



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Colorado Lottery Reaches GOCO Cap Early; GOCO to Receive Nearly \$72 Million in Proceeds Funding**

Pueblo, Colo. – Thanks to the more than \$1.7 billion dollar combined dueling jackpots in January of this fiscal year, unprecedented Scratch sales, and a growing love for Colorado Lotto+, today the Colorado Lottery celebrates reaching the funding cap for Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) nearly a month earlier than last year. This year the Lottery will provide \$71,718,841 million in proceeds dollars to GOCO to fund parks, recreation, conservation and open space projects across the state.

While the Lottery experienced a dip in sales during the month-long shutdown last March, sales bounced back to pre-pandemic levels quickly. Thanks to record-breaking sales so far this year, by reaching the GOCO cap early, now even more proceeds can go to support Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST). Money awarded to BEST varies year to year, based on when the GOCO cap is met. Last fiscal year, the Lottery provided nearly \$1 million in proceeds funding to BEST. In fiscal year 2019, \$14 million was given to BEST.

As Colorado grows, so does the need for school infrastructure. Since 2008, BEST has provided competitive grants to school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, boards of cooperative educational services across the state, as well as to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. BEST funds support the construction of new schools, as well as general construction and renovation of existing school facility systems and structures.

“Colorado is bursting at the seams and so are its state and community parks, open space and schools,” said Tom Seaver, director of the Colorado Lottery. “The changes we made to our Scratch products, increasing the number of games, price points and prize structures, have played a major role in helping us meet the cap to support GOCO’s commitment to help build new parks and recreation, trails and fund open space conservation projects, as well as school infrastructure.”

The Lottery has been steadily increasing proceeds to its beneficiary partners by upwards of a million dollars every year to support the outdoors and schools. Approximately 22 to 24 cents of every dollar spent on Lottery games is reinvested in the state. Of the proceeds distributed, 50% is committed to GOCO up to the cap, 40% to Conservation Trust Fund, and 10% to Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Once the GOCO cap is reached, 50% of each additional proceeds dollar spills over to the BEST fund. Set at \$35 million in 1992, the cap is adjusted annually for inflation.





“Congratulations to the Colorado Lottery! As a beneficiary of the proceeds and your partner in conservation and recreation, GOCO is immensely grateful for your hard work and dedication,” said GOCO Executive Director Chris Castilian. “And to the players of the Lottery, thank you. You play an essential role in protecting our lands and creating more parks and playgrounds, trails and open spaces, and outdoor opportunities for all Coloradans.”

This year, the Lottery will award 11 Starburst [Awards](https://www.coloradolottery.com/giving-back/) to recognize projects that exemplify excellence in the use of Lottery funds. To learn about proceeds projects around the state, people can visit <https://www.coloradolottery.com/giving-back/>.

#### **About Colorado Lottery:**

Since 1983, the Colorado Lottery has returned more than \$3.6 billion to outdoor projects and schools through Great Outdoors Colorado, the Conservation Trust Fund, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Building Excellent Schools Today. Proceeds from sales of Colorado Lottery games – Scratch, Powerball, Mega Millions, Colorado Lotto+, Lucky for Life, Cash 5, and Pick 3 – enhance, protect, and improve parks, trails, and open space in Colorado, and fund critical infrastructure projects for schools. For more information, visit [coloradolottery.com](https://www.coloradolottery.com).

#### **About Great Outdoors Colorado:**

Great Outdoors Colorado invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state’s parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO’s independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a Constitutional Amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,300 projects in urban and rural areas in all 64 counties without any tax dollar support. Visit [GOCO.org](https://www.goco.org) for more information.

#### **About Building Excellent Schools Today:**

In 2008, the General Assembly of the State of Colorado enacted the Building Excellent Schools Today Act (BEST) in order to address the limited capacity for many Colorado public schools to renew, or replace rapidly deteriorating facilities with their own local resources. BEST grants are available to Colorado public school districts, charter schools, boards of cooperative services, institute charter schools, and the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Funding is provided from the State Land Trust, Colorado Lottery spillover funds, recreational marijuana excise taxes, the applicants’ matching monies, and interest accrued within the Assistance Fund itself. By providing these services, the BEST program hopes to meet students’ fundamental educational needs throughout the State of Colorado.

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