



Problem Gambling and Other Addictions Grant Fund Overview and Update

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services is responsible for administering the Problem Gambling and Other Addictions Grant Fund (PGOAF). This fund, created by the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act, is designed to support all addiction programs.

Key Questions:

- **Why pay for addiction services with state casino revenues?** The state made the decision to use some of the state casino revenues to enhance the funding for addiction services. State statute allows for this money to be used to fund “other addictions”. Research has shown that most problem gamblers have a co-occurring disorder and so it makes sense to look at this issue from a broad perspective.
- **What linkage are you referring to between problem gambling and other addictions?** According to survey results from the *National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions*, three-quarters of pathological gamblers had an alcohol use disorder (73.2%), 38.1% had a drug use disorder and 60.4 % had nicotine dependence.

According to the *Kansas Problem Gambling Treatment Enrollment Survey for FY 2013*, of the 118 Kansans who enrolled in treatment for problem gambling issues, nearly half (45%) said they also struggled with substance use issues. Of those who said they had substance use issues, 63% cited alcohol as their primary substance, while smaller percentages cited other drugs such as cocaine, marijuana or methamphetamine. Twenty-five individuals (21%) said they had been treated for substance use problems previously.

- **How is the State of Kansas working to integrate problem gambling and addictions efforts?** The state’s goal is to reduce gambling-related harm in Kansas and integrate mental health and addiction services by increasing the capacity of all Kansas Behavioral Health Services-funded programs to address gambling and problem gambling through enhanced screening, assessment, awareness, intervention, recovery and health promotion strategies.

The Impact of Addictions in Kansas:

- 8.2% of Kansans aged 12 years or older and 20.7% of Kansans aged 18-25 years old meet the criteria for alcohol dependence or abuse.
- The **Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services** estimates that 38% of individuals entering the state hospital system have a substance use co-occurring disorder.
- The **Department of Corrections** estimates that 66% of offenders self-report substance abuse; 33% are diagnosed with addictions or dependence to substances.
- The **Department of Children and Families** reports that 19% of children whom the state removed from their homes were removed because at least one of their parents had addiction problems.
- The *Communities that Care Survey on substance use and other social behaviors*, reports that 10.61% of Kansas youth in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 reported taking five or more consecutive drinks on at least one occasion in the two weeks prior to completing the 2012-2013 school year survey.