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Local Finance Notice

Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver
Commissioner

Melanie R. Walter
Acting Director

Contact Information

Director's Office

V. 609.292.6613

F. 609.633.6243

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

V. 609.292.6110

F. 609.633.6243

Financial Regulation and Assistance

V. 609.292.4806

F. 609.984.7388

Local Finance Board

V. 609.292.0479

F. 609.633.6243

Mail and Delivery

101 South Broad St.

PO Box 803

Trenton, New Jersey

08625-0803

Web:

www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs

E-mail: dlgs@dca.nj.gov

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Municipal Clerks

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New Jersey Opioid Litigation – Municipal & County Survey

As part of its comprehensive response to the opioid epidemic, the Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs (the “State”) have filed civil lawsuits seeking to hold opioid manufacturers liable for their contributions to a crisis that afflicts Local Units all across New Jersey. The State’s lawsuits seek money damages, civil penalties, and other relief from responsible companies. The State has sued on behalf of all New Jersey residents, and seeks relief sufficient to fund solutions to the opioid epidemic across New Jersey.

The State is well positioned to secure results for all New Jerseyans, and the State is uniquely positioned to direct any funds recovered through litigation or settlement to finance programs for education, prevention, treatment, and recovery that benefit New Jersey residents throughout the State.

Counties and municipalities can help. One way for county and municipal governments to assist the State in its litigation efforts is to share information about how the opioid epidemic has affected their Local Units and how local governments have responded. This information may help the State demonstrate, to the fullest extent possible, the costs of this epidemic to New Jersey and all of its Local Units. This information also may inform the State’s efforts to direct funds to Local Units affected by the opioid crisis.

To assist the State in its efforts to obtain relief on behalf of all New Jerseyans, the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General invites municipalities and counties to fill out a survey at: <https://form.jotform.com/82525965479170>.

Some counties and municipalities have filed their own lawsuits against companies involved in manufacturing and distributing opioids. These lawsuits seek monetary relief to address the same opioid crisis that the State seeks to address through its litigation. Counties and municipalities with their own pending lawsuits are not prevented from cooperating with the State, however, including by providing information helpful to the State’s litigation and the State’s efforts to direct relief to affected Local Units. Coordination between the State and these litigating municipalities and counties will benefit

their residents, just as coordination between the State and non-litigating municipalities and counties will benefit their residents.

The State appreciates the cooperation of all county and municipal governments in these important efforts.

Please take the time to complete the survey at the link provided above and provide your responses by November 2, 2018. If you have questions please contact the Office of the Attorney General at Response@NJOAG.gov.

Approved: Melanie R. Walter, Acting Director