

North American Association of State & Provincial Lotteries

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March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month NASPL and NCPG Partner to Promote Effort “Have the Conversation”

Concord, Ohio – This March, in recognition of Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM), the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) is partnering with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) to provide educational resources and training to members, retailers and players.

The theme for the 2018 PGAM is “Have the Conversation.” The national campaign, which is in its fourteenth year, aims to increase public awareness of problem gambling, as well as the availability of prevention, treatment and recovery services. A toolkit guide, event calendar and graphics downloads are available to PGAM participants on the [NCPG website](#).

According to the [NCPG](#), research indicates that most adults who choose to gamble are able to do so responsibly. Approximately 85 percent of US adults have gambled at least once in their lives; 60 percent have done so in the past year. Of those U.S. adults, about one percent meet the diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling.

This month and year-round, NASPL and the NCPG are working together to improve responsible gambling education and practices within the lottery industry. “At NASPL, we value our relationship with the NCPG to help our members in this very important area,” said Executive Director David Gale.

NASPL recently released its “Guidelines for Responsible Gambling” to assist lotteries with developing best practices. NASPL and the NCPG have jointly created a Verification Program for lotteries looking to establish or improve their responsible gambling programs. Responsible gambling resources, including Verification Program information, employee and retailer training videos, and a downloadable RG Toolkit are available to NASPL members on the [NASPL Matrix](#).

When help is needed, the NCPG operates the [National Problem Gambling Helpline Network](#), which provides resources and referrals to all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Canada and the US Virgin Islands. Communication is 100 percent confidential, and help is available 24/7 by calling or texting 1-800-522-4700, or by accessing the [Helpline Chat](#).

About NASPL

The North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries was founded in 1971. Evolving from an informal exchange of information among three pioneering lottery directors, the organization has grown into an active association representing 52 lottery organizations. NASPL's basic mission is to assemble and disseminate information on the lottery industry through education and communications, and where appropriate publicly advocate the positions of the Association on matters of general policy.

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