



From Evaluation to Action: Scalable Lessons from Agility Grants

July 24, 2026

Presenters



Jo Sanchez

Grants and Development
Manager,
National Council on Problem
Gambling



Mackenzie Slade, MPH

Chief Executive Officer,
Gaming Public Policy Consulting



**Monique Tricarico, LMHC,
CASAC**

Program Supervisor and
Underage Gambling Prevention
Coordinator,
Student Assistance Services



**Cindy Clouner, MPH, LSW,
OCPS**

Managing Director,
Higher Education Center for
Alcohol and Drug Misuse
Prevention and Recovery

Session Agenda

- I. **Agility Grants Overview** – Jo Sanchez, National Council on Problem Gambling
- II. **Program Evaluation Findings: Identifying Scalable Prevention Practices** – Mackenzie Slade, Gaming Public Policy Consulting
- III. **Scaling Prevention Programming in Practice** – Monique Tricarico, Student Assistance Services
- IV. **Building a Scalable Prevention Program** – Cindy Clouner, Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery
- V. **Applying for an Agility Grant**
- VI. **Questions**

About Agility Grants

- Offers funding to nonprofits, empowering them to implement and expand problem gambling prevention programs in their communities.
- First-ever program to offer grants nationwide in problem gambling prevention.
- Made possible with funding from the NFL via the NFL Foundation.
- More than \$1.8 million in funding support has been granted since 2022

