

Problem gambling treatment

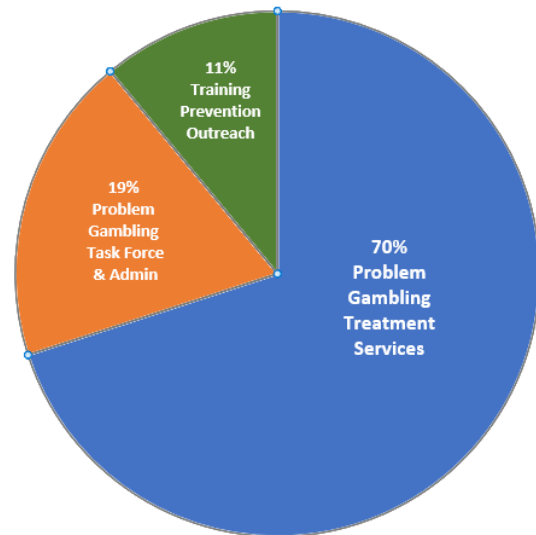
The State Problem Gambling Program provides gap treatment reimbursement funding for eligible individuals and family members seeking clinical treatment for problem gambling and Gambling Disorder (DSM-5). In addition, the program funds training for Certified Gambling Counselors and other clinicians, and supports prevention, awareness, outreach, and education activities across WA State.

- Contracts with 11 certified problem gambling treatment providers and agencies to increase access to quality care
- Coordinates problem gambling prevention and outreach activities with the HCA Prevention Unit and external stakeholders. Creates & distributes educational and outreach materials
- Provides online information and materials to increase referrals to the WA State Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-547-6133). The Helpline assists individuals and families with referrals to treatment providers and crisis stabilization
- Contracts with the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling for:
 - Awareness campaigns, including Problem Gambling Awareness Month (March) with a focus annually on specific populations at higher risk for problem gambling (examples: Veterans, Older Adults, Youth, etc.).
 - Trainings and certification for Problem Gambling Counselors and other professionals
 - Additional special projects as needed

¹ Does not include \$500,000 that was appropriated for an Adult Problem Gambling Prevalence study (including study, appropriation amount is \$2.1 M in 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget)

2021-2023 budget

In the 2021-2023 Biennium, the State Problem Gambling Program was allocated \$1.613 million from the state problem gambling account. This funding was budgeted as follows:¹



Assessment and treatment

For SFY 2023, the Program reimbursed \$469,192 in total to contracted problem gambling treatment providers for assessment, treatment, case management, and clinical supervision.

Client cases

In total, the Program reimbursed contracted treatment providers for assessment and treatment for 277 adult client cases (does not include clinical supervision):²

- 136 clients were newly assessed, with a 79% admittance rate:
 - 115 admitted to outpatient treatment
 - 21 did not enter treatment
- 175 clients received treatment only
- Average cost per client case was \$1775 (excluding assessment-only cases)

²This represents 251 distinct adult clients, as some clients had more than one 'client case' (this occurs when a client has ended treatment and returned later within the same reporting period which required that they be re-assessed followed by treatment).

Treatment services provided by encounter

In total, the Program reimbursed contracted treatment providers for 6,315 separate services (does not include clinical supervision):

- 138 assessments (new and returning clients)
- 5234 individual/conjoint/family sessions
- 393 group sessions
- 550 case management sessions

Program eligibility requirements

Individuals seeking clinical treatment for problem gambling/gambling disorder are eligible to receive state-funded treatment if they meet the following criteria:

- Assessed for problem gambling and clinician has determined client meets criteria for problem gambling/Gambling Disorder (DSM-5)
- Ready to enter treatment with a Certified Gambling Counselor, and the clinical assessment confirms they are likely to benefit from treatment
- Unable to afford treatment (do not have insurance coverage for problem gambling treatment (Medicaid recipients eligible))

Treatment for problem gambling includes clinical assessment, and individual, group, couples, and family counseling and case management. Family members (with or without the client) are also eligible to receive counseling services (no assessment required). Note: Treatment is available only to the extent of the funds appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose.

Reimbursement rates

Certified problem gambling agencies that have contracts with HCA are reimbursed at the following fee-for-service rates:

\$160 per assessment, \$80 per hour per individual/conjoint/family treatment, \$35 per session for group treatment, and \$20 per 15 minutes for case management. Clinical supervision is reimbursed at \$75 per hour, per counselor.

Note: Rates increasing in January 2024.

Program funding

The problem gambling account received a percentage (0.13%) of business & occupation tax on the net receipts from industry card rooms, pull tabs, and other games of chance. The WALottery and the WA State Horse Racing Commission contribute the same percentage. Funds are directed to the state problem gambling account, which is the source of appropriations to the State Problem Gambling Program. Additional voluntary contributions may be directed to the problem gambling account, per RCW 43.20A.890.

Beginning 7/2023, this percentage will rise to 0.2% for SFY 2024, then 0.26% for SFY 2025.

Authority

Revised Code of Washington 43.20A.890, and Washington Administrative Codes 246-341-1200. Problem gambling program established by RCW 41.05.750; problem gambling account established by RCW 41.05.751. WAC 182-100-0100 defines the scope of the State Problem Gambling Program under the Health Care Authority, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.

Partners

- WA State Gambling Commission
- WA Indian Gaming Association
- State Lottery & Horse Racing Commissions
- Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling
- Behavioral Health Advisory Council/DBHR
- The Recovery Café (Seattle) & reSTART Life
- National Council on Problem Gambling

Program contract monitoring

Contract monitoring for treatment provider agencies includes onsite visits (on hold in SFYs 2020-2023 due to pandemic, resumed Fall 2023) and invoice review and approval.

For more information

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www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-and-supports/behavioral-health-recovery/problem-gambling