

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.

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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.

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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](#) 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

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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 Prevention Workforce	\$60,000	\$60,000
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 Initiatives	\$200,000	\$700,000
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

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Data and Surveillance

Budget Category	FY23	FY24
Monitoring and Surveillance: Data Management and Analytical Services	\$100,000	\$416,000
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 Coordinators, Support Staff, Fringe (40%), Supplies, Indirect Costs	\$1,430,301	\$1,469,157
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.