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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2023

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### ***California Lottery Joins Statewide Problem Gambling Awareness Month Effort***

**SACRAMENTO** – Every March, the California Lottery teams up with the [California Office of Problem Gambling](#) to help raise awareness about the serious issue of gambling addiction, including the multitude of [treatment and prevention options](#) that are available free of charge.

It's well-known that gambling addiction can lead to devastating personal consequences. The primary goal of Problem Gambling Awareness Month is to educate those who need and want help.

"The Lottery takes a great deal of pride in our ongoing efforts to remind everyone to play our games responsibly," said California Lottery Director Alva V. Johnson. "The Lottery's mission is to raise supplemental funding for public schools, but we receive a failing grade if any of our players spend above their means and we don't help guide them to the resources they need."

Californians should know that confidential help is available at all times. There are professionally trained counselors waiting to help via the problem gambling hotline, **1-800-GAMBLER**. Players or their loved ones can also can text "**SUPPORT**" to **53342** or visit [800gambler.chat](https://800gambler.chat) for no-cost, confidential help 24/7.

The Lottery continues to ensure responsible gaming outreach is part of its daily operations and communications through social media, the Lottery website, and the "Play Responsibly" messaging printed on the back of every Scratchers® ticket (see image below).

These efforts to support Problem Gambling Awareness Month are a significant part of the California Lottery's responsible gaming program which has received international recognition with the highest certification (Level 4) from the [World Lottery Association](#).

To learn more about the California Lottery's Responsible Gaming Program, visit <https://www.calottery.com/play-responsibly>.



# CALIFORNIA LOTTERY SUPPORTS National Problem Gambling Awareness Month **MARCH 1-31**

**NOW** is the time to take the first step.  
For Free Confidential Help Call:  
**1-800-GAMBLER (426-2537)**  
Text **SUPPORT** to **53342**  
Chat online at **800gambler.chat**



#### ADDITIONAL GAME INFORMATION:

- A word must contain at least three letters.
- A word cannot be formed diagonally, from right to left or bottom to top.
- Letters combined to form a complete word must appear in an unbroken horizontal or vertical string of letters in the PUZZLE. An unbroken string of letters: (a) cannot be interrupted by a black space and (b) must contain every single letter square between two black spaces.
- Letters forming a word filling a complete word space can only be used to form one complete WORD (i.e., in the word "SNOWSHOE," "SNOW" and "SHOE" are not considered separate words and do not count as such; "SNOWSHOE" counts as one complete word).
- See example of a "complete" word. Every single letter in the unbroken string must (a) be revealed in the "YOUR LETTERS" box and (b) be included to form a "word." Words within a complete WORD such as "A" or "CAN" within "CANDY" are not complete WORDS since they do not contain at least 3 letters and completely fill the word space.
- Prizes of \$599 or less can be redeemed at participating Lottery Retailers.
- Claim prizes of \$600 or more by completing a Winner Claim Form and mailing it to the address on the form.
- Players winning a free ticket in this game are entitled to a free ticket valued at thirty dollars (\$30).
- Deadlines: Claim all prizes no later than 180 days after the announced game end date. See a Lottery Retailer or visit calottery.com for game end dates.
- After game start, some prizes including top prizes, may have been claimed.
- **Lottery Information: 1-800-LOTTERY**
- **Must be 18 years or older to purchase, play, or claim.**
- **Play responsibly. Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-800-GAMBLER.**

**EXAMPLES**  
Horizontal "word"  
**C I A I N D I Y**  
Vertical "word"  
**S N O W S H O E**



**SCRATCH FX**  
Scratch FX®  
is a trademark of  
Pollard Banknote Limited.  
U.S. Patent No. 7,455,323.



For another way to win prizes, submit eligible non-winning Scratchers through our mobile app or at [calottery.com/2ndChance](http://calottery.com/2ndChance). Mail-in entries are not accepted.

Print Name (One Person Only)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( )  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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*The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transferred to public education totaled more than \$1.88 billion for fiscal year 2020-21, which amounted to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period, the Lottery generated almost \$8.4 billion in sales, more than 95% of which went back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. If you feel you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, you can get free confidential help by calling the California Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER.*

[www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com)