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## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ADULT PREVALENCE STUDY**

**Preliminary Document Submission Deadline:  
4:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2010**

**Comprehensive Proposal Submission Deadline:  
4:00 p.m. Monday, May 3, 2010**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

You are hereby invited to respond to the following Request for Proposal (RFP) to conduct a replication study of the prevalence of gambling participation and gambling-related problems in the State of Florida among adults, ages 18 years and older. Due to the need to request advance budgetary approval, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) is seeking a preliminary document from interested parties first so it can obtain some basic funding parameters in advance of submitting its annual budget request to Florida state government. Thereafter, interested parties will be required to submit a comprehensive proposal containing all criteria outlined herein this RFP.

The preliminary document is due by 4 p.m. Monday, March 29, 2010 and the comprehensive proposal deadline is 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 3, 2010. Specifics for each submission are outlined within this RFP. The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) is a not-for-profit corporation concerned with the problems and effects associated with problem and compulsive gambling. The FCCG is requesting proposals from qualified research scientists, academic institutions, and other research based organizations in conducting a replication study of the prevalence of at-risk, problem and pathological gambling in the State of Florida among the adult population, 18 years of age and older.

As this is replication research, this prevalence study must include a comparative analysis with the baseline adult prevalence study sponsored by the FCCG in 2002<sup>1</sup>, as well as with the studies prepared

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<sup>1</sup> Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevalence Among Adolescents in Florida, A Report to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc., University of Florida, 2002.

among young adults (i.e., college students<sup>2</sup>) and older adults<sup>3</sup> in Florida. Such report shall be completed and submitted in final form no later than Friday, March 4, 2011.

Note: The FCCG's prevalence studies identified above among adults, college students, and older adults, have been prepared in a zipped file format and are available by email upon request to Jennifer Campbell, Deputy Director, at [jcampbell@gamblinghelp.org](mailto:jcampbell@gamblinghelp.org) or by phone at 407-865-6200.

## BACKGROUND

Since 1980, pathological gambling has been recognized and defined by the American Psychiatric Association in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as an "impulse control disorder". Pathological (commonly referred to as compulsive) gambling is a progressive behavior disorder in which an individual has a psychologically uncontrollable preoccupation with an urge to gamble resulting in damage to family, personal and vocational pursuits. According to the current edition, DSM-IV, ten elements are used as indicators of pathological gambling.

These elements include:

1. Preoccupation with gambling
2. Need to gamble with increasing amounts of money
3. Repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop gambling
4. Restlessness or irritability when attempting to control, cut back or stop gambling
5. Gambling to escape from problems
6. After losing money, returning to "get even"
7. Lying to family or others to conceal the extent of gambling
8. Committing illegal acts (e.g., forgery, theft, fraud or embezzlement to finance gambling)
9. Jeopardizing or losing a significant relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity because of gambling
10. Relying on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling

Per the APA, the presence of five or more of these indicators is used to support a diagnosis of pathological gambling.

The proposed prevalence study will be the second of its kind among the general adult population in the State of Florida. Other problem gambling related studies within Florida sponsored by the FCCG include

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<sup>2</sup> Gambling & Problem Gambling Prevalence Among College Students in Florida, A Report to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc. by the International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors, McGill University, and the Center for Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Measurement (CREAM), Department of Africana Studies, University of South Florida, July, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevalence Among Seniors in Florida, A Report to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc., Gemini Research, 2003.

examinations among mainstream and incarcerated youth, college students and senior citizens. For specifics, please see the FCCG web site at [www.gamblinghelp.org](http://www.gamblinghelp.org), select *Resources*, then *Research* for a complete list of studies performed and to review Executive Summaries.

Within the past decade, research on the state and national levels document an increase in gambling opportunities, persons participating and those experiencing difficulty. Gambling in Florida has expanded at pari-mutuel facilities in designated areas of South Florida, to include slot machines, poker games, and simulcast betting from other tracks. The Florida Lottery increased offerings with its instant games. Native American facilities now offer modified forms of bingo, card rooms, and video lottery terminals. There are also “cruises to nowhere” (floating casinos) that offer slots, table games and other games in international waters. Slot machines on floating casinos and in Native American gambling facilities are not state sanctioned, though they are heavily utilized. In addition, online gambling opportunities have risen.

