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\$250K Invested in Community Prevention of Problem Gambling

COLUMBUS—Ten community organizations have been awarded funding to prevent problem gambling and expand the problem gambling infrastructure in Ohio. As Ohio’s gambling landscape changes, the Education and Skill Building to Prevent Problem Gambling: A Community Coalitions Project will provide a crucial investment of \$250,000 to 10 community organizations working to prevent problem gambling.

According to Bobbie Boyer, OhioMHAS deputy director of Prevention Services “We know that gambling is available throughout Ohio and in neighboring states, and it can negatively impact our families and communities. With 10 percent of Ohioans at-risk for problem gambling, we are enlisting the help of Community Coalitions in 10 areas of the state to work with faith-based groups, adolescents and young adults, culturally specific populations, parents and caring adults to prevent and reduce problem gambling within these communities.”

The grants are being managed by Prevention Action Alliance and will be available for two-years, pending progress and availability of funding. Marcie Seidel, executive director of Prevention Action Alliance commented, “These grants invest in Ohio’s problem gambling infrastructure. Each grantee will establish new and important partnerships that will continue to pay dividends for years after the grants are implemented.”

Grants of \$20,000 each year have been awarded to:

- Akron Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) Inc.
- Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services (LCADA Way), Lorain
- Maryhaven, Columbus
- Montgomery County Prevention Coalition, Dayton
- PreventionFIRST!, Cincinnati
- Recovery Resources, Cleveland
- Summit County Community Partnership, Akron
- Townhall II, Kent
- Wood County Prevention Coalition, Bowling Green
- Zepf Center, Toledo

Each agency will expand its capacity for preventing problem gambling by building strategic partnerships within the community. The communities will share their projects and lessons learned with Ohio’s network of community coalitions to expand the impact of these two-year grants. The grants were made possible with support from Ohio for Responsible Gambling, which includes the OhioMHAS, Ohio Casino Control Commission and Ohio Lottery Commission.

Gambling Problem?

Warning signs of problem gambling include:

- Borrowing money for gambling.
- Lying about how much time or money you spend on gambling.
- Hiding time spent gambling or hiding bills and unpaid debts.
- Restlessness or irritability when not gambling.
- Spending a lot of time gambling, thinking about gambling or planning to gamble.
- Bragging about or exaggerating wins and/or minimizing losses.

If you have a gambling problem, call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 or visit gamblinghelpohio.org. To learn more about responsible and problem gambling, visit www.beforeyoubet.org.

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