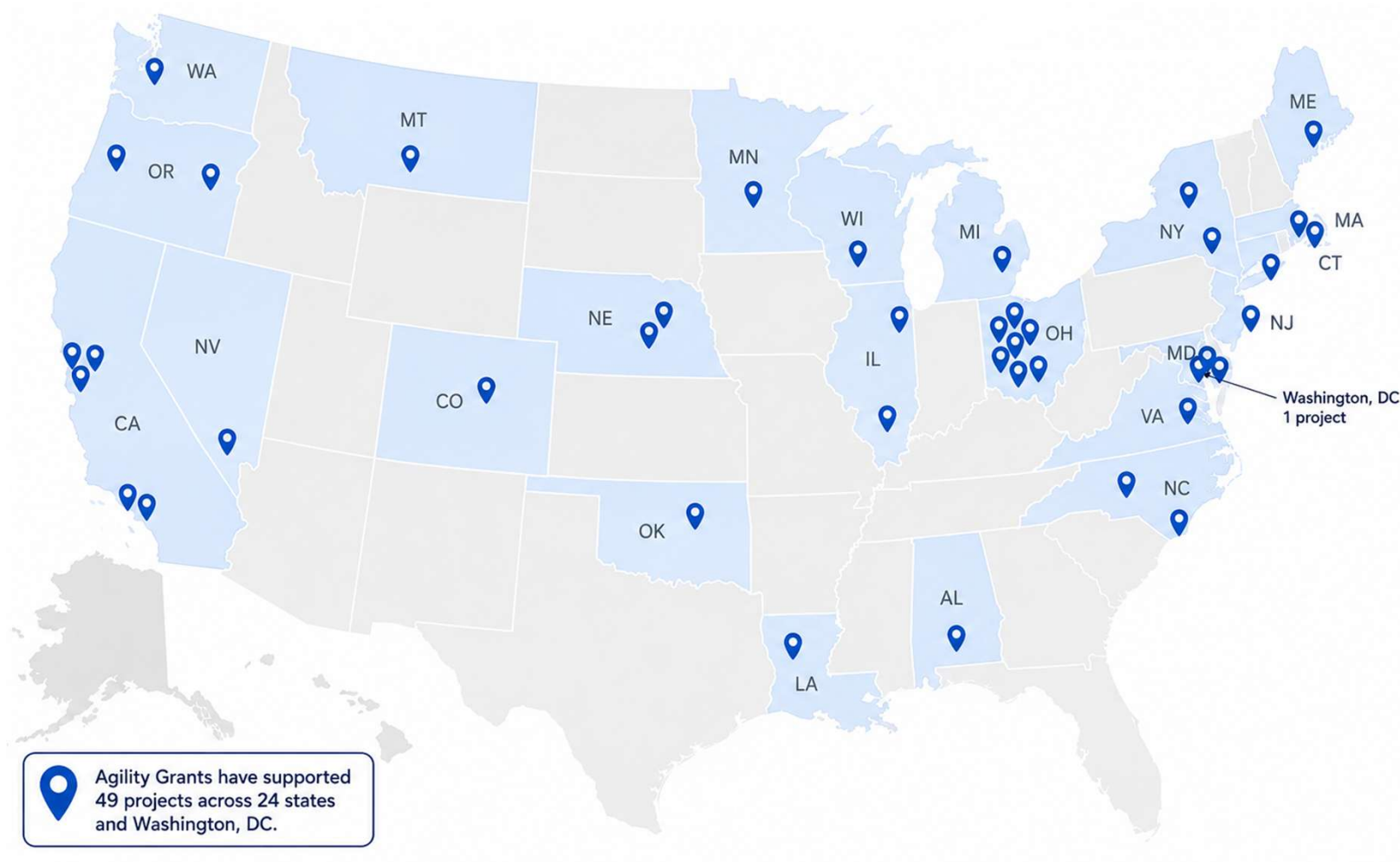


NCPGambling.org/agility

Agility Grants Program Goals

- Prevent and reduce gambling harm in young people by supporting effective, tailored problem gambling prevention education initiatives created and implemented by nonprofits that live and serve in their local communities.
- Support projects in communities that have previously had no problem gambling prevention services, or expand services to new populations in communities that have effective but small services.
- Amplify the voices and leadership of people from historically underrepresented communities, where gambling harms are often more prevalent.

Geographic Scope



Agility Grants Program Evaluation

NCPG commissioned an external evaluation in March 2025 to:

- 1** Assess the collective impact of Phase 1 Agility Grant funded projects (2022–2024)
- 2** Identify problem gambling prevention practices that are effective, sustainable, and scalable
- 3** Inform future grant-making strategies and program design



Mackenzie Slade, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Agility Grant Program Evaluation

Evaluating the Plausible Impact of the Agility Grant Program, Areas of Improvement, and Concepts for Scalability and Replicability

Project Overview

Objectives

- Assess the impact of the Agility Grant program (2022–2024), including key successes, gaps, challenges, and scalable strategies to strengthen future problem gambling prevention efforts.
- Identify effective, data-informed, and culturally responsive prevention strategies across the Agility Grant portfolio with potential to strengthen and sustain national problem gambling prevention efforts.
- Disseminate evaluation findings through a final report and presentation at the 2026 National Conference to support learning across the problem gambling prevention field.

Methodology



Materials Review

Reviewed 17 grantee applications and impact reports from the first 3 funding years.



Logic Model Development

Converted grantee application materials into uniform grantee profiles for evaluation.



Fidelity Assessment

Assessed how well grantee outcomes matched their proposed activities and goals.



Qualitative Interviews

Interviewed grantees & stakeholders to better understand program design & implementation.



Plausible Outcomes Analysis

Synthesized quantitative & narrative data to estimate participant reach and outcomes.

Limitations

- First formal evaluation of the Agility Grant program
- Grant applications were designed for project selection, not scientific evaluation or standardized measurement
- Much of the available data was qualitative and required extensive organization and cleaning
- Analysis involved analyst interpretation, subjectivity, and inference
- Findings should be considered quasi-scientific, combining structured evaluation methods with subject matter expertise in grant administration, evaluation science, and public health

Fidelity Assessment - Key Insights

- Applications and impact forms were not necessarily designed to function as strong monitoring or evaluation tools, leading to inconsistent reporting and incomplete data collection
- Many grantees were implementing complex prevention initiatives with limited evaluation and logic model development resources
- Grantees often proposed broad, multi-component projects, creating challenges in clearly defining goals, target populations, outcomes, and evaluation approaches
- Findings suggest an opportunity for stronger technical assistance, clearer evaluation guidance, and more structured reporting requirements throughout the grant process

Qualitative Interviews - Key Insights

Grantee Interviews

- Organizational capacity, especially with outreach and evaluation, were frequently overestimated.
- Evaluation capacity was another area where initial confidence exceeded available resources.
- School access and timing are frequently reported major implementation barriers.
- **Grantees identified funding and standardized tools as necessary structural support from NCPG to support the sustainability and scalability of their programs**

NCPG Stakeholder Interviews

- NCPG stakeholders describe a need for better clarity and alignment between the vision and strategic goals of the Agility Grant program and NCPG's organizational mission.
- **Despite these challenges, stakeholders agreed that the Agility Grant program represents one of NCPG's most impactful prevention initiatives.**
- Limited staffing is likely to be constraining the program's impact.
- There exists an opportunity for the evaluation and data systems to be less fragmented and more developed.
- The distinction between Innovation and Amplification tracks may be creating confusion and limiting program coherence.

