a treatable disorder
- Increase knowledge of warning signs to promote early help-seeking by people with a gambling problem and their families
- Provide 24 hr. information and referral through the **Problem Gambling HelpLine (1-800-GAMBLER)**
- Insure availability of affordable and effective treatment and recovery support services for problem gambling
- Educate employers to recognize problem gambling as a workplace wellness issue
- Educate social service and health professionals to improve intervention through early screening and referral
- Provide continuing education for Nevada Certified Problem Gambling Counselors and Interns
- Reduce and/or prevent underage gambling and problem gambling among children and adolescents

*American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th edition)

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PROBLEM GAMBLING HELPLINE (1-800-GAMBLER) – Call/Text/Chat 24 hours a day with trained professional helpline specialists who provide caring, confidential assistance and referral to treatment and support resources throughout the State of Nevada. In addition, this number is linked into a nationwide system that automatically routes out-of-state calls to the appropriate regional call center providing similar services to their geographic area.

Online Resource Locator – Current detailed information about peer support group meetings and treatment providers in Nevada is made available to the public through a searchable online database at **WhenTheFunStops.org**. Users may search for resources in their immediate area, or download and print regional or statewide resource lists.

Literature Distribution – The Council produces and distributes a variety of information and publications to raise awareness of problem gambling and support ongoing education. Since 1998, the Council has distributed over 2 million **WHEN THE FUN STOPS™** information brochures throughout Nevada communities and within gaming locations. The Council also develops and distributes collaborative publications on critical issues, such as **Problem Gambling and the Law, Financial Strategies for the Loved Ones of Problem Gamblers**, and **Problem Gambling and Suicide**.

Prevention & Community Outreach – The Council provides information and resource materials to social service agencies and other community organizations to incorporate problem gambling awareness and prevention into their programs and services. Council staff and volunteers work with our community partners to disseminate information to the public through health fairs, workshops and other community activities and events.

Public Awareness – Council staff or trained volunteer facilitators deliver structured awareness presentations to group audiences to promote a general understanding of problem gambling and resources for help. **Student-Athlete Gambling Awareness, SAGA** is designed for student-athletes, and explains gambling behavior, especially sports betting, as well as regulations for athletes. **Impact of the Games We Play**, looks at the current state of video games and the gamification aspects of modern gaming. **Given the Chance** is a youth prevention and awareness program designed for classroom use, **Damage Done** is a community awareness program addressing the impact of problem gambling on families, and **Beyond the Game**, looks at the impact of problem gambling on Nevada seniors.

Employee Training - WHEN THE FUN STOPS™ - Understanding Problem Gambling is an awareness program developed by the Council and recognized by the Nevada Gaming Control Board to meet the standards for training as required by *NGC Regulation 5.170, Programs to Address Problem Gambling*. The program is appropriate for employee awareness training in any gaming or non-gaming workplace environment. This program includes full instructional support and can be administered by Council staff trainers or by approved company trainers who have completed the Council's Train-the-Trainer program.

Professional Education & Training – The Council presents and sponsors educational programs for mental health counselors and professionals in other fields such as: law, finance, education, and human resources. The Council also presents the **Annual Nevada State Conference on Problem Gambling** to promote awareness and support continuing professional education.