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## **Responsible Gaming Education Week Is Sept. 15-21<sup>st</sup>** ***Think about Making Responsible Gaming Choices***

(COLUMBUS, OHIO) Ohio's partnership aimed at keeping gambling safe for Ohioans is called Ohio for Responsible Gambling or ORG. ORG includes the Ohio Commissions of Casino Control, Lottery, Racing and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). Since 2013, ORG has worked closely with Ohio's gaming industry to ensure consumer protections. Next week's Responsible Gaming Education Week is designed to help the industry focus on how best to protect its customers.

Led by the American Gaming Association and its members, Responsible Gaming Education Week highlights the many steps necessary to keep gambling transparent and to help industry staff to recognize and intervene with gamblers who may be playing out of control. Ohio's ORG group and many community partners work closely with most of the state's gaming industry to promote positive play and to mitigate negative consequences.

To learn more about Responsible Gaming Education Week, check out this [infographic](#). Ohio's gaming industry employees and management undergo ongoing, consistent training and are empowered with up-to-date knowledge and tools to ensure that responsible gaming is top of mind for patrons.

Bobbie Boyer, deputy director of the OhioMHAS Office of Prevention Services, explained, "The most recent Ohio Gambling Survey shows 1 of 10 Ohio adults at-risk of problem gambling, and young adults, especially males ages 18-24, are at the highest risk for negative gambling consequences. Any education in the community that helps Ohioans become more aware of this issue is positive for our families."

The ORG partners want to make sure that if someone gambles, he/she gambles responsibly. Consider these questions:

- Have you ever bet more than you could afford to lose?
- When you gambled, did you go back another day to try to win back the money you lost?
- Have you ever borrowed money or sold anything to get money to gamble or pay bills?
- Have you felt that you might have a problem with gambling or felt guilty about gambling?

To learn more or get help for yourself or a loved one, visit [www.beforeyoubet.org](http://www.beforeyoubet.org), webchat with a counselor, or talk to the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966. To text with someone who cares, text "4hope" to 741-741.

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