Plausible Outcomes - Key Insights

- ▶ Quantitative and qualitative impact form data were reviewed to estimate participant reach across multiple engagement types, including: in-person education and training, social media and online campaigns, offline outreach materials, and radio exposure
- ▶ Evidence from gambling prevention and public health literature was used to apply conservative “effective exposure” assumptions across engagement types

2.9m +

**Estimated Individuals
Reached**

91k-254k

**Estimated Individuals
Meaningfully Exposed**

3,000-7,000

**Est. individuals exposed through
projects reduced their gambling
participation within a 3-month window**

Agility Grant Program Notable Successes

- The Agility Grant Program facilitates entrance into problem gambling prevention and a multidisciplinary approach
- The Agility Grant Program prioritizes diverse populations and culturally informed efforts
- The Agility Grant Program embeds grant projects in the community

Scalability & Replicability

Rather than identifying single projects for replication or expansion, the evaluation focused on scalable and replicable “kernels,” or individual project components that demonstrated strong potential for broader implementation

Scalability

- Working with community leaders to reach culturally diverse populations
- Collaboration with SAMHSA prevention centers

Replicability

- School-based curriculum train-the-trainer models
- Universities collaborating with sports teams and official broadcasting

Recommendations...

- **Updated Application Forms with Logic Model Templates.** Implementing a logic model-based application framework could strengthen project planning, improve evaluation consistency, and support grantees in designing more measurable, evidence-informed prevention initiatives.
- **Updated Evaluation Forms and Instructions.** Redesigning impact reporting forms to align with the grant application logic model could improve reporting consistency, strengthen outcome measurement, and support continuous learning and program improvement across grantees.
- **Institute More Robust Monitoring and Accountability Procedures.** Implementing more structured and ongoing grantee monitoring, including regular check-ins, technical assistance, and review of public-facing materials, could strengthen data quality, support evaluation consistency, and promote evidence-based prevention practices across projects.
- **Standardizing Data Collection by Project Task.** Developing standardized evaluation tools and reporting templates tailored to different prevention activities could improve consistency, reduce reporting challenges, and strengthen NCPG's ability to measure collective impact across grant cohorts.
- **Prioritize Smaller Scope Projects with More Clearly Defined and Broader Reach.** Encouraging more focused, clearly defined project designs could improve feasibility, strengthen outcome measurement, and help identify prevention strategies with the greatest potential for scalability and impact.

Recommendations (Cont.)

- Institutionalize the Agility Grant program to be viewed as a core portfolio within the NCPG program division as opposed to an ancillary project. In doing this, NCPG would benefit from additional staffing and resource dedication to the grant program to serve as trained grant administrators.

To our knowledge, the Agility Grant remains the *only* current grant for community embedded problem gambling prevention programs in the country, and NCPG serves as one of the very few institutions with prevention expertise to be able to administer the program with corresponding technical assistance.

Based on our analysis, it is clear that there would be a return on investment in the form of prevention and/or reduction of gambling behaviors for any additional funding required to support this effort.



Monique Tricarico, LMHC, CASAC
Program Supervisor and Underage Gambling
Prevention Coordinator

Lessons Learned from two Agility Grants

Strategies for Building Sustainable Gambling Prevention

Monique Tricarico, LMHC, CASAC

Program Supervisor

Underage Gambling Prevention Coordinator

Student Assistance Services



The Hidden Hazards of Youth Gambling

- **Increase awareness** of the risks of underage gambling through education, marketing campaigns, and community outreach.
- **Integrate gambling prevention into existing school and community systems**, including Prevention Education, youth leadership programs, and parent education.
- **Develop youth-informed campaigns and resources** that address gambling myths, peak betting periods, and healthy decision-making.
- **Build community capacity** by training prevention professionals, engaging community leaders, strengthening policies, and expanding regional partnerships.
- **Create sustainable prevention tools** including educational videos, toolkits, interactive activities, and awareness campaigns that can be adapted across schools and communities.

