

NCRG PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2015:

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is pleased to announce the availability of research grants for the study of gambling problems and disorder. In 2015, the NCRG grant funding will focus on investigations of SBIRT (screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment) in order to improve identification of disordered gamblers, explore the efficacy of brief interventions for this population and increase the rate of disordered gamblers referred to treatment.

RATIONALE FOR FOCUS ON SBIRT

Despite cautions (Hingson & Compton, 2014), SBIRT has become an empirically supported and widely implemented approach in primary and specialty care for addressing substance abuse. Research on SBIRT in the substance abuse field suggests that this approach has value for addressing the challenges of identifying individuals with a gambling disorder and overcoming resistance to specialized or formal treatment (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, 2013).

A low rate of treatment seeking by disordered gamblers has been documented in studies in the United States and other countries. For example, in an analysis of two U.S. national surveys, “only 7%–12% had ever sought either formal treatment or attended meetings of Gamblers Anonymous” (Slutske, 2006, p. 297).

The study of “pathological gambling” (PG) (the term used prior to *DSM-5*) data in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R) by Kessler et al. (2008) concluded that:

Even though none of the NCS-R respondents with lifetime PG ever received treatment for gambling problems, nearly half received treatment for some mental or substance problem.

Given that three-fourths of PG cases occur only subsequent to the onset of other *DSM-IV* disorders, one might think onset of PG could be prevented if clinicians increased their monitoring for emerging gambling problems (Kessler et al., 2008, p. 8)

NCS-R findings highlight the need to expand identification of disordered gamblers and to reduce or remove barriers to seeking and receiving treatment for gambling problems. Moreover, the routine screening of a gambling problem among individuals with substance use disorders, other mental disorders, and other at-risk groups, is also supported by this study as well the NESARC (National Epidemiologic Survey on

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Domestic or international public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for NCRG funding. The Principal Investigator must have a Ph.D., M.D. or other terminal degree.

Detailed announcements and application forms are available for download at www.ncrg.org/research-center.

Funding Mechanism	Deadline: Letter of Intent to Apply	Application Deadline	Notification	Funding (direct costs)	Duration	# Awards Available
Travel Grant	N/A	Ongoing	1 month	\$1,500/year	1 year	3 - 4
Seed Grant	N/A	Sept. 1, 2015	2 months	\$30,000/year	1 year	3 - 4
Large Grant	May 1, 2015	Aug. 3, 2015	3 months	\$75,000/year	2 years	3

Alcohol and Related Conditions), which concluded that screening for gambling should be considered for individuals seeking treatment for other psychiatric disorders in view of the high rate of comorbidity with other mental disorders (Petry, Stinson, & Grant, 2005).

Research using the SBIRT model might also help fill knowledge gaps about screening and brief interventions. Despite the recent development of brief screens for gambling problems (Gebauer, LaBrie, & Shaffer, 2010; Toce-Gerstein, Gerstein, & Volberg, 2009; Volberg, Munck, & Petry, 2011), more research is needed on their psychometric properties and their implementation in clinical settings. In addition, there is a need for more investigation of the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of brief interventions, although past studies have shown great promise (e.g., Hodgins, Currie, el-Guebaly, & Peden, 2004; Hodgins, Currie, & el-Guebaly, 2001; LaBrie et al., 2012). Finally, there is a need to understand the factors that promote or hinder referral to treatment for those that screen for a serious gambling disorder or those for whom a brief intervention is insufficient.

TYPES OF RESEARCH PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT

The NCRG is open to a wide variety of proposals for research in this area provided they are focused on adult populations. Because a key aspect of SBIRT is the integration and coordination of screening, early intervention, and referral to treatment, NCRG welcomes proposals that involve collaboration between academic institutions and healthcare providers, such as hospitals, as well as state and local departments of public health. Also, proposals need not address all of the SBIRT components. Ongoing research projects focused on SBIRT for clinical disorders such as substance abuse are encouraged to apply for funds to incorporate gambling disorder into existing investigations.

Applicants may apply for SBIRT projects through either the Large Grant or Seed Grant funding mechanisms. (See deadlines below.)

Examples of projects include the following:

- Focus on subpopulations such as older adults and minorities
- Investigations of the efficacy of brief interventions such as motivational enhancement, Web-based screening and brief intervention and self-help manuals
- SBIRT program development
- Workforce capacity building

OTHER TOPICS

Although SBIRT is the funding priority for 2015, applicants interested in focusing on other topics on gambling disorder are welcome to apply. Visit www.ncrg.org to see descriptions of grants funded since 1996.

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About the NCRG

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization devoted to funding peer-reviewed scientific research that contributes to the knowledge base about gambling disorder that will lead to effective prevention and treatment of the problem. The NCRG, the largest private source of funding in the U.S. for investigations of gambling disorder, has been awarding competitive research grants on gambling disorder and youth gambling since 1996. The NCRG's mission also includes education and translation of research findings for the public, healthcare providers and others concerned about the impact of gambling.

Because the NCRG's primary source of financial support comes from the gambling industry, the NCRG has established a firewall between the funding and research supported by NCRG. The grants program is conducted under the direction of the NCRG's Scientific Advisory Board, composed of leading scientists with expertise in the addictions, gambling research and related fields. The Scientific Advisory Board makes decisions about the funding priorities, funding mechanisms and grant awards. It is committed to ensuring the most rigorous standards in the selection of projects funded by the NCRG. The Scientific Advisory Board and the peer-review panels follow the National Institutes of Health criteria for scientific merit and peer-review procedures.

Detailed announcements and application forms are available for download at www.ncrg.org/research-center.

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