



## **International Gambling Prevention Specialist (IGPS)**

### **Training Outline**

The IGPS (15 hours) training aims to increase the knowledge and expertise of professionals working in gambling prevention, public health, outreach, and community-based settings. The program emphasizes evidence-based prevention frameworks, community engagement strategies, and the development of skills to design, implement, and evaluate problem gambling prevention initiatives.

This training is intended for individuals working in prevention, education, behavioral health, and community systems where gambling harm prevention is a primary or secondary focus. Participants will develop competencies in prevention planning, community assessment, communication strategies, and ethical practice in gambling prevention work.

Successful completion of this 15-hour training will enable prevention specialists to demonstrate a working knowledge of problem gambling prevention, apply prevention theory to practice, assess community needs, design prevention strategies, and evaluate outcomes effectively.

#### **I. Basic Knowledge of Problem Gambling Prevention**

##### **A. Introduction to Gambling & Gambling Harm**

1. What is gambling?
2. Types of gambling
3. Gambling industry overview
4. Gambling accessibility and modernization
5. Relationship between gambling and gaming
6. Public health impact of gambling harm

##### **B. Definitions of Problem Gambling**

1. Problem gambling definitions and frameworks
2. DSM-5 criteria for Gambling Disorder
3. Public health and harm reduction perspectives
4. Continuum of gambling behavior

5. Distinction from substance use disorders

### **C. Problem Gambling & Risk Factors**

1. Terminology and prevention models
2. Prevalence of gambling-related harm
3. Risk factors
  - a. Individual differences
  - b. Social and environmental influences
  - c. Industry and product design factors
4. Protective factors
5. High-risk populations

### **D. Cognitive and Behavioral Features of Gambling**

1. Gambling-related cognitive distortions
2. Reward systems and reinforcement
3. Emotional and psychological drivers of gambling behavior
4. Cultural beliefs and normalization of gambling
5. Family system and social environment influences

## **II. Gambling Prevention Skills**

### **A. Core Prevention Practice Skills**

1. Engaging communities and target populations
2. Building prevention-focused relationships and trust
3. Motivational and strengths-based communication approaches
4. Delivering psychoeducation on gambling harm
5. Community engagement strategies
6. Digital and environmental prevention strategies

### **B. Prevention Approaches & Integration**

1. Universal, selective, and indicated prevention strategies
2. Integration of gambling prevention into schools, communities, and systems
3. Harm reduction approaches in prevention practice
4. Addressing stigma in gambling-related help-seeking

### **III. Prevention Planning**

#### **A. Prevention Frameworks & Planning**

1. Prevention theories and models
2. Needs assessment and community analysis
3. Setting goals, objectives, and outcomes
4. Evidence-informed prevention program

#### **B. Community Assessment & Capacity Building**

1. Community needs identification
2. Cross-sector collaboration (education, health, justice, youth systems)
3. Asset mapping and resource identification
4. Building prevention capacity

#### **C. Implementation of Prevention Strategies**

1. Delivering prevention programs with fidelity
2. School-based and community-based implementation strategies
3. Engaging youth, families, and at-risk populations
4. Communication and outreach strategies for prevention messaging

#### **D. Evaluation & Continuous Improvement**

1. Program evaluation principles
2. Data collection and outcome measurement
3. Using evaluation findings for program improvement
4. Working with evaluators and research partners
5. Quality improvement in prevention programming

### **IV. Practice, Ethics & Professional Application**

#### **A. Communication & Public Awareness**

1. Effect prevention messaging strategies
2. Media and outreach campaigns
3. Balancing education, awareness, and harm reduction messaging

4. Public engagement
5. Addressing misinformation and stigma

#### **B. Sociocultural Responsiveness**

1. Cultural humility in prevention practice
2. Equity-focused prevention strategies
3. Working with diverse and at-risk populations
4. Reducing disparities in gambling harm

#### **C. Ethics & Professional Development**

1. Ethical standards in prevention work
2. Professional roles and boundaries
3. Responsible data use and reporting
4. Self-care and prevention workforce sustainability
5. Continuing education and professional growth