

# Lottery Targeted Towards Minority communities

## Studies show Lottery hones in on low-income neighborhoods

While the growing expansion of casinos have nearly doubled in size over the past two decades, driving a multibillion-dollar wealth transfer from low-income U.S. communities to powerful multinational companies.

A nationwide investigation of state lotteries found that lottery retailers are disproportionately clustered in lower-income communities in nearly every state. The investigation's analysis of cell phone location data shows that the people who patronize those stores come from the same kinds of communities. In the vast majority of states with lotteries concentrate on communities with lower levels of education and in-



AP Image - Study finds that most state lotteries are targeting low-income households

come and higher poverty rates, with larger populations of Black and Hispanic people.

More than two-thirds of lottery sales are of instant scratch-off tickets, which range in price from \$1 to \$50. "There's a reason why so many lottery outlets are concentrated in low-income areas across the United States," said

Les Bernal, national director of Stop Predatory Gambling.

Many states permit sales at stores that specifically market to low-income communities. Check-cashing stores, patronized by lower-income people who don't have bank accounts, sell lottery tickets in 24 states, the Howard Center found.

# Paid Internships for Local Youth



Intern Leader at Columbia Springs

## Science Program encourages youth in the community

The Youth Environmental Leadership Program (YELP) is a new opportunity at Columbia Springs providing paid internships for local youth.

YELP is designed to support young people in learning these skills through a hands-on leadership role in our elementary science education programs. The program will help develop skills in science, science educa-

tion, and science communication. This includes the completion of an independent project that utilizes each intern's skills, background, and interests.

Kylie DaCunha, Columbia Springs Community Engagement Specialist stated "The innate curiosity and flexibility of young people makes them natural scientists. We believe in fostering these qualities to encourage critical thinking and independence, which will set our future leaders up for success in any pursuit."

In order to make the program an equitable learning opportu-

nity for youth from all backgrounds, interns will be compensated for their time through a stipend in recognition of their valuable contributions. The Youth Environmental Leadership Program is funded through support from the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation and private donations.

For those interested in applying, more information and the program application can be found at [www.columbiasprings.org/YELP](http://www.columbiasprings.org/YELP). Applications are due by August 23rd and the fall program will run for 15 weeks beginning the week of September 12th.



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