# Office of Problem Gambling Services


## *FY24 Budget Overview*

**A Message from Dr. Robert Goldstein, Public Health Commissioner**

The Office of Problem Gambling Services, within the Department of Public Health, works in partnership with multiple stakeholders to lead the public health response to gambling in the Commonwealth. I am so proud of the work of this Office and am pleased to share the Office’s FY24 budget.

The $29.2 million budget for FY24 comes from multiple funding sources, with a significant portion coming from the Public Health Trust Fund. These critical funds are used for the mitigation of harm associated with gambling, with a central focus on the promotion of equity across the continuum of care. The Office oversees and supports programs focused on prevention, intervention, and treatment support for the residents of Massachusetts.

The FY24 budget represents an overall budget increase for the Office of Problem Gambling Services, up from the FY23 budget of $17.2 million. Since 2016, OPGS has engaged more than 2,000 individuals and 40 community-based organizations to inform a series of projects and initiatives. These resources will allow for the enhancement of the Office’s prevention efforts and public awareness campaigns, with an additional focus on college students. New investments will be made centered on Community Health Workers, with a goal of supporting individuals and families in accessing the resources they need and navigating the care system.

The past year has presented us with some new public health challenges, including the launch of sports betting. The work of this Office has never been more needed. As a result, the Office is ramping up services in alignment with its 2022 Strategic Plan to meet the needs of those impacted by gambling. We would not be able to do what we do without the ongoing support of our state and community partners. On behalf of our program and staff, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our vendors for their efforts to mitigate harms associated with gambling in our Commonwealth.

The following pages provide descriptions of each of OPGS’s budget categories, including FY24 focus areas and FY23 and FY24 funding-level comparisons. The last page of the document includes a detailed budget table, showing funding levels of all budget categories and sub-categories.

# Office of Problem Gambling Services


## *FY24 Budget Overview*

**1 Prevention and Health Promotion**

***OPGS continues its efforts to deliver comprehensive, community-centered, and culturally relevant prevention services. Prevention is a key strategy in the mitigation of harm associated with gambling.***

Prevention services are designed for youth, parents, and at-risk populations. These services are informed by evidence and data. OPGS continued implementation of two core prevention programs:

 The Massachusetts PhotoVoice Project for youth and parents (7 sites); and

 The Massachusetts Ambassador Project for men of color with a history of substance misuse (3 sites)

**FY24 Focus**

In FY24, OPGS will enhance all community-based prevention efforts in response to the expansion of gambling -- more specifically, sports wagering. OPGS will launch the Community Wellness project, a new initiative led by Community Health Workers who will conduct outreach and provide support to those disproportionately impacted by problem gambling. The Office will continue to support the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Empowerment Initiative, which provides education and promotes awareness through community engagement activities in local communities.

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Prevention and Health Promotion** | **$6,502, 072** | **$13,312,947** |
| Community | $3,577,072 | $7,887,947 |
| Health Promotion | $2,025,000 | $4,525,000 |
| Technical Assistance and Evaluation | $900,000 | $900,000 |

**2 Treatment Support and Capacity Building**

***Problem gambling treatment within outpatient services are funded by third-party reimbursement. Treatment support initiatives are enhancements to problem gambling treatment, which includes helpline services, professional development for treatment providers, capacity building for community-based agencies, early detection/screening access, grants to enhance treatment awareness/access, and clinical tools and resources for providers.***

**FY24 Focus**

In FY24, OPGS will:

 Enhance funding for treatment support, including Massachusetts Problem Gambling Helpline Services and Project Build Up

 Continue workforce initiatives and opportunities to behavioral health providers, as well as promote, monitor, and give support to the Massachusetts Problem Gambling Specialists (MA PGS) applicants.

 Continue to support workforce development, as well as introduce new initiatives that will enhance access to treatment services.

# Office of Problem Gambling Services

## *FY24 Budget Overview*

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatment Support and Capacity Building** | **$2,800,000** | **$12,500,000** |
| Treatment Support | $1,900,000 | $6,800,000 |
| Treatment Services Promotion |  | $4,500,00 |
| Capacity Building | $900,000 | $1,200,000 |

**3 Data and Surveillance**

***OPGS continues to prioritize and utilize data to inform initiatives, engage communities, and ensure cultural intelligence and humility.***

Public health surveillance is the systematic and ongoing collection of health-related information from populations to monitor trends; identify risk and protective factors; and inform policies, practices, and investments designed to improve health outcomes. Surveillance is central to the public health approach and to data-driven planning.

**FY24 Focus**

In FY24, OPGS will establish and utilize the [Data to Action Framework](https://www.mass.gov/resource/data-and-surveillance-equity-in-action) to illustrate the process through which public health data and community experience can be leveraged to inform and support each other in a mutually reinforcing feedback loop. Respecting community members as authentic partners, building relationships, maintaining transparency, and promoting accountability are at the core of the framework and will be the foundation on which the data and surveillance infrastructure system is built.

