



NEWS RELEASE

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Lottery Announces Problem Gambling Awareness Month To Remind Public Help Is Available

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month, and the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery (ASL) wants to spread the word that help is available around the clock to those who may need it.

“We are dedicating March to helping people ‘have the conversation’ about problem gambling,” said Eric Hagler, ASL executive director. “Approximately two million adults in the United States – or about 1 percent of the population – are considered problem gamblers; yet for many, gambling remains a hidden addiction.”

Problem Gambling Awareness Month is designed to help raise awareness of the prevention, treatment and recovery services available for those adversely affected by gambling.

“The mission of the lottery is to provide proceeds for scholarships in a responsible way. We want people to remember that the lottery should be considered entertainment and not a way to make money,” said Hagler.

Problem gambling includes all gaming behavior that damages personal, family or vocational pursuits. In extreme cases, problem gambling can result in financial ruin, legal problems, loss of career and family or suicide.

Last year ASL launched “The Player’s Hub” to help educate players on how to participate responsibly, understand game odds and get any needed support with problem gambling.

In 2019 the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery received Responsible Gambling Certification from the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries and the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). The certification involves a multi-step verification program to ensure the lottery provides best practices in training for lottery employees and retailers plus treatment options for players who may have a gambling problem.

If you or someone you know think you have a problem with gambling, review the questions below. If you answer yes to at least one question, you may have a gambling problem:

1. Have you often gambled longer than you had planned?
2. Have you gambled until your last dollar was gone?
3. Have thoughts of gambling caused you to lose sleep?
4. Have you used your income or savings to gamble while letting bills go unpaid?
5. Have you attempted to stop gambling, but couldn't?
6. Have you borrowed money to finance gambling?
7. Have you gambled to get money or to meet financial obligations?
8. Have you felt remorseful after gambling?
9. Have you felt depressed or suicidal because of gambling losses?
10. Have you broken the law or considered it to finance gambling?

Problem gambling is a preventable and treatable disorder. Help is available. For problem gambling resources, visit the ASL Player's Hub at <https://playershub.myarkansaslottery.com/> or call or text the 24-hour confidential National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery

More than 92 cents of every dollar of ASL revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the lottery has raised more than \$1.1 billion in proceeds for scholarships. More than 650,000 college scholarships have been awarded to Arkansans. The lottery has awarded more than \$4 billion in prizes to players, about \$338 million in retailer commissions and provided more than \$152 million in state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Visit MyArkansasLottery.com for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions – and to join The Club for free. To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers Hotline at 501-682-IWON (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

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