



February 5, 2024

Dear Friend,

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness, and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. The WCPG has joined with the National Council on Problem Gambling during the month of March to celebrate Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The focus is to increase public awareness, availability, and benefits of gambling disorder treatment. Our goal is to provide information to all individuals working with people who are at risk to become problem gamblers throughout the state of Wisconsin.

It is estimated that 5-7% of the adult population may experience some kind of problem with gambling activities. A study estimated that between 17-24% of problem gamblers attempt suicide. We want to provide information about gambling disorder, how it impacts loved ones, how to have a conversation with someone about gambling disorder, where to find resources, and how to find help.

*"Problem gambling and crime have significant societal and personal costs. Roughly one half of those with gambling problems commit crime. The connection between gambling and crime may exist because gambling losses create pressure to commit income-generating crimes. Alternatively, problem gambling and crime may co-occur as a pattern of behaviors with common underlying risk factors that reinforce one another".* Kryszajtys and Matheson (2017) Problem gambling and crime and its costs.pdf

Communities nationwide will be working to raise awareness of the consequences of gambling disorders and the resources available for individuals whose gambling is causing disruption in their lives. Treatment for problem gambling is effective in improving the lives of problem gamblers and their families. This initiative is also a celebration of the men and women who are overcoming problems associated with their gambling behavior.

The enclosed poster provides information about Problem Gambling Awareness Month and tools individuals can use as a self-screening tool. We are hoping you will display the poster throughout the month of March 2024. Additionally, we have included the Lie-Bet: 2-Question Screening Tool as a resource for those who think they may have a problem with gambling. A brochure and a free wallet card are also enclosed for you to use as a resource. If you are interested in quantities of these items or obtaining free literature, posters, promo items, or specific brochures including high-risk populations, please contact the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling at (920) 437-8888, e-mail [wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org](mailto:wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org), or fill out a request form at [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org).

For more information on events and programs sponsored by the WCPG, please visit our website at [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org) and/or our Facebook page. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to allow us to share this information with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Blozinski".

Rose Blozinski  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling  
1585 Allouez Avenue  
Green Bay, WI 54311