A Message from Dr. Robert Goldstein, Public Health Commissioner

The Department of Public Health’s Office of Problem Gambling Services (OPGS) serves Massachusetts residents at risk of problem gambling through prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support programs. The Office’s budget—which is primarily funded by the Public Health Trust Fund—supports community-level strategies to reduce gambling-related harm, emphasizing equity across the full spectrum of care. The FY25 budget of $44.5 million marks a 52% overall budget increase for the Office from the prior fiscal year.

In FY25, significant new investments have been made in public awareness campaigns centered on educating community members about gambling-related risks. This includes enhancing messaging targeted at both youth and their parents, launching a new campaign designed to engage and educate men aged 20-29, and incorporating innovative, data-driven outreach strategies into existing campaigns.

The Office’s new investment of $2.1 million in a promising youth program called “Youth Leaders in Problem Gambling Prevention” directly engages youth in the development of problem gambling prevention strategies and offers $5000 scholarships. The Office is also investing in workforce development initiatives through the launch of “Project Build Up 2.0” and is devoting additional funds to building a surveillance infrastructure that will provide critical insights into the impacts of expanded gambling in the Commonwealth.

The surge in sports betting and other public health challenges continues to heighten demand for these critical community programs and services. On behalf of the Department of Public Health, I’d like to extend our warm gratitude to our community partners for their shared efforts to promote wellness and health equity for all people in the Commonwealth.

Prevention and Health Promotion

The Office takes a comprehensive public health approach to reducing and preventing problem gambling across the Commonwealth. Programs and services are data-driven and community-centered, and are designed for all age groups, including youth, adults, parents, and at-risk populations.

In FY25, OPGS will continue implementation of two core prevention programs:

The Massachusetts PhotoVoice Project for youth and parents.

The Massachusetts Ambassador Project for men of color with a history of substance misuse.

Additionally, OPGS will implement new and/or enhanced prevention programs:

* The Youth Leaders in Problem Gambling Prevention Project provides scholarships for young people to pursue higher education upon project completion.
* The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Empowerment Project distributes education and resources to priority populations disproportionately impacted by problem gambling.
* The Community Wellness Project engages individuals and families and provides education, resources, and support at the community level.
* Project RISE 2.0 distributes resources to immigrant families to help raise awareness of problem gambling related risks.

BUDGET CATEGORY FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prevention and Health Promotion | $13,312,947 | $20,412,500 |
| Community | $7,887,947 | $12,887,500 |
| Health Promotion | $4,525,000 | $5,025,000 |
| Technical Assistance and Evaluation | $900,000 | $2,500,000 |

Treatment Support and Capacity Building

The Office takes a strategic, equity-focused approach to developing problem gambling treatment services in the Commonwealth. This approach centers on data, evidence, and best practices to optimize engagement, improve access, and strengthen support for those seeking treatment.

Outpatient problem gambling treatment services in Massachusetts are funded by third-party reimbursement.

In FY25, OPGS will enhance treatment support initiatives, including:

 The Massachusetts Problem Gambling Helpline, which serves as a free, confidential 24/7 support line available in multiple languages

 The Massachusetts Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment (M-TAC), which provides capacity building, training, and technical assistance for problem gambling services to treatment centers and other clinical treatment and/or recovery support organizations across Massachusetts

 Project Build Up 2.0, which delivers grant services, training, and technical assistance for up to twenty (20) organizations throughout the Commonwealth to build their capacity to identify, screen, and treat gambling disorders

 The Massachusetts Problem Gambling Specialist (MA PGS) certificate program will introduce one hundred (100) additional providers into the treatment and recovery workforce

 The Bridge Initiative, which is a comprehensive and innovative set of strategies to enhance gambling treatment engagement, awareness, and is centered on the multiple pathways to wellness (including treatment).

BUDGET CATEGORY FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Treatment Support and Capacity Building | $12,500,000 | $19,274,626 |
| Treatment Support | $6,800,000 | $11,474,626 |
| Treatment Services Promotion | $4,500,000 | $5,000,000 |
| Capacity Building | $1,200,000 | $2,800,000 |

Data and Surveillance

The Office prioritizes and utilizes data to inform initiatives, engage communities, and ensure cultural humility. Epidemiology is a key component of public health that guides efforts and strategies to prevent and mitigate harms. The OPGS Data to Action Framework ensures that problem gambling data is reliable, equitable, accessible, and actionable, leading to an optimal public health response to problem gambling in the Commonwealth.

In FY25, OPGS will enhance its problem gambling data and surveillance system. This effort is guided by the Data to Action Framework, which provides the infrastructure for all data, surveillance, and evaluation activities. The enhancements include conducting ongoing analysis of:

 The Massachusetts Youth Health Survey

 The Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, and  The Massachusetts Problem Gambling Helpline data.

BUDGET CATEGORY FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Data and Surveillance | $1,331,000 | $2,366,000 |
| Monitoring and Surveillance | $956,000 | $1,766,000 |
| Evaluation and Quality Improvement | $250,000 | $350,000 |
| Community Engagement | $125,000 | $250,000 |

Personnel

OPGS staff members are dedicated public health professionals responsible for managing, organizing, and executing the Office’s operations, including administration, finance, budgeting, and program implementation.

