

Colorado Opioids Settlement MOU: Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does this “settle” and why does Colorado need an MOU?

Nationwide settlements have been reached with the “Big 3” opioid distributors (McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen) and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson to resolve claims by state and local governments that these companies contributed to the opioid epidemic. The claims being settled include those raised by local governments in the national multi-district litigation (“MDL”), *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL 2804 (N.D. Ohio). More information about these settlements can be found at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>.

The Colorado MOU establishes the framework for distributing and sharing these settlement proceeds throughout Colorado. Local governments and the State prepared the Colorado MOU, which prioritizes regionalism, collaboration, and abatement. It is expected that the Colorado MOU will also be used for settlements with other opioid defendants in the future, including any settlement from Purdue Pharma’s bankruptcy proceeding. Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser signed the MOU on August 26, 2021. The Colorado MOU is included in this packet from the Attorney General’s Office and can also be found at www.coag.gov/opioids.

2. Who put together the Colorado MOU?

Local government officials from across Colorado were involved in the negotiation of the Colorado MOU with the Attorney General’s Office. County commissioners, mayors, county and city attorneys, and other stakeholders came together with the assistance of Colorado Counties, Inc. (“CCI”) and the Colorado Municipal League (“CML”) to establish the framework and negotiate the details of the Colorado MOU.

3. How much money will Colorado receive and over what period of time?

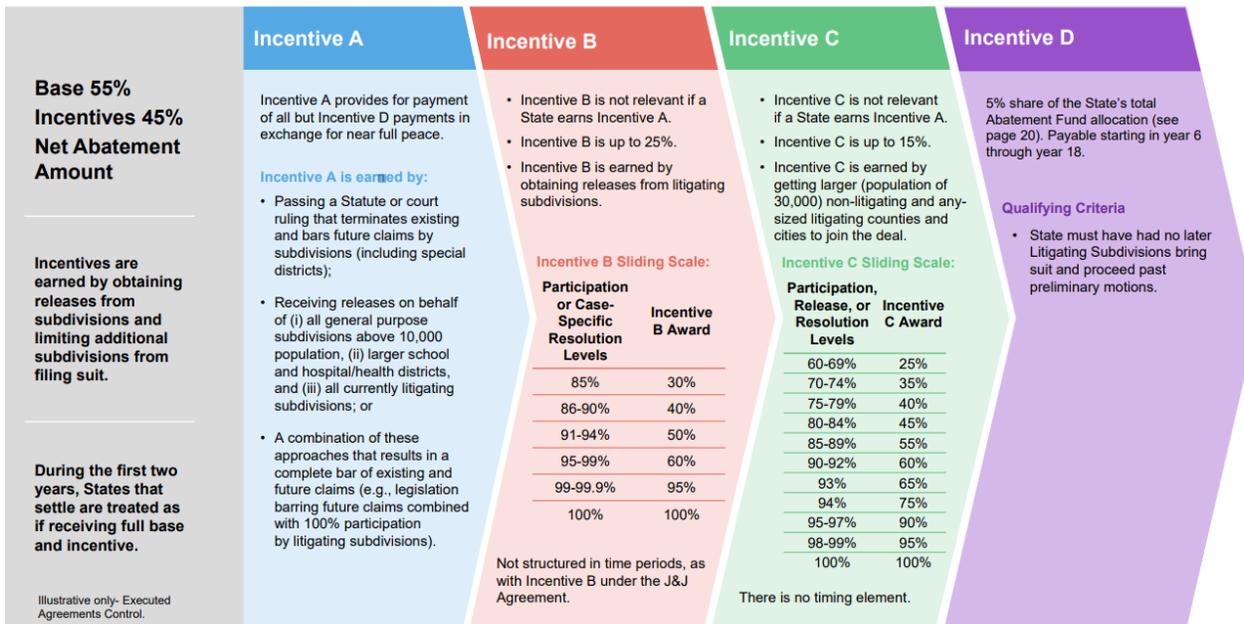
Funds from the Big 3 and Johnson & Johnson settlements will be distributed over a period of years. The Big 3 distributors will pay a maximum of \$21 billion over 18 years, while Johnson & Johnson will pay a maximum of \$5 billion over no more than nine years. In total, up to approximately \$22.8 billion in settlement proceeds will be payable to state and local subdivisions nationwide. Each state receives a percentage of that recovery, and Colorado’s maximum share from these settlements will likely be more than \$300 million.

