Philip D. Murphy, *Governor*
Sheila Y. Oliver, *Lt. Governor*
Elizabeth Maher Muoio, *State Treasurer*
James A. Carey, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event video

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

Lottery Partners with the Council to Promote Responsible Play

TRENTON, N.J. (March 1, 2023) – New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has issued a Proclamation declaring March 2023 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in New Jersey.

Through the month of March, the New Jersey Lottery (NJL) and the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. (CCGNJ) will work together in a joint public awareness campaign. "Celebrating 20 Years" is the theme of this campaign being conducted 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 for anyone with concerns about problem gambling.

"We are pleased to be an integral part of spreading the Responsible Play message throughout the State by launching this campaign," said NJL Executive Director James A. Carey. "We have had a long-standing commitment to the prevention of problem gambling and are pleased to work with the CCGNJ in supporting the Governor's initiative.

As part of that effort, the Lottery and the Council have developed a video to inform residents about the Problem Gambling Awareness Campaign and to illuminate the work of the CCGNJ in its efforts to educate about warning signs to recognize that could indicate a person might be developing a gambling problem and how to seek advice and help for a gambling problem. That video is available for viewing on the Lottery's website, *njlottery.com*, and on the Council's website, *800gambler.org.*

"The Lottery is an important partner for the CCGNJ in working on behalf of the compulsive and problem gambling population in our State," said CCGNJ Executive Director Felicia Grondin. "With the current proliferation of gambling advertising, it is more essential than ever to spread the message that gambling is a form of entertainment and should not be used as a means of income. We are thankful for the Lottery's support of the vital mission of the Council to work to educate about the dangers of problem gambling and the help that is available for anyone with a gambling disorder."

(more)

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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.

Problem Gambling Awareness Month observation is part of a national effort to spread the word that there is help for those with gambling problems, as well as for their families. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-GAMBLER. They offer support, treatment, and hope.

About the New Jersey Lottery

The New Jersey Lottery has received international recognition for it responsible gaming initiatives, obtaining the highest level of achievement by the World Lottery Association (WLA). Level 4 Certification, for adherence to the WLA's Responsible Gaming Principles and Responsible Gaming Framework, which are ingrained in the Lottery's day-to-day operations and which require efforts toward continuous improvement.

About the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc.

Since 1983, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. has helped problem and compulsive gamblers. The Council's mission is to provide prevention, education and referral services to anyone affected by this illness. It operates the widely recognized gambling helpline number 1-800-GAMBLER®, offering 24-hour confidential assistance to anyone affected by a gambling disorder.

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