



SPECIAL LOTTERY SALES FOR FUNDING VETERANS' PROGRAMS

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LOTTERIES FOR VETERANS

At least six states (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Texas, and West Virginia) use lottery proceeds to fund veterans' programs.

Connecticut does not have a lottery game or fund for veterans' programs.

If the state wants to establish such a lottery or fund, it could enact legislation similar to the laws in these states.

QUESTION

What states operate special lottery games to fund veterans' programs? How can Connecticut implement such a lottery?

SUMMARY

We were able to identify at least five states (Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Texas, and West Virginia) that use veteran-specific special instant scratch-off lottery games ticket sales to fund veterans' programs. Additionally, Maryland allows veterans' organizations to operate instant ticket lottery machines and keep 50% of the ticket sales.

Connecticut does not have a lottery game or fund dedicated to veterans' programs. If the state wants to establish such a lottery game or fund, it could enact legislation similar to the laws in the states identified above.

LOTTERY GAMES SUPPORTING VETERANS' PROGRAMS

Illinois

The Illinois Lottery runs a "Veterans Cash" lottery scratch-off game that funds veterans' programs throughout the state. Proceeds from ticket sales are deposited into an interest-bearing account called the "Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund." The state legislature appropriates this money to the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs to make grants to veterans groups. The grants help to support these groups

that provide (1) health insurance payment assistance, (2) long-term care, (3) post-traumatic stress disorder research or treatment, (4) disability benefits, or (5) housing assistance.

Since 2006, the lottery has raised over \$11 million for Illinois veterans. (For more information on the "Veterans Cash instant ticket," see http://www.illinoislottery.com/en-us/Specialty_Tickets/VeteransCash.html.)

Iowa

The Iowa Lottery runs two instant-scratch games and two pull-tab games each year with the proceeds going into the Veterans' Trust Fund. This dedicated trust fund is used to provide assistance to qualified veterans to pay for certain expenses, such as job training or college tuition assistance; dental, vision, or hearing assistance; and individual or family counseling.

Since 2008, the lottery has generated approximately \$13.4 million and annually provides between \$2 million and \$3 million to the trust fund. (For more information on the Iowa Veterans Lottery, see <https://www.ialottery.com/pressroom/WhereTheMoneyGoes.asp>.)

Kansas

The Kansas Lottery runs "Veterans Benefit Games." Proceeds from these games fund designated veterans' programs. The net profits are deposited into the State Treasury and are then directed into three special funds as follows: (1) 40% for National Guard Educational Assistance Act scholarships; (2) 30% for Kansas veterans homes and the state veterans cemetery system; and (3) 30% for the Veterans Enhanced Service Delivery Program, which is a program where staff workers travel across the state to help veterans and eligible family members apply for veterans' benefits.

Since 2004, the lottery has provided approximately \$10.2 million to veterans' programs. (For more information on the Kansas Lottery, see <https://www.kslottery.com/aboutus/wherethemoneygoes.aspx>.)

Maryland

The Maryland Lottery allows veterans' organizations to operate up to five instant ticket lottery machines at their primary meeting hall with no up-front product costs. Organizations can keep 50% of the proceeds (estimated to be \$100 per day per machine).

Currently, over 40 veterans' clubs and organizations operate these machines. (For more information on this program, see <http://www.mdlottery.com/veterans/>.)

Texas

The Texas Lottery runs a scratch-off ticket game with the proceeds going to the "Texas Fund for Veterans Assistance." The fund distributes money to local and statewide veterans' programs that provide, among other things, job-placement assistance, nursing care, scholarships, and counseling.

Since 2009, the fund has awarded \$32.9 million through 168 grants that have benefited over 170,000 veterans. (For more information on the Texas Veterans' Cash lottery, see http://txlottery.org/export/sites/lottery/Games/Scratch_Offs/details.html_252732348.html.)

West Virginia

The West Virginia Lottery runs an instant lottery scratch-off game designed to benefit veterans. All the ticket sale proceeds are deposited into a veterans' instant ticket fund and used to support veterans' projects, such as constructing a veteran nursing home and cemetery.

In FY 12, the special lottery generated \$422,300 to support these projects. (For more information on the Veterans Instant Ticket, see <http://www.wvlottery.com/pdf/wvl2013ar.pdf>.)

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