Wednesday, March 6 7-8:30pm

Video Recording

vimeo

contact

KNOW2Prevent@gmail.com

for link password

TIP JAR



Event Fly

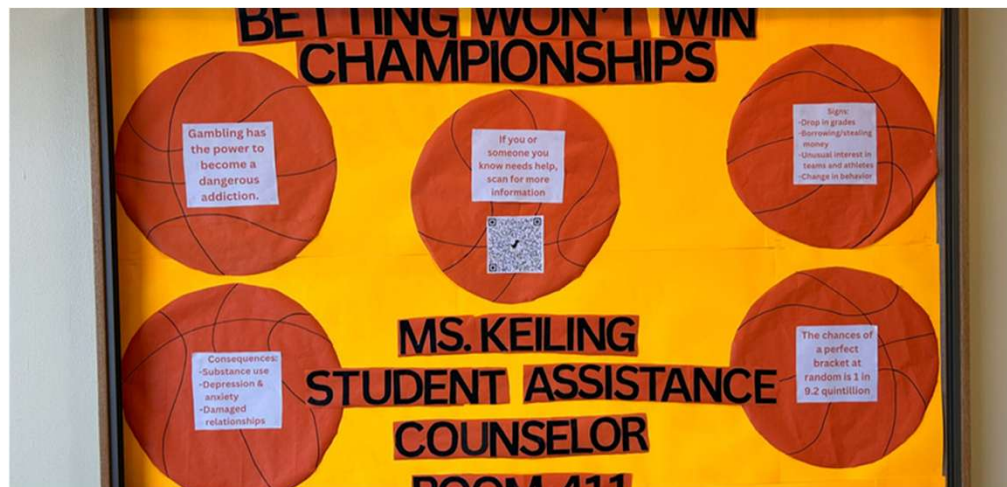


Marc Potenza, MD, PhD

Stephen M. Southwick Professor of Psychiatry,
Yale University School of Medicine

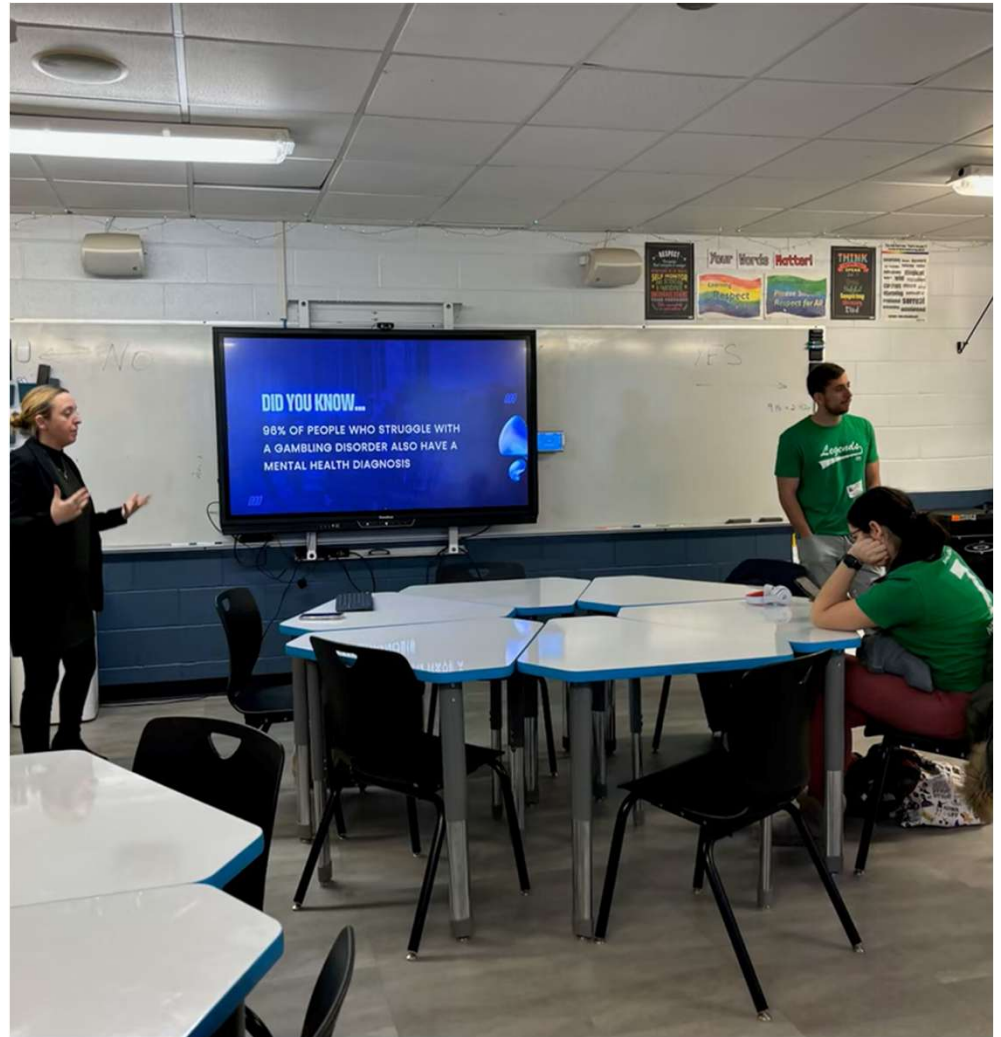
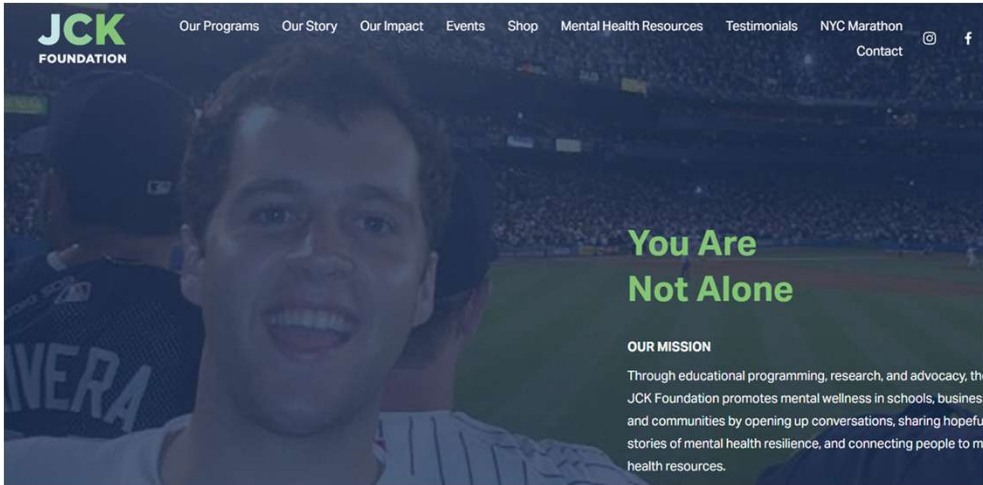
**Adolescents,
Sports Betting, & Gaming:
How much is too much?**