BUDGET CATEGORY FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Personnel | $2,119,157 | $2,486,852 |

Full FY25 Budget Table

# *Prevention and Health Promotion*

BUDGET ITEMS FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Community: Photovoice Project | $1,050,000 | $1,050,000 |
| Community: Ambassador Project | $619,315 | $671,496 |
| Community: Community Level Health Project- Springfield | $530,000 | Project Completed |
| Community: Community Level Health Project- Everett | $370,000 | Project Completed |
| New: Youth Leaders in Problem Gambling Prevention | $0 | $2,100,000 |
| New: Project RISE 2.0 | $0 | $750,000 |
| Community: AAPI Community Empowerment Initiative | $230,000 | $450,000 |
| Community: Community Connections | $1,500,000 | $2,000,000 |
| Community: Suicide and Problem Gambling Training for Suicide Prevention Workforce | $60,000 | $60,000 |
| Community: Problem Gambling and Community Initiatives | $3,278,632 | $5,456,004 |
| Community: Community Health Worker Trainings | $250,000 | $350,000 |
| Health Promotion: Public Awareness Campaigns | $4,500,000 | $5,000,000 |
| Health Promotion: Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse | $25,000 | $25,000 |
| Technical Assistance and Evaluation: Technical Assistance (TA) of Prevention Services | $900,000 | $2,500,000 |
| Sub-total: | $13,312,947 | $20,412,500 |

# *Treatment Support and Capacity Building*

BUDGET ITEMS FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Treatment Support: MA Problem Gambling Helpline  Services | $500,000 | $600,000 |
| Treatment Support: Project Build Up | $700,000 | $1,000,000 |
| Treatment Support: Problem Gambling Treatment  Enhancement Initiatives | $700,000 | $5,271,004 |
| Treatment Support: Community Health Centers | $1,000,000 | $500,000 |
| Treatment Support: The Bridge Initiative | $1,500,000 | $2,500,000 |
| Treatment Support: Community Wellness Project | $1,500,000 | $503,622 |
| Treatment Support: Telehealth Services (Planning) | $300,000 | $500,000 |
| Treatment Support: Problem Gambling Screening | $600,000 | $600,000 |
| Treatment Services Promotion | $4,500,000 | $5,000,000 |
| Capacity Building: MA Technical Assistance Center | $900,000 | $2,500,000 |
| Capacity Building: Veterans and Problem Gambling  Education | $200,000 | $200,000 |
| Capacity Building: Problem Gambling and Specialty Courts | $100,000 | $100,000 |
| Sub-total: | $12,500,000 | $19,274,626 |

# *Data and Surveillance*

BUDGET ITEMS FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monitoring and Surveillance: Data Management and Analytical Services | $416,000 | $516,000 |
| Monitoring and Surveillance: Technical Support | $140,000 | $250,000 |
| Monitoring and Surveillance: Data Dissemination | $200,000 | $500,000 |
| Monitoring and Surveillance: Survey Development | $200,000 | $500,000 |
| Evaluation and Quality Improvement: Evaluation of Programs | $250,000 | $350,000 |
| Community Engagement: Stakeholder Listening Sessions | $125,000 | $250,000 |
| Sub-total: | $1,331,000 | $2,366,000 |

# *Personnel*

BUDGET ITEMS FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DPH Personnel: Director, Deputy, Programs Manager,  Contract Coordinators, Support Staff, Fringe (40%), Supplies, Indirect Costs | $1,469,157 | $1,794,552 |
| Consultants | $650,000 | $692,300 |
| Sub-total: | $2,119,157 | $2,486,852 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FY24 Projected Budget | $29,263,104 |
| FY24 Final Budget After Adjustments | $32,678,861 |
| FY25 Projected Budget\* | $44,539,978 |

Overview of Funding Sources

This table provides a full breakdown of funding sources for the Office of Problem Gambling Services per fiscal year.

FUNDING SOURCE FY24 FY25

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Public Health Trust Fund | $18,530,370 | $20,625,000 |
| Compulsive Behavior Treatment Program Retained  Revenue | $1,000,000 | $1,000,000 |
| Administrative Earmark | $500,000 | $0 |
| Mass Racing Development and Oversight Trust | $70,000 | $70,000 |
| Mass State Lottery | $65,000 | $15,000 |
| Balance Forward (Public Health Trust Fund) | $5,530,159 | $18,570,754 |
| Adjustments from previous fiscal year (Public Health  Trust Fund) | $6,983,332 | $4,259,224 |
| Budget Total | $32,678,861 | $44,539,978 |

\*FY25 Projected Budget includes the projected budget of $21.7M plus the rollover balance and adjustments from FY24 for a total of $44.5M. Please note that the projected budget amounts may change based on actual tax revenue and fees collected each fiscal year. These changes are reflected in the adjustments/balance forward from the previous fiscal year.