### **SCOPE OF SERVICE**

Given the changes in the marketplace, it is essential for the FCCG to have replication research performed that will identify the scope of gambling participation and problem gambling in the State of Florida based upon recent data. The main purpose of this study is to examine gambling participation and prevalence of gambling-related problems among adults of all ages in Florida and the extent to which it has changed since the baseline study was conducted in 2002. The other main purposes of the study are to examine differentials among sub-populations of adults (e.g., younger and older adults, etc.), to identify the forms of gambling creating the most difficulties, and to review associated impacts.

The FCCG is seeking proposals for a prevalence study that will compile and analyze current data as to the scope of the problem and the impact of at-risk, problem and pathological gambling among the adult population. The prevalence study must utilize research methods that will allow for meaningful comparison with the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling’s prevalence studies conducted among adults (2002), older adults (2003) and college students (2008). The Florida study must also be able to be compared with other research performed throughout the United States, particularly those in neighboring states.

The prevalence study shall compile the following data and document gambling participation and the prevalence of at-risk, problem and pathological gambling (current and lifetime) among the adult population 18 years of age and older in Florida:

1. Gambler demographics.
2. The primary and secondary forms of gambling (legal and illegal) – Note: Due to gambling expansion in Florida, the options today may be different than available during the 2002 study so provisions will need to be made to allow for comparative analysis, as well as newly identified data.

3. Age when gambling began and number of years gambling.
4. Amount and type of debt owed due to gambling.
5. Other areas of concern: alcohol/substance abuse (alcohol and/or substance type, including tobacco), psychiatric disorders (including Attention Deficit Disorder), financial, employment or school related problems, difficulty within the legal system (civil or criminal), marital, relationship and/or family problems, loss of friendships, withdrawal from recreational involvement, or other.
6. Relationship/impact of certain types of gambling on other risk-taking behaviors.
7. Incidence of bankruptcy among the general public versus the problem gambling population.
8. Variable impacts (e.g. location of gambling establishment, history of committing illegal acts due to gambling, etc.).
9. Gambling population's family history of physical and/or verbal abuse, alcohol and/or substance abuse, eating disorders, gambling, smoking, other.
10. Whether gambler has sought help or is being treated for gambling, alcohol/substance abuse or other mental health difficulty (identify setting type: self help, employee assistance program, private counseling, treatment program, etc.).
11. Differences between non-problem, at-risk, problem and pathological gamblers.
12. A research-based demographic sample of the statewide population, including adequate representation of persons by gender, age and ethnicity. It must also identify any distinguishing characteristics among sub-populations (e.g. younger and older adults, women, minorities, etc.).

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMAT AND TIMEFRAME**

#### **Preliminary Document Deadline: 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 29, 2010**

All preliminary submissions must include a history of the individual, academic institution or organization and identify specific experience in the research field with particular emphasis on prevalence studies or similar work. Submissions must also provide an assurance that the study will be completed by Friday, March 4, 2011. In addition, the preliminary proposal must contain a brief response to the following:

- The research organization's capability and expertise in providing all aspects of the services identified in the proposal, advising whether particular functions will be contracted to another source.

- Identification of the research methods(s) to be used to compile the data and an explanation for same.
- Proposed survey instrument(s) and sample size.
- Budget of costs associated with the proposal.

**Comprehensive Proposal: Deadline 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 3, 2010**

- Specifics regarding the researcher's or research organization's capability and expertise in providing all aspects of the services identified in the proposal, including detailed information as to whether particular functions will be contracted to another source.
- Identification of the research method(s) to be used to compile the data, an explanation for same, and any potential drawbacks or benefits.
- Proposed survey instrument(s), sample size (including characteristics) and geographical location of respondents.
- Budget breakdown of costs associated with all aspects of the proposal.
- Complete explanation of proposed services to be performed, including the preparation and timeline from inception to submission of detailed final report on or before 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 4, 2011.

The research entity must also acknowledge in its submission that it recognizes the study and all of its components will be the sole ownership of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling and that any subsequent published work to follow release of the report shall require advance consent from the FCCG.

As a point of information, the FCCG discourages researchers from utilizing any form of an incentive program or item as a means of fostering participation in the study.

Both the preliminary document and comprehensive proposal should be submitted to the attention of Jennifer Campbell, Deputy Director of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, via email at [jcampbell@gamblinghelp.org](mailto:jcampbell@gamblinghelp.org) or by mail at 901 Douglas Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714, respectively by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, 2010 and Monday, May 3, 2010. (For mail submissions, please submit one original and three complete copies.) Any submissions received after 4:00 p.m. on these dates will not be considered.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal may be directed to Ms. Campbell via email (address above) or by phone (407-865-6200).