While many teens are involved in online games and 60% of high school students have gambled (primarily through sports betting), parents and caregivers are often unaware of the possible dangers. This presentation will help parents and other caring adults understand the scope of adolescent involvement in sports betting and gaming and the social and emotional impact on middle and high school aged students.



Wellness Wins: Gambling Prevention and Mental Health

- Increased awareness of the relationship between **gambling and mental health**
- Expanded **student leadership** in prevention efforts
- Strengthened **protective factors** and healthy decision-making
- Created **sustainable partnerships** to extend impact beyond the grant



Strategies

Leverage NCPG as a partner

Build on Existing Systems

Strategies

Identify A Champion

Strengthen Community
Partnerships

Strategies

Let Youth Guide Innovation

Create a Toolkit

Use Grant Momentum to Expand and
Sustain



Questions or Comments?

Contact information: M.Tricarico@sascorp.org

Higher Education Center

for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery

Cindy Clouner, MPH, LSW, OCPS
Managing Director

Higher Education Center
for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery

Building a Scalable Prevention Program

Cindy Clouner, MPH, LSW, OCPS

Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery

Powered by The Ohio State University

The Higher Education Center provides tools, training, and resources to professionals across the country working to address substance misuse and risky gambling behaviors among college students.



Join HECAOD's
Mailing List

Founding Partners:

College of Social Work

College of Pharmacy

Office of Student Life, Student Wellness

A RISKY WAGER

How Colleges and Sports-Betting Companies 'Caesarized' Campus Life



An advertisement promoted a betting app at Michigan State's football game against Ohio State on Oct. 8 in East Lansing, Mich. Stephen Speranza for The New York Times

In order to reap millions of dollars in fees, universities are partnering with betting companies to introduce their students and sports fans to online gambling.

