



News Release

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ADG Awards \$68,000 Grant in Landmark Problem Gambling Prevention Program Targeting Arizona's Youth

Phoenix – Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) officials announced today a first-ever grant award aimed at preventing problem gambling behaviors and associated risks in youth (13 to 25 years of age). ADG's Division of Problem Gambling (DPG) awarded Onward Hope, Inc. with a grant of \$68,252. The DPG grant will augment Onward Hope, Inc.'s existing programs with evidenced-based strategies providing Arizona's youth with facts about gambling and its related risks.

Arizona's most recent bi-annual youth survey (2018), coordinated by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, reported that 27.2 percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Maricopa County alone had placed a bet or gambled in the past year.

"A key component of our mission to foster social responsibility in gaming, the new Problem Gambling Prevention Grant Program is designed to strengthen our Division of Problem Gambling's prevention resource network, and help stop problem gambling behaviors before they start," said Ted Vogt, Director, ADG.

"We are so grateful to partner with the Arizona Department of Gaming Division of Problem Gambling in this groundbreaking work to provide this new curriculum to our youth and young adult groups," said Eshawn Petersen, Founder, President & CEO, Onward Hope, Inc. "It's vital that we assist our youth in not only building resiliency, but also the capacity to recognize and understand how gaming and gambling can affect their lives. We are especially pleased that the grant will also help fund Camp 1 Promise, our resiliency camp for teens in foster care."

"We look forward to forging new territory with our first grant partner in our commitment to educate and protect Arizona youth," said Elise Mikkelsen, DPG Manager.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 5-601.02(H)(3)(a)(ii), of the monies tribes deposit into the Arizona Benefits Fund, ADG receives 2 percent to fund state and local programs for the prevention and treatment of, and education concerning, problem gambling. DPG announced its Problem Gambling Prevention Grant Program in March 2019, which made \$250,000 in funding available to qualified individuals, non-profit organizations, and State, county, local, and tribal agencies in Arizona.

Learn more about the grant recipient: Onward Hope, Inc. (<https://onwardhope.org/>).

About ADG – Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [racing and pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT-STEP.

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