**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Local Point of Contact

Local POC Phone Number

Local POC Email Address

**March is Problem Gambling**

**Awareness Month**

**CITY OF RELEASE (Date of Release)** - (Organization name), in collaboration with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), recognizes March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM). PGAM is dedicated to increasing public awareness of problem gambling and the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Problem gambling is defined as all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt or damage personal, family, or vocational pursuits. Approximately 2.5 million U.S. adults (1% of the population) are estimated to meet the criteria for severe problem gambling. Another 5-8 million (2-3%) meet the criteria for mild or moderate problem gambling. (List any state-specific statistics here.)

Problem Gambling Awareness Month is a crucial opportunity to engage the (your local community) community in a dialogue about the impact of gambling-related issues on individuals and their loved ones. This annual observance provides an essential platform for organizations across the country to highlight the availability of support services for those affected.

During March, (Organization name) has planned a series of impactful events and initiatives aimed at educating the public and fostering conversations about problem gambling. These events will include (list your organization's PGAM activities, which may include informational sessions, workshops, and community outreach programs).

(Local quote about participation / activities / expectations for your campaign or “Problem Gambling Awareness Month promotes essential awareness for individuals affected by problem gambling, as well as their loved ones,” said (Local Organizational Leader’s Name and Title). “(Organization Name) stands behind initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility to prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Assistance for problem gambling remains readily available in (State or City), not only during March but throughout the entire year.”)

(Organization name) also invites local media outlets to engage in this important conversation and help spread the word about the resources available for those dealing with problem gambling.

For more information about problem gambling and how to increase awareness of problem gambling, visit <http://www.ncpgambling.org/FAQs> (or add local site information here).

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call or text the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER or visit www.1800gamblerchat.org. Help is available 24/7/365 – it is free and confidential.

**About (Organization Name)**

(Add organizational boilerplate)

**About the National Council on Problem Gambling**

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is the only national nonprofit organization in the US that seeks to mitigate gambling-related harm. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling. If you or someone you know may have a gambling problem, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline, which offers hope and help without stigma or shame. US and Canadian users can call 1-800-GAMBLER, text 800GAM, or visit [www.1800gamblerchat.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCaitHuble%5CDownloads%5Cwww.1800gamblerchat.org). Help is available 24/7 – it is free and confidential.