

# Pennsylvania Opioids Settlement Trust Fund Overview

The **Pennsylvania Opioid Settlement Fund** is a state-managed initiative designed to receive and distribute over **\$2 billion** in funds from national legal settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors. Its sole purpose is to ensure these funds are used exclusively for **opioid abatement efforts**, including treatment, prevention, harm reduction, and recovery services, to combat the ongoing opioid crisis in the Commonwealth.

## **Management and Distribution**

The fund is overseen by the [PA Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust](#), a 13-member board established by court order in July 2022. The Trust is responsible for receiving the funds, investing them, and distributing them to the state and local entities according to a specific allocation formula:

- **70%** goes directly to counties across Pennsylvania based on a formula that considers the local impact of the crisis.
- **15%** goes to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be allocated by the state legislature.
- **15%** goes to the "litigating subdivisions," which are municipalities and other local entities that filed their own lawsuits.

Counties are primarily in charge of deciding how their portion of the funds is spent, though they must adhere to a list of approved uses specified in the national settlement documents (known as "[Exhibit E](#)"). The Trust reviews annual spending reports from local governments to ensure compliance and can withhold future payments for misuse of funds.

## **Purpose and Approved Uses**

The funds must be used to address the harms of the opioid epidemic and cannot be diverted to a general fund or unrelated government expenses. Approved uses fall under the broad categories of treatment, prevention, and other strategies.

Examples of eligible programs and services include:

- Expanding the use and distribution of Naloxone (Narcan), a drug used to reverse opioid overdoses.

- Providing Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and other evidence-based treatment options.
- Supporting "warm hand-off" programs to connect overdose patients in emergency rooms to recovery services.
- Enhancing treatment and post-incarceration care for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in the criminal justice system.
- Implementing substance use prevention and education programs in schools and communities.
- Supporting pregnant and postpartum women and their families, including babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).
- Expanding supportive housing options for people in recovery.

Residents can track how the money is being spent at the independently developed [Pennsylvania Opioid Settlement Data](#) website.