



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING**  
Advancing Research, Education and Awareness

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:**

**NCRG CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN GAMBLING RESEARCH**

**Deadline for Letters of Intent: March 1, 2012**

**Application Deadline: July 2, 2012**

**National Center for Responsible  
Gaming**

The **National Center for Responsible Gaming** (NCRG) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has served as the only national, private funder of scientific research on gambling disorders in the United States since 1996. (For a list of grants supported by the NCRG since 1996, go to [www.ncrg.org](http://www.ncrg.org).) The NCRG awards grants on a competitive basis under the leadership of the **Scientific Advisory Board**. Composed of leading independent scientists with expertise in addiction and related topics, the Scientific Advisory Board plays a vital role by ensuring the NCRG follows rigorous standards in awarding grants for only the highest quality research proposals. The following is the current roster of members:

*Chair*

**Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
Dean's Professor of Epidemiology  
University of Florida

*Board Members*

**Jeff Derevensky, Ph.D.**

Professor of Applied/Child Psychology  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Co-Director, International Centre for Youth  
Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors  
McGill University

**Mark S. Gold, M.D.**

Donald Dizney Eminent Scholar,  
Distinguished Professor and Chair of  
Psychiatry  
University of Florida College of Medicine

**Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, J.D., M.P.A.**

Associate Professor of American Indian  
Studies  
University of Arizona

**Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D.**

Professor of Psychiatry  
Boston University School of Medicine

**David Takeuchi, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean for Research and Professor of  
Sociology  
University of Washington

**Charles Wellford, Ph.D.**

Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
University of Maryland

**Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.**

Professor of Psychiatry

Director, Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research  
University of Minnesota

**Harold Wynne, Ph.D.**  
President  
Wynne Resources, Ltd.

### **Available Funding**

Applicants may request up to a total of \$350,000 in direct costs for a period not to exceed 3 years. The NCRG expects to award two Centers of Excellence in 2012.

### **Purpose of the Centers of Excellence Grants**

The purpose of the Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research Grants program is to (1) advance the understanding of gambling disorders through innovative, multi-disciplinary research investigations; and (2) enhance the dissemination of research findings to the public. The center grants are intended to provide funding for a stable, long-term institutional focus on a complex set of gambling-related problems requiring an innovative, multi-disciplinary approach. Recipients are expected to provide leadership in the field by (1) conducting cutting-edge investigations of gambling-related disorders; (2) translating research findings for non-academic audiences; and (3) cultivating the next generation of gambling researchers by mentoring young investigators. Investigative efforts should be broadly based, encompassing a variety of areas, including

biological, biomedical, social, behavioral, and/or clinical sciences.

### **Funding Priorities**

The proposed research investigation may focus on a broad range of research that develops and tests psychosocial or pharmacological approaches for prevention, intervention, treatment or relapse prevention of gambling disorders.

The NCRG is especially interested in brief interventions targeted at underrepresented populations, such as minorities, young adults and persons with subclinical gambling disorders.

Other priorities include the following topics:

- Impact of Indian gaming
- Gambling and minorities
- Secondary data analysis
- Technology and gambling

### **Eligibility**

Both public and private nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. Profit-making organizations should contact Christine Reilly ([creilly@ncrg.org](mailto:creilly@ncrg.org)). Foreign institutions are required to collaborate with a U.S. institution. Applications involving a non-U.S. institution must have a principal investigator and fiscal agent based at a U.S. institution.

## Review Process and Criteria

The NCRG seeks proposals of high scientific merit from investigators who show promise of disseminating their work at high-impact conferences and in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

An appropriate scientific review group convened in accordance with the standard NCRG peer review procedures, modeled on those of the National Institutes of Health, will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit.

As part of the initial merit review, all applications:

- May undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific merit, generally the top half of applications under review, will be discussed and assigned a priority score.
- Will receive a written critique.
- Will receive a second level of review by the Scientific Advisory Board.

The peer review panel will evaluate proposals according to the following criteria, adopted from the National Institutes of Health:

1. **Significance.** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods,

technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field?

2. **Investigator(s).** Are the Principal Investigator (PI), collaborators and other researchers well suited to the project? If the project is collaborative, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

3. **Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions proposed?

4. **Approach.** Are the overall strategy, methodology and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success presented? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for protection of human subjects from research risks justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

5. **Environment.** Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations or collaborative arrangements?

#### **Additional Review Criteria**

In addition to the above criteria, the following items will be considered in the determination of scientific merit and the priority score:

- **Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risk:** The involvement of human subjects and protections from research risk relating to their participation in the proposed research will be assessed.
- **Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children in Research:** The adequacy of plans to include subjects from both genders, all racial and ethnic groups (and subgroups), and children as appropriate for the scientific goals of the research will be assessed. Plans for the recruitment and retention of subjects will also be evaluated.
- **Care and Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research:** If vertebrate animals are to be used in the project, the five items described in [PHS Form 398 research grant application instructions](#) will be assessed.

