



Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor
Ford M. Scudder, State Treasurer
Carole Hedinger, Executive Director
Benefits Education and Institutions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Event Video: https://youtu.be/9_Cu85f0isY

Event Photos, subject PDF's available for download and publication at:
<https://www.njlottery.com/en-us/aboutus/playingresponsibly.html>

New Jersey Lottery and the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey Raise Public Awareness of Problem Gambling

TRENTON, N.J. (March 2, 2017) – New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has issued a Proclamation declaring March 2017 Problem Gambling Awareness Month in New Jersey. Throughout the month, the New Jersey Lottery (NJL) will be working with the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. (CCGNJ) in an effort to educate the general public and health care professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and to raise awareness of the help that is available both locally and nationally. "Have the Conversation" is the theme for the 2017 Problem Gambling Awareness Month Campaign.

Today, Carole Hedinger, NJL's Executive Director, held a joint press conference with Neva Pryor, CCGNJ's Executive Director, to discuss joint efforts to promote public awareness about the dangers of problem gambling.

"The Lottery joins with the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey today because we recognize that it's important to 'Have the Conversation' about responsible play and raise awareness about how to recognize the warning signs of problem gambling," Hedinger said. "The New Jersey Lottery is proud to have the distinct designation of being awarded a Level 4 Certification by the World Lottery Association, one of the world's most respected industry authorities on responsible gaming practices. This award recognizes the Lottery's planning, development and implementation of responsible gambling programs and initiatives."

Since June 1999, the Lottery has participated on the CCGNJ's Board of Directors. The Council's 1-800-GAMBLER helpline number is printed on every Lottery ticket, and on all brochures and signage, and it also appears as a tag line on all of the Lottery's radio and television advertisements. The Lottery's website directs visitors to the Council's site, where members of the public can get free information and help.

"The Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ offers a broad array of educational, outreach, and support services for those people affected by disordered and problem gambling and also for the broader community," said Pryor. "We encourage the community to be open to discussing gambling problems and to learn about resources to get help. March is a great time to start the conversation. We're very pleased to be partnering with the Lottery to get the message out that discussing the "invisible addiction" can lead to hope, help and change."



New Jersey Lottery • PO Box 041 • Trenton, NJ 08625 • NJLottery.com Must be 18 or older to buy a lottery ticket. Please play responsibly. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-GAMBLER.

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CCGNJ operates a 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-GAMBLER, that takes over 15,000 calls a year. Any individual with a gambling problem or a family member needing assistance can call for help and referral. Information on Problem Gambling Awareness Month activities in New Jersey and additional resources can be accessed through the CCGNJ website: <http://www.800gambler.org>

The National Problem Gambling Awareness Month website also lists resources and helpful tools on its website: <http://www.npgam.org>

ABOUT THE LOTTERY

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Lottery (NJLottery.com) has contributed nearly \$25 billion to the State in support of education and institutions. Among its beneficiaries are: veterans homes, colleges and universities, school nutrition programs, homes for the developmentally disabled, psychiatric hospitals, higher education scholarship programs and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING OF NJ, INC.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. is a private non-profit organization that provides information, education and referral services for people affected by gambling disorders. The Council's mission is to educate the public to the fact that problem and disordered gambling is a treatable illness. The Council's 1-800-GAMBLER® Helpline and website www.800gambler.org have been resources for thousands of people who are compulsive gamblers and recovering from problem and disordered gambling, as well as their friends and families. For further information, contact:

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ, Inc. at 609-588-5515

Neva Pryor, Executive Director at ext. 17 or neva@800gambler.org

ABOUT THE WORLD LOTTERY ASSOCIATION

The World Lottery Association is an international trade organization that serves to integrate Responsible Gaming Principles into the day-to-day operation of its member lotteries. Membership in this association is exclusive and requires adherence to a responsible gaming code of conduct.

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can happen in Jersey.

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