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### **State Awards \$1.23M in Grants for Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment**

COLUMBUS – With expanded opportunities to gamble for recreation in Ohio, the state continually keeps a watchful eye on the number of Ohioans seeking help due to problem gambling. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and its partners in Ohio for Responsible Gambling announce 13 grant-funded projects designed to ensure that effective, science-based strategies are in place to prevent problem gambling and to help Ohioans struggling with gambling disorder.

“While gambling isn’t new to Ohio, Vegas-style venues are a new development, and we know that problem gambling increases when destination gambling is within a 50-mile radius,” said OhioMHAS Director Tracy Plouck. “Our goal with these grants is to make sure that Ohio citizens receive the best in public health prevention education and the highest quality of treatment for gambling disorder when needed. We see these grants as an ideal opportunity to build local capacity for both prevention and treatment.”

The \$1.23 million in funding for the grants comes from a portion of the Problem Casino Gambling and Addictions fund, established by the Constitutional Amendment that allowed Ohio to have casinos. Four state agencies formed [Ohio for Responsible Gambling](#) in 2012 to guide a continuum of services for problem gambling. Those agencies are OhioMHAS and the Casino Control, Lottery and Racing Commissions.

“Our partnership with OhioMHAS enables us to help fund proactive research that can determine the best practices to increase the awareness, prevention and treatment of problem gambling,” said Matt Schuler, executive director of the Ohio Casino Control Commission. “These grants will help to provide vital information about the best ways to help those Ohioans who need it most.”

The grants, which are being awarded as a result of a competitive request for proposal, will support the creation and implementation of evidence-based practice models for prevention and treatment of gambling disorder and will incentivize service systems that prioritize data collection toward demonstrating effective outcomes. These grantees represent Ohio’s provider agencies, county Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health boards and universities all targeting problem gambling.

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<b>Recipient</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
<b><u>Problem Gambling Evidence-Based Practices</u></b>		
Bayshore Counseling Services	Erie/Ottawa	\$65,000
Clermont County MHR Board	Clermont	\$110,000
COMPASS Corporation for Recovery Services/Zepf Center	Lucas	\$175,000
Drug-Free Action Alliance	Statewide	\$125,000
Montgomery ADAMHS Board	Montgomery	\$175,000
Partnership for Violence-Free Families	Allen	\$30,000
Talbert House	Hamilton	\$100,000
Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) of Cincinnati	Hamilton	\$122,000
<b><u>Problem Gambling Training and Technical Assistance</u></b>		
Drug-Free Action Alliance	Statewide	\$75,000
Wright State University Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues	Statewide	\$50,000
<b><u>Problem Gambling Evaluation</u></b>		
OSU Center for Health Outcomes, Policy and Evaluation Studies	Statewide	\$50,000
Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs	Statewide	\$105,000
Wright State University Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues	Statewide	\$50,000

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