- **Biohazards:** If materials or procedures are proposed that are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, determine if the proposed protection is adequate.

#### *Additional Review Considerations*

- **Budget:** The reasonableness of the proposed budget and the requested period of support in relation to the proposed research plan.
- **Topic:** The relevance of the proposed research plan to the stated funding priorities.
- **Plans for Education and Dissemination** of research findings.
- **Plans for mentoring young investigators.**

<b>Letter of Intent</b>
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Applicants will be invited to apply based on their letter of intent. (Current Center of Excellence grantees are exempt from this requirement.) The two-page letter of intent should include the following:

- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the principal investigator
- Name of the Applicant Organization
- Description of the proposed research investigation that addresses the public

health significance and innovation of the proposed research.

- Key personnel

Present the letter of intent on your own paper. Use any word processing software to create the text. Then, convert the document to a PDF. The letter should reflect the following formatting requirements:

- Arial 11-point font
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than 6 lines per inch.
- Margins of at least one-half inch
- Single-column format for text
- Standard paper size (8-1/2 X 11")

Submit the letter of intent electronically to Christine Reilly, senior research director, (creilly@ncrg.org) no later than **March 1, 2012**. Applicants will be notified by **April 1, 2012**.

### Application Instructions

The first section of the application should be presented on the application form available for download from [www.ncrg.org](http://www.ncrg.org). The application form provides the Face Page, page two and the Budget pages. You may use the NIH Biosketch form or the one provided on the NCRG's website. The narrative section should be presented in your own document.

#### Application Outline

- I. Face Page (form provided)

- II. Project Summary/Abstract, Senior/Key Personnel, Previous Support (form provided)
- III. Biographical Sketches (form provided or use NIH form)
- IV. Budget Summary and Justification for Years 1, 2 and 3 (form provided)
- V. Report on previous Center of Excellence (**for current grantees only**; on your own document)
- VI. Research Plan (your own document)
- VII. Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals (if applicable) (your own document)
- VIII. Plan for Mentoring Young Investigators (your own document)
- IX. Education and Dissemination Plan (your own document)
- X. Appendix: references, letters of support, other materials (your own document)

#### I. FACE PAGE (1 page)

Insert text in the shaded areas on the Face Page form.

The **Principal Investigator (PI)** is the person responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project and is the primary contact for the NCRG. Provide full name, degree(s), title, department, institution, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.

#### Date of Proposed Period of Support.

Projects may begin on September 1, 2012 and conclude no later than August 31, 2015.

**Funds Requested.** Fill in the amounts requested for years 1, 2 and 3. Total requests may not exceed \$350,000 in direct costs. An indirect rate higher than 15 percent is not allowable.

**Applicant Organization.** The Applicant Organization is legally and financially responsible for the conduct of activities supported by the award. Provide the name and contact information of the Applicant Organization's Administrative Contact.

**Regulatory Approvals.** Please check the appropriate box to indicate the use of animals (IACUC) or human subjects (IRB) in the proposed project. Note that the Principal Investigator must provide a copy of the IACUC and/or IRB letter before award funds will be released. Pending approvals at the time of application submission are acceptable.

**Certifications.** The signatures of the Principal Investigator and the Official Signing for the Organization are required only on the original hard copy of the application.

## **II. PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT; SENIOR/KEY PERSONNEL; PREVIOUS SUPPORT (1 page)**

Insert text in the shaded areas on the form provided.

**Project Summary/Abstract.** Provide a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work suitable for dissemination to the public. State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims. Describe

concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals.

**Senior/Key Personnel.** In addition to the Principal Investigator, Senior/Key Personnel are defined as individuals who contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way, whether or not salaries are requested. List the Principal Investigator, last name first. Then list all other Senior/Key Personnel in alphabetical order, last name first. For each individual, provide name, institutional affiliation and role on the project.

**Previous Support from the NCRG.** Please list the title of any grant awards to the Principal Investigator from the National Center for Responsible Gaming, the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders and/or the Institute for Research on Gambling Disorders. Identify products resulting from the grant(s), such as publication in a peer-reviewed journal, a poster or presentation at a conference, or subsequent support from NIH or another funding entity to continue the development of the research project.

## **III. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**

Biographical Sketches of the Principal Investigator and Senior/Key Personnel should be included (maximum of four pages each). Please use the NIH form or download the biosketch form from [www.ncrg.org/research-center](http://www.ncrg.org/research-center).

**IV. BUDGET** (3 pages) Present the proposed budget for years 1, 2 and 3 on the forms provided. The total requested should not exceed \$402,500 (\$350,000 + indirect rate of 15 percent).

