

Port Authority of Kansas City, Missouri

The Mayor and City Council of Kansas City delegated the local administrative

oversight of casino gambling operations to

the Port Authority. As part of the Ameristar Casino and the Isle of Capri Casino agreements to locate within the city, they make financial contributions to the Problem Gaming Fund. The Port Authority administers the fund which is used to promote awareness, treatment efforts, and underwrite research that advances understanding of Problem Gambling. In 2003, the Port Authority funded a study by Harvard Medical School which evaluated the data from Missouri's self exclusion list. Phase I results, released in 2005, concluded that Missouri's self exclusion list is a valid indicator for the prevalence of problem gambling. This research can be utilized to assist public health planners in efficiently directing resources and programming to the areas of greatest need.

The Port Authority was the host sponsor of the 2005 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Addictions in Kansas City. During the conference, the Port Authority announced their Request for Proposal for projects researching the onset age of problem gambling and innovative ways to increase awareness of problem gambling among school-age youth. Recently, the Port Authority announced three grants totaling \$160,000. Washington University will conduct research on gambling behavior among college age adults. Second Chance Foundation will present assemblies to middle school age students on awareness of problem gambling. The Partners in Prevention, based at University of Missouri-Columbia, will help equip student leaders in identifying behaviors susceptible to problem gambling. Also, they will identify resources available to help problem gamblers.

The Port Authority seeks to lead the efforts in promoting responsible gambling and assist in the research that identifies contributing factors which could develop into an addictive situation.



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