



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a significant public health issue affecting New Jersey residents of all ages and racial and ethnic backgrounds in communities throughout the state, and has a significant societal and economic cost; and

WHEREAS, studies suggest that an estimated 4% of youth and up to 10% of college students have a gambling disorder, and 10-14% of young people are also at risk for addiction, New Jersey has developed gambling prevention, outreach, and education programs targeted to youth/youth adults; and

WHEREAS, most individuals with a gambling disorder also have a mental health and/or alcohol, substance use diagnosis, New Jersey has funded treatment providers to serve individuals with these co-occurring disorders, in addition to funding training on gambling disorder and its treatment; and

WHEREAS, promoting an awareness month provides individuals in the problem gambling prevention and treatment community with an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the social and financial effectiveness of services available for problem gambling; and

WHEREAS, healthcare providers are encouraged to screen individuals for problem gambling and to assist with access to treatment; problem gambling is a treatable disorder and proper management is invaluable in minimizing the harm to individuals, their families, and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals, and organizations have dedicated themselves to educating the public about problem gambling and the availability and success of treatment; and

WHEREAS, in response to the sharp trajectory and prevalence of online gambling, New Jersey has expanded sign-up options for the Self-Exclusion Program and access to online gaming application blocking technology; and

WHEREAS, individuals can call or text the 1-800-GAMBLER Helpline, operated by The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, to receive 24/7 confidential help for those struggling with problem gambling, or visit www.800gambler.org to learn about the Council's services and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and The Council's statewide initiatives include identifying gambling trends and emerging needs, and conducts outreach to provide trainings and prevention education on Problem Gambling to all communities of New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2026
AS
PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-fifth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States.

Dale G. Callahan
Lt. GOVERNOR

Mikie Sherrill
GOVERNOR