**Allowable Cost Items:**

- *Personnel.* Allowable personnel expenses include salary and applicable fringe benefits for the Principal Investigator, co-investigators, post-docs and graduate students (if they receive a salary) and other professional and technical staff.
- *Consultant Costs.* Identify consultants by name and estimate the number of days of service and rate of compensation.
- *Equipment.* Only equipment essential to the conduct of this project is allowed. In the Budget Justification section, explain how it directly relates to this project. Equipment is defined as items > \$5,000 and having a useful life of more than two years. Items costing less than \$5,000 should be included in the Supplies category.
- *Human subjects.* Costs of recruitment (e.g., purchase of advertising), payments to subjects, patient care and other costs associated with the use of participants in the study.
- *Indirect costs.* Fifteen (15) percent of the total direct costs.

- *Travel.* NCRG grantees are required to present a poster at the annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction. Budget for travel to the conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

**Unallowable Cost Items**

Funding will not be provided for the following:

- *Administrative personnel*
- *Stipends*
- *Office equipment and furniture*
- *Tuition*
- *Dues and membership fees*
- *Maintenance/service contracts*
- *Construction, alteration, maintenance or rental of buildings or building space*
- *Recruiting/relocation expenses*
- *Entertainment/social expenses*
- *Pre-award costs*

**Budget Justification**

In the space below the Budget Summary, explain and justify costs presented, providing calculations to demonstrate how amounts were determined. Enter text in the shaded area on the form provided.

**V. REPORT ON PREVIOUS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (for current center grantees only) (Maximum 10 pages)**

This section should be presented in your own document. Please observe the formatting requirements:

- Arial 11-point font
- A smaller type size may be used in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends and footnotes. However, applicants should use their judgment and avoid the use of excessively small type that would be difficult to read.
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch.
- Margins of at least one half inch on all sides on all pages.
- Single-column format for text
- Standard paper size (8.5" X 11")
- Paginate all pages

A. Original Abstract - Please include the abstract of the project from the original application.

B. Key Senior/Personnel.

C. Specific Aims - List the original aims of the funded research and indicate if they have been modified. If so, provide the revised aims and the reason for the modification. Discuss your success in accomplishing these objectives and specifically address challenges to achieving these objectives.

D. Research Activities - Describe in detail the research activities under this grant such as recruitment of subjects, data collection and data analysis. If technical problems were encountered in carrying out this project, describe how your approach was modified. Indicate any changes in the original timetable. Include an NIH Enrollment Table.

E. Research Findings - Describe the results obtained in detail.

F. Significance of Findings - Explain how the findings will extend existing knowledge and make a significant contribution to the field.

G. Publications - Report all publications resulting directly from this grant, including manuscripts submitted or accepted for publication. Provide the complete citation (author(s), title, journal or book, volume, page number, year).

H. Posters, Other Public Presentations, Awards of Recognition - Report all poster presentations and other public presentations resulting directly from this grant, including the name of the conference, presentation title and date of presentation. Also, report on any awards or honors received during this period.

I. Other Support. List any new support leveraged by the center grant such as grants from the National Institutes of Health.

## **VI. RESEARCH PLAN**

(Maximum 14 pages)

This section should be presented in your own document. Please observe the formatting requirements:

- Arial 11-point font
- A smaller type size may be used in figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends and footnotes. However, applicants should use their judgment and avoid the use of excessively small type that would be difficult to read.
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch.
- Margins of at least one half inch on all sides on all pages.
- Single-column format for text
- Standard paper size (8.5" X 11")
- Paginate all pages

Use any word processing software to create the text. Then, convert to a PDF using a PDF-creation software such as Adobe® Acrobat® Professional. Scanning hard copies to produce a PDF typically results in excessively large files that can be difficult to e-mail or open and, therefore, will not be accepted for review.

Please follow the outline provided below.

**Specific Aims.** State the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis,

create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field or develop new technology).

**Research Strategy.** Organize the Research Strategy section according to the following outline:

(a) Significance

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

(b) Innovation

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing

methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s).

- Explain any refinements, improvements or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.

#### (c) Approach

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans, as appropriate.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims

## **VII. PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS/VERTEBRATE ANIMALS** (Maximum 2 pages)

### *Protection of Human Subjects*

If applicable, summarize your plan to protect human subjects according to the following outline:

#### 1) Risks to Human Subjects

##### a) Human Subjects' Involvement and Characteristics

- Describe the proposed involvement of human subjects in the work outlined in the Research Plan Narrative section.

- Describe the characteristics of the subject population, including their anticipated number, age range and health status.
- Identify the criteria for inclusion or exclusion of any subpopulation.
- Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of subjects, such as fetuses, neonates, pregnant women, children, prisoners, institutionalized individuals or others who may be considered vulnerable populations. Note that "prisoners" includes all subjects involuntarily incarcerated (for example, in detention centers) as well as subjects who become incarcerated after the study begins.
- List any collaborating sites where human subjects research will be performed, and describe the role of those sites and collaborating investigators in performing the proposed research.

