



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.

Office of Problem Gambling Services

FY25 Budget Overview



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

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- 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

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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

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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

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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.