



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Rose Blozinski, Executive Director

920-437-8888

Rose@wi-problemgamblers.org

## **March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

Green Bay, WI March 4, 2024 - The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG), in collaboration with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), recognizes March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM). PGAM is dedicated to increasing public awareness of problem gambling and the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Problem gambling is defined as all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt or damage personal, family, or vocational pursuits. Approximately 2 million U.S. adults (1% of the population) are estimated to meet the criteria for severe problem gambling. Another 4-6 million (2-3%) meet the criteria for mild or moderate problem gambling. Approximately 333,000 Wisconsin residents have a gambling problem.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month is a crucial opportunity to engage the residents of Wisconsin in a dialogue about the impact of gambling-related issues on individuals and their loved ones. This annual observance provides an essential platform for organizations across the country to highlight the availability of support services for those affected.

During March, Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling has planned a series of impactful events and initiatives aimed at educating the public and fostering conversations about problem gambling. These events will include its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, a Webinar: The Legalities of Gambling: From Legalization to Consequences and a packet (poster, letter, and problem gambling literature) mail to over 600 legal/law enforcement departments.

Problem gambling and crime have significant societal and personal costs," said Rose Blozinski, WCPG's Executive Director. The WCPG has received a Proclamation for Problem Gambling Awareness Month from Governor Evers.

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling also invites local media outlets to engage in this important conversation and help spread the word about the resources available for those dealing with problem gambling.

For more information about problem gambling and how to increase awareness of problem gambling, visit [www.ncpgambling.org/FAQs](http://www.ncpgambling.org/FAQs) or <https://www.wi-problemgamblers.org> .

***If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-426-2535, Text at 1-850-888-4673 or Live Chat through the WCPG website at [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org).***

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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 1-800-426-2535, 1-850-888-4673 Textline, and Chat available on [www.wi-problemgamblers.org](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org), 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 the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org) website, visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling](http://www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling) or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>*