



**Colorado Department of Human Services
Division of Behavioral Health**

**House Bill 08-1314
Problem Gambling/Gambling Addiction
Grant Report**

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Introduction

House Bill 08-1314 was created by the General Assembly concerning the use of moneys in the Local Government Limited Gaming Impact Fund to provide gambling addiction counseling to Colorado residents. House Bill 08-1314 requires the Department of Human Services (Department) to submit a report to the Health and Human Services Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, or their successor committees, regarding the Gambling Addiction Grant Program. The Division of Behavioral Health (Division) is responsible for administering this program for the Department.

The Department believes that the Problem Gambling/Gambling Addiction issue fits within its mission and goals as the federally designated single state authority for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. Many other states have also structurally located Problem Gambling/Gambling Addiction within their behavioral health authority.

Implementation

The intent of House Bill 08-1314 is to address the issue of problem gambling and gambling addiction in Colorado. House Bill 08-1314 creates a program to train counselors, and make prevention/education and treatment services available to problem gamblers. House Bill 08-1314 outlined a grants administration program similar to that housed in the Department of Local Affairs; however, during the 2008 legislative session the program was moved from the Department of Local Affairs to the Department of Human Services.

The Department determined that the most efficient and effective method to achieve the legislative intent was to subcontract the administration of the program. The Department issued a "Request for Proposal" to create a community-based Center of Excellence, through which counselors receive free training and supervision in problem gambling counseling. Once trained, counselors can apply for grant dollars to be reimbursed for delivered treatment services.

Reporting requirements of House Bill 08-1314 (Section 12-47.1-1601 (II) C.R.S.)

(A) The amount of moneys allocated to the gambling addictions account.

FY 2010-11 the amount of moneys allocated to the gambling addiction account was \$77,391.

FY 2011-12 the estimated amount to be allocated is \$72,016.

(B) The number of grant applications received and the total amount of grant moneys requested by grant applicants.

FY 2010-11 one grant in the amount of \$71,129 was awarded to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver after a competitive bid process. The Department's contract with the Center of Excellence requires the Center to provide: 1) 30 hours of no cost (free) training to meet the content required for trainees to become approved gambling counselors; 2) a statewide annual, no cost (free) conference that focuses on topics relevant to problem gambling in Colorado to meet the continuing education requirement for counselors; 3) supervision of counselors in training by providing twice monthly supervision sessions; 4)

gambling counseling services through reimbursement to problem gambling service providers; and 5) a database that tracks all program requirements.

In 2010-11 training was provided to 75 counselors, and direct counseling services were provided to 40 clients.

FY 2011-12 the amount to be allocated \$68,367 awarded to the Center of Excellence and the University of Denver after a competitive bid process.

(C) The total amount of moneys in the gambling addiction account that was awarded as grants to applicants.

FY 2010-11 the total amount awarded to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver was \$71,129.

FY 2010-11 the total amount awarded to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver was \$68,367.

(D) The entities or programs that received grants and the amount of moneys each grant recipient received.

FY 2010-11 one grant in the amount of \$71,129 was contracted to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver. The Center of Excellence provides services such as education and treatment for problem gamblers, training of problem gambling counselors; supervision of counselors in training; and gathering, analyzing, and publishing research regarding the effectiveness of the programs.

FY 2010-11 one grant in the amount of \$68,367 was contracted to the Center of Excellence at the University of Denver.

Prevention – House Bill 08-1314 included the provision of prevention efforts concerning problem gambling/gambling addiction. The Department currently has a network of prevention providers equipped to facilitate problem gambling prevention efforts. The Department employs best practice prevention strategies such as information dissemination and education. The Department achieved the following:

- Participation in monthly statewide problem gambling stakeholder meetings;
- Researched and documented national trends in problem gambling prevention;
- Worked with the Colorado Lottery to provide resources and information statewide to the public on problem gambling.

Next Steps - The Department believes that gambling addiction issues are congruent with all addiction services within the Department's authority and oversight. The Department has made a concerted effort to bring together multiple stakeholders and their respective perspectives on problem gambling to construct a statewide strategic plan for problem gambling. The Department is committed to its ongoing work with stakeholders to further develop the comprehensive strategic plan to address the service needs of consumers with problem gambling/gambling addiction in order to ensure the best outcomes.