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Data and Surveillance** | **$475,000** | **$1,331,000** |
| Monitoring and Surveillance | $100,000 | $956,000 |
| Evaluation and Quality Improvement | $250,000 | $250,000 |
| Community Engagement | $125,000 | $125,000 |

**4 Personnel**

***OPGS staff members are the heart of the work that goes on. This is a growing team of committed individuals who manage, organize, and implement the work of the Office, including management, finance, budgeting, and programs.***

OPGS also relies on consultants and other support staff who assist the office in carrying out its mission. They provide expertise, insight, and feedback to guide our work forward.

**FY24 Focus**

In FY24, OPGS will maintain existing staff and increase staff support provided by its trusted consultant partners.

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

**Personnel**

**$1,980,301**

**$2,119,157**

# Office of Problem Gambling Services

## *FY24 Budget Table*

**Prevention and Health Promotion**

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Community:** Photovoice Project | $800,000 | $1,050,000 |
| **Community:** Ambassador Project | $387,072 | $619,315 |
| **Community:** Community Level Health Project - Springfield | $300,000 | $530,000 |
| **Community:** Community Level Health Project - Everett | $300,000 | $370,000 |
| **Community:** AAPI Community Empowerment Initiative | $100,000 | $230,000 |
| **Community:** Community Connections |  | $1,500,000 |
| **Community:** Suicide and Problem Gambling Training for Suicide | $60,000 | $60,000 |
| Prevention Workforce |  |  |
| **Community:** Problem Gambling and Community Initiatives | $1,480,000 | $3,278,632 |
| **Community:** Community Health Worker Trainings | $150,000 | $250,000 |
| **Health Promotion:** Public Awareness Campaigns | $2,000,000 | $4,500,000 |
| **Health Promotion:** Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse | $25,000 | $25,000 |
| **Technical Assistance and Evaluation:** | $900,000 | $900,000 |
| Technical Assistance (TA) of Prevention Services |  |  |
| **Sub-total:** | **$6,502,072** | **$13,312,947** |

**Treatment Support and Capacity Building**

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatment Support:** MA Problem Gambling Helpline Services | $300,000 | $500,000 |
| **Treatment Support:** Project Build Up | $400,000 | $700,000 |
| **Treatment Support:** Problem Gambling Treatment Enhancement | $200,000 | $700,000 |
| Initiatives |  |  |
| **Treatment Support:** Community Health Centers |  | $1,000,000 |
| **Treatment Support:** The Bridge Initiative |  | $1,500,000 |
| **Treatment Support:** Community Wellness Project | $1,000,000 | $1,500,000 |
| **Treatment Support:** Telehealth Services (Planning) |  | $300,000 |
| **Treatment Support:** Problem Gambling Screening |  | $600,000 |
| **Treatment Services Promotion** |  | $4,500,000 |
| **Capacity Building:** MA Technical Assistance Center | $700,000 | $900,000 |
| **Capacity Building:** Veterans and Problem Gambling Education | $100,000 | $200,000 |
| **Capacity Building:** Problem Gambling and Specialty Courts | $100,000 | $100,000 |

**Sub-total:**

**$2,800,000**

**$12,500,00**

# Office of Problem Gambling Services

## *FY24 Budget Table*

**Data and Surveillance**

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Monitoring and Surveillance:** Data Management and Analytical | $100,000 | $416,000 |
| Services |  |  |
| **Monitoring and Surveillance:** Technical Support |  | $140,000 |
| **Monitoring and Surveillance:** Data Dissemination |  | $200,000 |
| **Monitoring and Surveillance:** Survey Development |  | $200,000 |
| **Evaluation and Quality Improvement:** Evaluation of Programs | $250,000 | $250,000 |
| **Community Engagement:** Stakeholder Listening Sessions | $125,000 | $125,000 |

**Sub-total:**

**$475,000**

**$1,331,000**

**Personnel**

**Budget Category**

**FY23**

**FY24**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DPH Personnel:** Director, Deputy, Programs Manager, Contract | $1,430,301 | $1,469,157 |
| Coordinators, Support Staff, Fringe (40%), Supplies, Indirect Costs |  |  |
| **Consultants** | $550,000 | $650,000 |

**Sub-total:**

**$1,980,301**

**$2,119,157**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FY23 Projected Budget** | **$11,575,373** |
| **FY23 Adjustments** | **$6,983,332** |
| **FY23 Total** | **$17,285,722** |
| **FY24 Projected Budget**  | **$29,263,104** |

FY24 Projected Budget includes the projected budget of $21.4M plus the rollover balance and adjustments from FY23 for a total of $29.2M. Please note that the projected budget amount may change based on actual tax revenue and fees collected during FY24.