

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



Officer Wellness

In 2023, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody concluded Florida opioid-related litigation by entering into settlement agreements with several manufacturers, distributors, and dispensers (pharmacies) of opioids. The state of Florida, counties and certain cities will receive approximately \$3.1 billion over the next 17 years. The settlements and state-subdivision agreement with local governments provide a distribution scheme and calculation methodology for settlement funds.

In 2023, the Florida Legislature created the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The bill provides that funds credited to the trust fund shall consist of funds disbursed from the Department of Financial Services Opioid Settlement Clearing Trust Fund. On September 30 of each year, any unencumbered balance remaining undisbursed in the DCF trust fund shall revert to the Department of Financial Services Opioid Settlement Clearing Trust Fund. The state fund will receive 45% of the settlement funds and increase over time to 55% of the settlement.

Sheriffs will work this year to ensure a portion of these state settlement funds are allocated for the mental health, wellness, and support services for first responders who experience trauma associated with opioid-related emergency events. This action is allowable under the settlement agreement entered into by the state and will greatly assist law enforcement agencies as they cope with mental health issues.



850.877.2165



FLSHERIFFS.ORG