

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Ambassador Initiative

The AAPI Ambassador Initiative began in 2016 and is a collaboration between the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Problem Gambling Services, and Amplify, the Region 4 Behavioral Health Action Organization. Previous partners included the former Commission on Equity and Opportunity and the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling.

This initiative supports the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations with unique challenges and risk factors related to problem gambling.

(1) The identification and training of representatives of the AAPI communities in Connecticut (AAPI “Ambassadors”) in gambling awareness and an evidence-based community conversation model

(2) Technical assistance and support of the Ambassadors as they develop, plan, and deliver a series of “community conversations” engaging their community members

(3) Evaluation of the community conversations and initiative. **Long term goals** of the AAPI Ambassador Initiative include **(1)** development of an action plan for the replication of the AAPI in other regions of Connecticut; and **(2)** replication of this Ambassador model with other underserved populations in Connecticut