

Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, and Missouri Achieve “Verified” Status under Responsible Gambling Best Practice

Milestone Dates for Next Round of Verifications Approved

CONCORD, OH (January 25, 2017) – The North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) announced that the Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, and Missouri Lotteries have received “Verified” status within its responsible gambling framework and independent verification program.

Partnering with NASPL in this important effort is the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG).

“It’s a wonderful accomplishment and speaks very highly of each lottery’s dedication in this area,” said NASPL President and Louisiana Lottery President/CEO Rose Hudson.

“I’m so proud of our partnership with NASPL and with the overwhelmingly positive response from the lottery industry to this program. It has been such a pleasure working with NASPL staff and Responsible Gaming Committee members as well as representatives from all the lotteries who have applied to have their responsible gaming plans verified. NCPG Operations Manager Lissa Cobetto and all the assessors deserve thanks for their hard work and invaluable contributions to this rigorous and objective assessment process,” said NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte.

The new program has three levels of verification. The first level (“Plan”) is for lotteries that have not yet developed a robust responsible gambling program – by submitting an application at this level, lotteries will have experts in the field critique their plans and help them move towards the next level. The second level (“Implementation”) assesses current programs and results for lotteries with more advanced responsible gambling programs. The third level (“Sustaining”) will review Implementation verification every three years to ensure ongoing performance.

An independent assessment panel, under the guidance of the NCPG, reviews all applications for verification. The seven areas of assessment include research, employee training, retailer training, education and awareness, new/existing product oversight, budget, and advertising.

“I am heartened by the reception of the lotteries for this verification program. In the last few years, we have seen more responsible gaming activity on the part of the lotteries. This is great for the health of this industry,” said NASPL Responsible Gambling Committee and Executive Director of the North Carolina Education Lottery Alice Garland.

Lotteries wishing to apply for Phase Three should submit an application statement (250 words or less) by February 24, 2017 that includes:

- Background as to why the organization/jurisdiction is seeking verification.

- The Lottery's willingness to accept help from other jurisdictions who have participated in the process.

The NCPG will select the next lottery jurisdictions on March 3, 2017 and their applications will be accepted in no later than May 2, 2017. It is expected that the first round of verification results will be announced in July 12, 2017 after evaluation by an independent assessment panel.

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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About NCPG

The National Council on Problem Gambling is the national advocate for problem gamblers and their families. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gaming. The organization's vision is to improve health and wellness by reducing the personal, social and economic costs of problem gambling.

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