



News Release

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The Arizona Department of Gaming, Arizona Lottery, and the National Council of Problem Gambling Recognize March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Gaming (“ADG”), Division of Problem Gambling (“DPG”), in collaboration with the National Council of Problem Gambling (“NCPG”), recognizes March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. 2025 marks the 22nd anniversary of Problem Gambling Awareness Month. The theme of this year’s campaign, “Seeking Understanding,” focuses on increasing awareness of problem gambling as a serious but often misunderstood mental health condition. The campaign seeks to foster greater awareness and empathy, break down barriers to treatment, and provide support for individuals and families impacted by gambling-related harm.

“Problem gambling is a serious issue that impacts thousands of Arizonans, including families and young people,” **said Governor Katie Hobbs**. “As Governor, I am committed to raising awareness and ensuring that those struggling with problem gambling have access to the resources and support they need.”

Problem gambling, defined as gambling behaviors that disrupt or damage personal, family, or professional lives, affects millions of Americans. Nationally, approximately 2.5 million U.S. adults meet the criteria for a severe gambling problem, with an additional 5 to 8 million individuals experiencing mild to moderate gambling problems.¹

In fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), Arizona’s Division of Problem Gambling provided 3 trainings for clinical providers and connected 992 people across the state to treatment. In the same period, DPG provided \$1.3 million to support treatment of individuals affected by problem gambling. This past fiscal year, DPG continued to work with Arizona stakeholders to implement its self-exclusion program for event wagering & fantasy sports (“EWFS”), which allows those who may struggle with gambling to exclude themselves from these games statewide. DPG self-exclusion staff work with tribal gaming facilities and EWFS operators on a daily basis to update the patron self-exclusion list. In FY2024, this resulted in a total of 519 self-exclusions enrolled, bringing the total in Arizona to 2,230.

Today, DPG hosted the 17th Annual Symposium on Problem Gambling in Phoenix, Arizona, with the theme: “Envisioning the Future: A Comprehensive Approach from History to Innovation.”

¹ FAQs: *What is Problem Gambling?*, The National Council on Problem Gambling, <https://www.ncpgambling.org/help-treatment/faqs-what-is-problem-gambling/#:~:text=2.5%20million%20U.S.%20adults%20%281,population%20as%20of%20December%202023> (last visited Feb. 26, 2025).

“Bringing together innovators, leaders, and decision-makers face-to-face is vital to fostering meaningful dialogue and driving impactful change,” said Jackie Johnson, ADG Director. “Our annual DPG Symposium is designed to facilitate discussions, share best practices, and cultivate strategic collaborations. These are key elements in advancing DPG’s mission to provide effective problem gambling prevention, treatment, and education programs as part of the Department’s broader efforts to mitigate gambling-related harms.”

“We are deeply grateful to Governor Katie Hobbs for once again proclaiming March as Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Month,” said Elise Mikkelsen, Director of the Division of Problem Gambling. “We recognize that disparities in access to services and treatment outcomes continue to impact historically underrepresented communities, and we want every Arizonan to know—they are not alone. Through DPG’s free, 24/7 confidential helpline and online resources, individuals across the state can take the first step toward getting the support they need.”

“The Arizona Lottery is dedicated to supporting initiatives that alleviate problem gambling as an addition that can impact individuals from all walks of life,” said Arizona Lottery Executive Director Alec Thomson. “That’s why we remain committed to promoting responsible gaming by increasing awareness of problem gambling, recognizing its warning signs, and ensuring that vital resources are available to those in need.” The Arizona Lottery has contributed \$6 million to ADG to support statewide problem gambling prevention, treatment, and education programs.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, DPG urges you to get help now by calling 1-800-NEXT-STEP (1.800.639.8783), DPG’s confidential helpline, texting “NEXTSTEP” to 53342, or utilizing a chat feature on the DPG website. DPG’s helpline provides confidentiality and connects callers with a master’s level counselor who can connect them with available resources, including statewide treatment providers who specialize in problem gambling. The helpline is available 24/7 to everyone facing a problem with gambling – individuals and affected family members, friends, or co-workers. Learn more and access DPG resources: problemgambling.az.gov.

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](#), [event wagering/fantasy sports](#) 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.

About the Arizona Lottery

Since 1981, the Arizona Lottery and its retail partners have generated more than \$5.6 billion in net funding to support programs that help to improve the quality of life for the people of Arizona. Proceeds from Lottery ticket sales fund programs in higher education, economic development, environmental conservation, and health and human services. The mission of the Lottery is to support

Arizona programs for the public benefit by maximizing net revenue in a responsible manner. Learn more at ArizonaLottery.com.

About the National Council on Problem Gambling

NCPG is the national advocate for people and families affected by problem gambling. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gambling. For information on NCPG's 39th National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling: <https://ncpgconference.org/>.

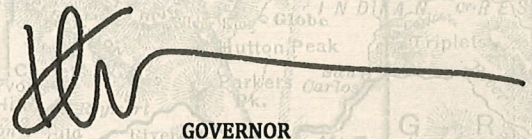
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Proclamation

WHEREAS, many forms of legalized gaming exist in Arizona, including the Arizona Lottery, Indian gaming, racing pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering, bingo, event wagering, fantasy sports, charitable gaming, amusement gambling, and social gambling; and
WHEREAS, Arizona Indian gaming provides substantial funds to support problem gambling programs throughout the State; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 2 percent of adults and 5 percent of youth in Arizona have a problem with gambling and adults who seek problem gambling treatment often report gambling from an early age; and
WHEREAS, the Arizona Department of Gaming 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; and
WHEREAS, since 1998, the State of Arizona has had a formal statewide responsible gambling program; and
WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling and the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators have declared the month of March as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and
WHEREAS, through education and programming, potential, and existing gambling-related problems can be addressed by individuals, organizations, and state and tribal governments.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as

ARIZONA PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-seventh day of January in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Ninth.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