By Anna Betts, Andrew Little, Elizabeth Sander, Alexandra Tremayne-Pengelly and
Walt Bogdanich

February 2023:

HECAOD's first gambling webinar

Spring 2023:

Collegiate Problem Gambling Workgroup formed

M. Dolores Cimini, PhD., University at Albany, SUNY

Jeffrey Derevensky, PhD., McGill University

Ryan DiMeglio, Rutgers University

Jennifer Farrell, OASAS, State of New York

Jon Gayer, PhD., University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Zachary Hitchens, Towson University

Kristina Latta-Landefeld, Envision Partnerships

Ty Lostutter, PhD., University of Washington

Brandon Mastromartino, PhD., San Diego State University

Lia Nower, Rutgers University

Jonah Neville, AOD Coalition Chair, ACHA

Claire Spada, Problem Gambling Network of Ohio

Katherine Spilde, Institute on Tribal Gaming, SDSU

Travis Sztainert, PhD, ICRG

Jeremiah Weinstock, PhD, Saint Louis University

Considerations for Higher Ed Environment

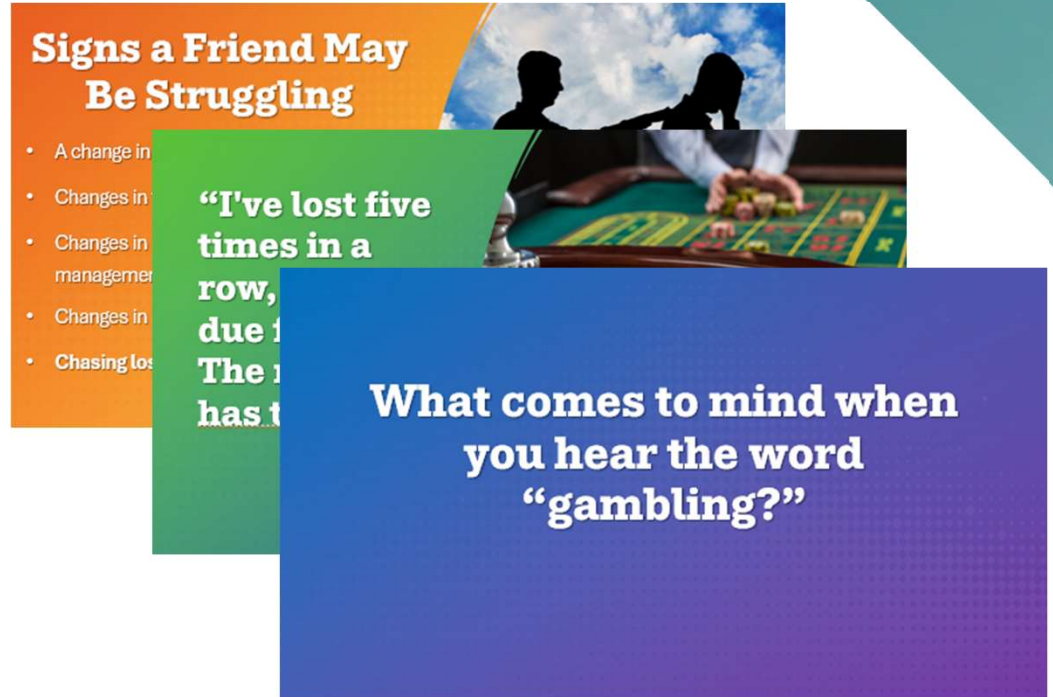
- Campus professionals have limited capacity
- Turnover is high in our field
- Our capacity is limited

Adaptations for Collegiate Audience

- The approach to prevention is different on campuses than what is often used in community settings
- Adjustments to language/guidelines
 - Gambling/Betting/Trading
 - Avoiding “problem gambling” language
 - Adjusting spending limits
- Focus on skill building

About You Bet?

- Developed through financial support from a National Council on Problem Gambling Agility Grant
- Designed to be a 45 minute, in-person student educational program
- Uses a gambling-neutral, motivational enhancement approach



You Bet? Content Areas

- Defining gambling, betting activities
- The good and not so good of betting
- Connections between motivations and risk of harm
- Media literacy, odds
- Cognitive distortions
- Risk reduction strategies
- Signs of gambling-related harm
- What to do if concerned about a friend
- Local, state, national resources

