

Gambling Addiction Program Legislative Report

C.R.S. 44-30-1301(2)(b)(II)

Fiscal Year 2020

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Submitted January 1, 2021



COLORADO

Office of Behavioral Health

Department of Human Services

Introduction

The following report provides a brief overview on the Colorado Gambling Addiction Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) respectfully submits this FY 2019-20 report titled "Gambling Addiction Program Legislative Report" in compliance with Colorado Revised Statute 44-30-1301(2)(b)(II):

Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), by January 1, 2009, and by each January 1 thereafter, the department of human services shall submit a report to the health and human services committees of the senate and house of representatives, or their successor committees, regarding the grant program. The report shall detail the following information for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted:

- A. The amount of money allocated to the gambling addiction account pursuant to subsection (1) of this section;*
- B. The number of grant applications received and the total amount of grant money requested by grant applicants;*
- C. The total amount of money in the gambling addiction account that was awarded as grants to applicants; and*
- D. The entities or programs that received grants and the amount of grant money each grant recipient received.*

Gambling Addiction Program

A. Amount of money allocated to the gambling addiction account

In accordance with Senate Bill 18-191, \$100,000 was allocated to the gambling addiction account for Fiscal Year 2019-20 as follows:

- \$50,000 to the Department of Local Affairs to study and establish in policies and procedures what constitutes the documented expenses and costs; and
- \$50,000 to the Colorado Department of Human Services to develop a plan for a successful gambling addiction program in Colorado.

No funds were allocated for programmatic activities for FY 2019-20; the funds received by OBH were limited to planning. Senate Bill 18-191 was in statute as Section 44-30-1301(l)(b), C.R.S. but was removed through House Bill 20-1399; thus, this report cites the legislation for the appropriation and not statute.

B. Number of grant applications received and the total amount of grant money requested

With no funds allocated for FY 2019-20 for programmatic activities, there were no grant applications and therefore no applications or requested grant funds to be reported by the Department.

C. Total amount of money in the gambling addiction account that was awarded as grants

With no funds allocated for FY 2019-20 for programmatic activities, there were no funds awarded to grant applicants and therefore no funds to be reported by the Department.

D. Entities or programs that received grants

With no funds allocated for FY 2019-20 for programmatic activities, there were no grants and therefore no entities or programs to be reported by the Department.

Gambling Addiction Strategic Plan

Senate Bill 18-191 required that the Department study and establish a plan for a successful gambling addiction program by March 2020, specifically stating:

Fifty thousand dollars to the department of human services to develop a plan, by no later than March 1, 2020, for a successful gambling addiction program in Colorado. The development of this program must involve the study of the magnitude of the gambling addiction problem in Colorado, the documentation of the existing financial resources and infrastructure to help address gambling addiction in the state, the study of best practices in other states for successful gambling addiction programs, and the documentation of any gaps in existing financial resources and infrastructure in Colorado, including the review of the need for increased addiction counselors.

The Strategic Plan, available on the Colorado Department of Human Services website, outlines the Department's plans to spend new state funds available in the sports betting fund created in Section 44-30-1509, C.R.S. Through the sports betting fund, OBH intends to:

- Use \$100,000 for prevention, education, treatment and workforce development to run a problem gambling public awareness campaign to let problem gamblers and their loved ones

know that the crisis line is a resource for problem gambling. The money will also be used to support individuals to become certified as gambling counselors. OBH expects to divide the \$100,000 between the public awareness and workforce development efforts, which would enable OBH to pay for more than 40 individuals to become International Certified Gambling Counselors.

- Use \$30,000 for staffing and training for the crisis hotline specific to problem gambling, as directed by statute.

The money allocated to OBH in the sports betting fund is available to the extent the unexpended and unencumbered balance in the fund permits. OBH has not received funds for FY 2020-2021 at the time of this report.