##### b) Sources of Materials

- Describe the research material obtained from living individuals in the form of specimens, records or data.
- Describe any data that will be collected from human subjects for the project described in the application.
- Indicate who will have access to individually identifiable private information about human subjects.

Provide information about how the specimens, records or data are collected and whether material or data will be collected specifically for the proposed research project.

#### c) Potential Risks

- Describe the potential risks to subjects (physical, psychological, financial, legal or other), and assess their likelihood and seriousness to the subjects.
- Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures, including the risks and potential benefits of the alternative treatments and procedures, to participants in the proposed research.

### 2) Adequacy of Protection Against Risks

#### a) Recruitment and Informed Consent

- Describe plans for the recruitment of subjects (where appropriate) and the process for obtaining informed consent. If the proposed studies will include children, describe the process for meeting requirements for parental permission and child assent.
- Include a description of the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of the information to be provided to prospective subjects, and the method of documenting consent. If a waiver of some or all of the elements of informed consent will

be sought, provide justification for the waiver.

#### b) Protections Against Risk

- Describe planned procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to privacy of individuals or confidentiality of data, and assess their likely effectiveness.
- Research involving vulnerable populations, as described in the DHHS regulations, Subparts B-D, must include additional protections. Refer to DHHS regulations, and OHRP guidance ([www.hhs.gov/ohrp](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp)).
- Where appropriate, discuss plans for ensuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects to the subjects. Studies that involve clinical trials (biomedical and behavioral intervention studies) must include a general description of the plan for data and safety monitoring of the research and adverse event reporting to the IRB and others, as appropriate, to ensure the safety of subjects.

### 3) Potential Benefits of the Proposed

#### Research to Human Subjects and Others

- Discuss the potential benefits of the research to human subjects and others.
- Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the

anticipated benefits to research participants and others.

#### 4) Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained

- Discuss the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained as a result of the proposed research.
- Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the importance of the knowledge that reasonably may be expected to result.

#### 5) Data and Safety Monitoring Plan

If the research includes a clinical trial, create a heading entitled “Data and Safety Monitoring Plan.”

- Provide a general description of a monitoring plan that you plan to establish as the overall framework for data and safety monitoring.
- Describe the entity that will be responsible for monitoring and the process by which Adverse Events will be reported.

#### *Vertebrate Animals*

If vertebrate animals are involved in the project, address each of the five points below.

- 1) Provide a detailed description of the proposed use of the animals for the work outlined in the Research Plan Narrative. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex and numbers of animals to be used in the proposed work.

- 2) Justify the use of animals, the choice of species and the numbers to be used. If animals are in short supply, costly, or to be used in large numbers, provide an additional rationale for their selection and numbers.

- 3) Provide information on the veterinary care of the animals involved.

- 4) Describe the procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain and injury will be limited to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research. Describe the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs, and/or comfortable restraining devices, where appropriate, to minimize discomfort, distress, pain and injury.

- 5) Describe any method of euthanasia to be used and the reason(s) for its selection. State whether this method is consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Euthanasia. If not, include a scientific justification for not following the recommendations.

#### **VIII. PLAN FOR MENTORING YOUNG INVESTIGATORS (maximum 2 pages)**

Explain how young investigators will be involved in the conduct of the research project. List other proposed training activities.

#### **IX. EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION PLAN (maximum 2 pages)**

Propose ideas for disseminating research findings as a supplement to or in collaboration with the educational outreach activities of the NCRG. Current dissemination and educational programs include the annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction, regional treatment provider workshops, webinars, and the blog, Gambling Disorders 360°. For more information, visit [www.ncrg.org](http://www.ncrg.org).

(telephone: 978-338-6610). Applicants will be notified by September 1, 2012.

Questions? Contact Christine Reilly ([creilly@ncrg.org](mailto:creilly@ncrg.org); 978-338-6610;) or Nathan Smith ([nsmith@ncrg.org](mailto:nsmith@ncrg.org); 978-338-6610).

## **X. APPENDIX**

The Appendix should include items such as a list of references cited, letters of support (e.g., to demonstrate institutional support for the project) and other supporting materials.

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Use any word processing software to create the text. Then, convert to a PDF using a PDF-creation software such as Adobe® Acrobat® Professional. Scanning hard copies to produce a PDF typically results in excessively large files that can be difficult to e-mail or open and, therefore, will not be accepted for review.

Create a single PDF document named as follows: PI's Last Name\_Center\_2012.

Upload the document to the NCRG Review Express website (<https://editorialexpress.com/ncrg>) by **July 1, 2012**. The original hard copy, with original signatures, should be mailed to Christine Reilly, NCRG, 900 Cummings Center, Suite 418-U, Beverly, MA 01915