

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OVER \$70 MILLION ALREADY SPENT AND COMMITTED FOR OPIOID REMEDIATION IN PENNSYLVANIA THROUGH 2023

Harrisburg, PA — March 21, 2024 — The Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust is pleased to report that, based on preliminary estimates, Pennsylvania counties and subdivisions reporting so far have already spent or committed more than \$70 million distributed by the Trust to address opioid remediation. These preliminary calculations are based on the first annual reports from recipients of such funds, including all 67 counties and many subdivisions across the Commonwealth.

The Trust, which was formed in July 2022, has worked diligently over the past 20 months to distribute more than \$160 million in funds that have come into Pennsylvania from national opioid settlements negotiated by the PA Office of the Attorney General. The initial reports on spending by fund recipients are based on the more than \$102 million distributed before December 2023 and do not include spending at the Commonwealth level or by certain subdivisions that have not yet reported. Thus, conservative estimates reflect more than two-thirds of the total funds distributed in that time period – more than \$70 million, or 68% – have already been spent on, or are committed to, programs at the local level designed to battle the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. Additional distributions of more than \$66 million were made by the Trust in December 2023, which funds will enable recipients to continue developing and providing additional financial support to opioid remediation programs.

Funds have been distributed by the Trust to counties, certain subdivisions (*e.g.*, certain District Attorneys, townships, cities, and boroughs), and the Commonwealth of PA. Counties receive 70% of all settlement funds, with the subdivisions and the Commonwealth each receiving 15% of the funds. All funds must be utilized by these recipients consistent with guidelines established as part of the national opioid settlements. Those guidelines focus on addressing opioid misuse and addiction abatement at the grassroots level. The initial spending described above thus reflects a significant commitment to initiatives aimed at prevention, treatment, and recovery, with more than 380 programs reported by the recipients so far. The Trust notes that all reports and data therein have not been fully reviewed or approved by the Trust as to technical or substantive compliance.

Given the large number of programs, small working groups of Trustees will review reports during April and report to the entire Board of Trustees for action at a future public meeting. To fulfill its obligation to ensure compliance with the terms of the national opioid settlements, the Trust has forged a strategic partnership with three renowned Pennsylvania research universities: Penn State University, University of Pittsburgh, and Temple University. Together, they are collecting data on spending that will not only assist the Trust but could provide insights that reshape strategies for addressing opioid addiction and its far-reaching impacts. As noted by Trust Chairman Tom VanKirk, "The opioid epidemic has ravaged communities across the United States, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. As policymakers, healthcare providers, and communities grapple with this multifaceted crisis, access to comprehensive and reliable data has emerged as a critical need. Recognizing this imperative, the Trust has taken a pioneering step by joining forces with esteemed academic institutions renowned for their expertise in research and data analytics."

In the coming months, the true impact of the Trust's partnership with Penn State, Pitt, and Temple is poised to be felt across communities, institutions, and other sectors. Armed with data-driven insights and a spirit of

collective resolve, stakeholders stand ready to confront the opioid epidemic with renewed vigor and purpose.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse Addiction and Abatement Trust and its initiatives, please visit the Trust's website. <https://www.paopioidtrust.org/>

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About PA Opioid Misuse Addiction and Abatement Trust:

The Pennsylvania Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust (the "Trust") was established by Order ("Order") of the Honorable Lori Dumas of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania on July 12, 2022. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of thirteen members. The Trust receives funds from settlements entered into by the PA Office of Attorney General and opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacy companies. The Trust distributes those settlement funds to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, counties, and certain subdivisions as directed by the court order, for use by those entities exclusively to abate the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. The Trust is responsible for receiving and investing settlement money, disbursing annual settlement funds, reviewing county and subdivision certifications and annual reports on spending, and preparing an annual report and accounting for the authorizing court.