

Youth Advisory Committee Leadership Opportunity

We Need Thoughts, Opinions and Ideas from YOU(th)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The New York Council on Problem Gambling (NYCPG) is looking to develop 3 youth advisory committees. These committees will include 11-12 youth to fill each of these three age groups: 12-14, 15-17 and 18-24. We need these committees so that we can learn the best way to inspire and empower youth to take action to prevent youth gambling, directly from youth. Click [HERE](#) for a short video about this project.

The NYCPG is a not-for-profit independent corporation dedicated to increasing public awareness about problem and disordered gambling and advocating for support services and treatment for persons adversely affected by problem gambling. NYCPG maintains a neutral stance on gambling, is governed by a Board of Directors, and funded by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS).

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH GAMBLING IN NEW YORK STATE

Youth gambling can quickly become a problem gambling. Problem gambling can affect anyone. If diagnosed, the clinical term is gambling disorder, which can be assessed and treated by a trained, certified clinician. For individuals of any age diagnosed with gambling disorder, their brains react similarly to gambling as a drug user's brain reacts to drug use. Therefore, it is vital that we prevent our youth from engaging, and risking addiction to, gambling.

According to recent survey results in NYS, nearly 40% of youth have gambled in the past year. Of those youth, more than 30% began gambling before the age of 10. This is significantly higher than youth who began using alcohol (13.9%), cigarettes (13.8%), pain relievers (12.6%), or marijuana (12.5%) for the first time before the age of 10. (NYS OASAS, 2014 YDS results)
While youth gambling

may seem a benign activity to some, NY specific data has indicated that past 30-day use of alcohol, being drunk, use of marijuana, and consumption of energy drinks is higher among youth who gamble than youth who do not gamble.

Youth will soon grow into young adults, and, among adults, gambling has shown a significant connection to other disorders. Of adults who were diagnosed with a gambling disorder, 70% have an alcohol use disorder, nearly 40% have a drug use disorder, and over 60% are nicotine dependent (Petry, NM, et al, 2005). We need to acknowledge that gambling, alcohol use, drug use and cigarette use are all strongly connected, and youth seem to be gambling before engaging in these other associated, and potentially addictive, behaviors. Therefore, preventing youth gambling may also help prevent youth's onset of other risky behaviors.

PROJECT INFORMATION

All meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and facilitated by Stelianos Canallatos. These meetings will be recorded for program planning purposes and quality assurance. All recordings will be held in strict confidentiality and only used internally for program development.

Each meeting will focus on a specific topic. For instance, there will be an introductory meeting, a meeting focused on connecting our message with their interests, and another will focus on what youth-influencing adults would be best to connect with to work with youth across NYS.

Youth who participate will have their time compensated in the amount of \$50.00 for each meeting they prepare for and attend. For youth who participate in all meetings, the total amount to be paid will be, but not exceed, \$600.00.

Meeting times for the 12-14 age committee are 4:30pm, the 15-17 committee is 6pm, and the 18-24 committee is 7:30pm. The dates for these meetings are:

- Thursday April 6, 2023
- Thursday April 20, 2023
- Thursday May 4, 2023
- Thursday May 18, 2023
- Thursday June 1, 2023
- Thursday June 15, 2023
- Thursday June 29, 2023
- Thursday July 13, 2023
- Thursday July 27, 2023
- Thursday August 10, 2023
- Thursday September 21, 2023
- Thursday October 19, 2023

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- Youth located in NYS.
- Youth who are between the ages of 12 and 24.
- Youth who are, or want to be, a leader among their peers.
- Youth who want to have a positive influence in their local school, their community and NYS.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

To participate in this project, youth must:

- Participate in at least 8 of the 12 scheduled meetings.
- Review any materials distributed by the NYCPG to prepare for their next meeting.
- Sign our memorandum of understanding stating they acknowledge the project responsibilities to participate.
- Have a parent or guardian sign the subcontract, who will support youth with this project. This support includes helping them review materials, being on time to meetings, etc.

PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply to participate in this Youth Advisory Committee, youth need to complete the application, which can be found [HERE](#), or in the link, below. Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis for each required demographic.

Application Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023-YACs>

The next steps of the application process include:

1. Application review.
2. Contact parent and youth with any additional questions.
3. If approved, sign a subcontract.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND CONTACT

This project will be carried out by the Prevention Manager for the NYCPG, Stelianos Canallatos (image on right). In the NYCPG, Stelianos is currently responsible for everything related to youth gambling prevention. This includes direct education to the public via presentations, interviews and webinars, and overseeing grants awarded to local community agencies to help prevent youth gambling. Prior to NYCPG, Stelianos worked as a prevention professional for almost 20 years focusing on the prevention of problem gambling, substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and obesity. Stelianos received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art and Women's Studies, and his Master of Arts in Leadership Development and Administration, all from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. To learn more about Stelianos, click [HERE](#).



If you have questions about the application process, this project or anything related to youth gambling prevention, contact Stelianos at SCanallatos@NYCPG.org.