Be an Informed Consumer

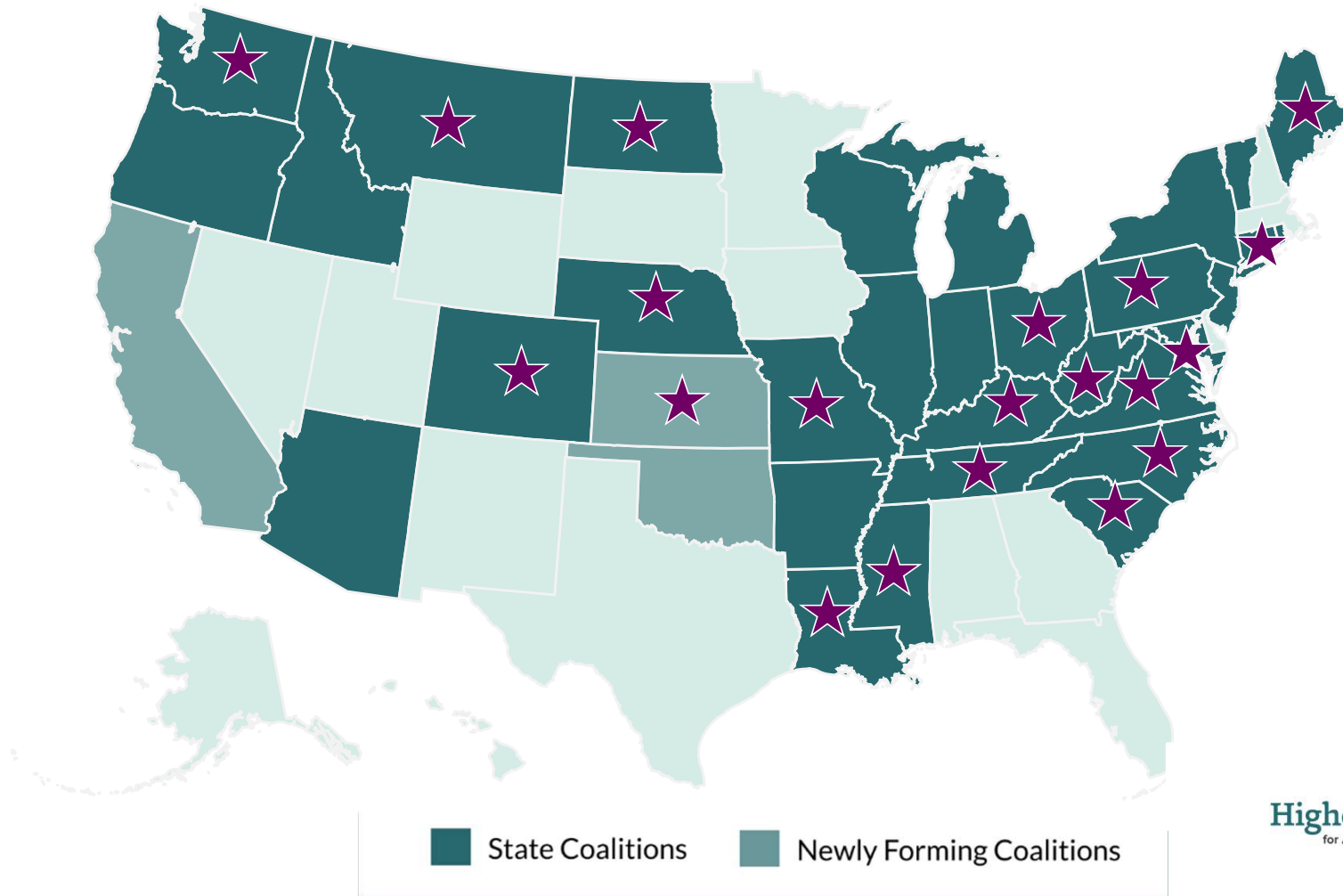
- Evaluate promotions critically
- Recognize fallacies in thinking
- Research the odds



