

Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator – Getting Started Guide

This guide has been developed in collaboration with Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinators who have shared their wisdom and experiences in what would be useful for you as you embark on your journey of providing problem gambling prevention services in your community.

The guide is not a required checklist but truly a guide to help support you in your new role. The guide is meant to be flexible, and you should consider the capacity of the program and needs of the community when determining the order and timeline for completing the activities with the exception of the required Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator Training Series that is required by contract to be completed within the first six months of starting your position. You may even find it beneficial to revisit the items below as your time in your position grows.

Review the [Problem Gambling Prevention Service Element AD 80](#) Problem Gambling contractual language to familiarize yourself with the program requirements.

Visit the Problem Gambling Prevention HUB and check out the resources available there. The PG Hub includes topics ranging from getting started, problem gambling 101, research and data, the Hub message board and much much more!

Check out the Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator Training Series located on the [Advanced Career Online Resource Network \(ACORN\)](#). These required trainings will help prepare you for getting started in your new role. There are additional training opportunities located on the ACORN site that will support your work in the community, many of which offer continuing education units (CEU).

Familiarize yourself with the previous problem gambling prevention documents and resources within your organization. Consider doing research on your own regarding problem gambling and emerging trends.

Learn about the [Community Readiness Model \(CRM\)](#) and how the assessment will guide your prevention efforts and strategies. Oregon Problem Gambling Services (PGS) utilizes the CRM as our long-term outcome measure tool and provides the [Community Readiness Assessment Training Manual: A Tool for Measuring Community Readiness in Addressing Problem Gambling as a resource](#).

Review the most recent Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) that was completed for your community. Consider developing a list of questions for a check in with the OHA PGS Prevention Specialist and/or your internal team.

Learn about the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) by reviewing [A Guide to SAMHSA'S Strategic Prevention Framework](#) and how to utilize the SPF to support effective community level planning for your problem gambling prevention program.

Review the current approved Problem Gambling Prevention Plan and past quarterly reports. Consider developing a list of questions for a check in with the OHA PGS Prevention Specialist and/or your internal team.

Share the Getting Started Guide with your supervisor.

Take some time to listen to podcasts and stories from individuals who have experienced gambling related harms or been impacted by someone's gambling behaviors. To help you get started we have provided a couple of resources on the [Oregon Problem Gambling Resources](#) website in the "What to expect section and the PG Hub Prevention Foundation Section.

Introduce yourself and your role within the community (coalitions, community groups etc.). Consider setting up 1:1 quick meeting with community partners to learn more about what they do and share about your role.

Reach out and request to schedule a meeting with the [OHA PGS Prevention Specialist](#). This will be a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with the OHA Problem Gambling Services System, resources and partners.

Explore the [Impacts of Problem Gambling on Public Health Resource Booklet](#). Additional data resources can be found on the PG Hub and [OHA PGS website](#). Please note that though there has been an increase in problem gambling specific data in recent years, problem gambling is not yet a data rich field. You will find that some sources may be older but is currently the data available in that area. The Oregon Council on Problem Gambling has a Research Center engaged in research projects to support our work here in Oregon. Conduct data searches on your own and keep an eye out for new data to share with the PG Hub Content & Comment Form!

Learn more about shared risk and protective factors visit the PG Hub. Consider the information from the [Impacts of Problem Gambling on Public Health Resource Booklet](#) and explore opportunities to weave problem gambling information into shared risk and protective factors.

Become acquainted with the [Core Competencies for Problem Gambling Prevention Professionals](#) and explore what potential goals you would set for your professional development.

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<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Problem-Gambling/Pages/index.aspx>