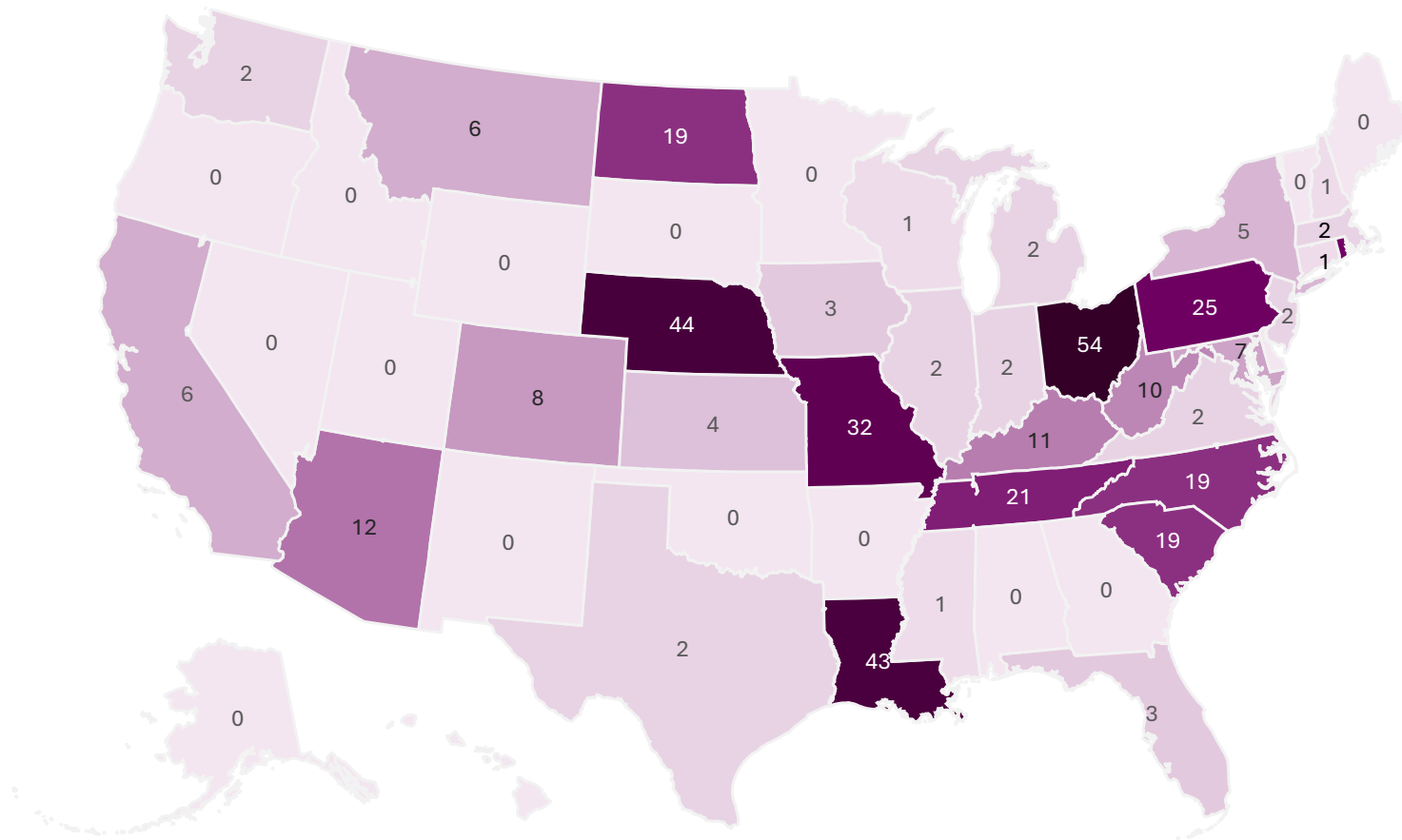
Strategies to Avoid the Not So Good Things From Betting

- ☒ Be an informed consumer of ads
- ☒ Set a budget
- ☒ Only bet with your own money
- ☒ Set a time limit
- ☒ Avoid betting when you're stressed, upset or trying to escape a problem
- ☒ Avoid betting when you're using alcohol or other drugs

National Consortium of State Coalitions



You Bet? Facilitators by State



Over 350
facilitators in
34 states
have been
trained.

Key Lessons Learned

- Critical to engage local experts
- Provide opportunities for feedback, improvement, and support
- Timeline was aggressive, important to be realistic with scope

Additional Gambling Resources

Scan for HECAOD's Gambling Related Resources



- Free webinar content
- Incorporating Gambling into Existing Efforts Worksheet
- Links to the additional resources

Higher Education Center

for Alcohol and Drug Misuse Prevention and Recovery

Connect with Us!



hecaod@osu.edu



hecaod.osu.edu



www.linkedin.com/company/hecaod

Cindy Clouner

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Agility Grants: Fall 2026 Now Open!

Who Can Apply?

- IRS registered, tax exempt, **501(c)(3)** organizations
- NCPG **Members AND Non-Members** are welcome to apply
- Organization and services must be **based in the United States**
- Organizations who did NOT submit an application in the Spring 2026 round
- Programs/projects focused on **Problem Gambling Prevention**
 - *Applications focused on treatment, recovery, responsible gambling, or other adjacent issues will not be considered*

Information and Resources

Grant Application Deadline: August 19, 2026, 11:59 pm ET



SCAN FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, FAQs, OFFICE HOURS & MORE!

Visit [NCPGambling.org/Agility](https://ncpgambling.org/Agility) for more information

- Program Information Webinar (recording)
- Office Hours
- Basics of Program Evaluation Webinar (recording)
- Program Evaluation Technical Assistance

Questions? Email grants@ncpgambling.org