However, as discussed more below, Colorado will receive its maximum share of settlement payments only if enough local governments sign on to the deal. Also, the settling defendants have the option to “walk away” from the deals if there is not enough participation, so it is important that a “critical mass” of local governments signs on soon. Otherwise, the entire deal could fall through.

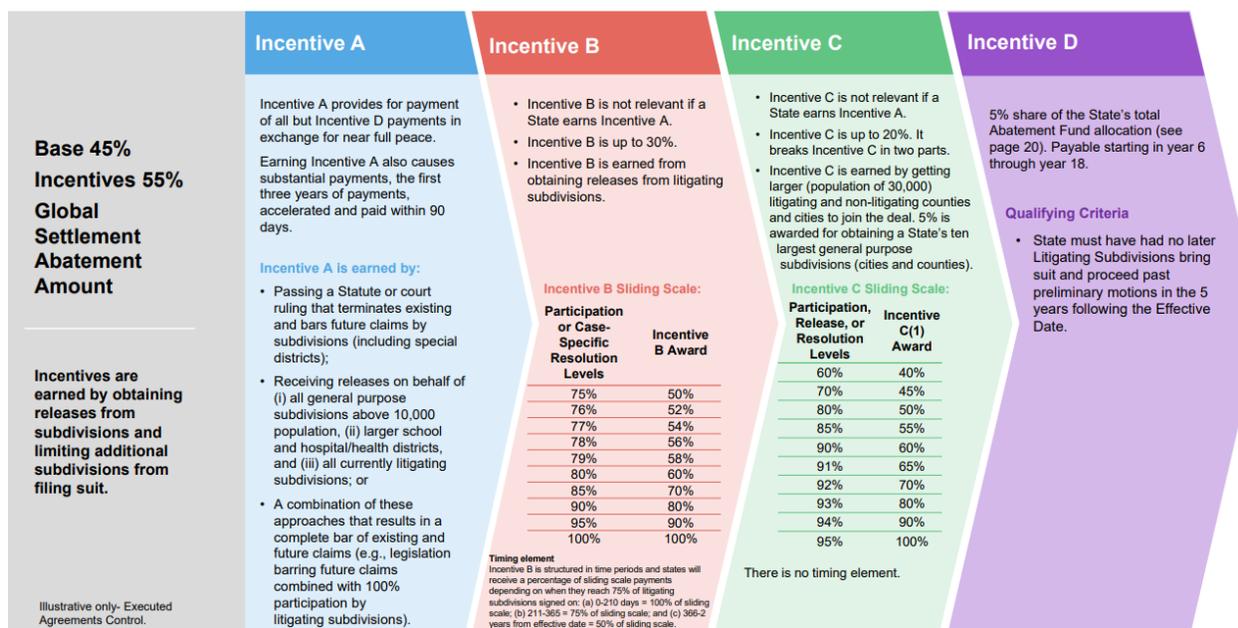
4. How can we maximize Colorado’s recovery?

The MOU was designed to ensure that as many local governments as possible would agree to its terms. The Big 3 Distributor and Johnson & Johnson settlements include incentive payments based on how many governments participate. Strong participation from local governments is needed to receive the full settlement payments for all of Colorado. Local governments should sign the Colorado Subdivision Escrow Agreement to ensure their legal claims are released only when 95% participation by local governments has been reached, which secures significant incentive payments under these settlement agreements. For more information on the incentive payments, please see the graphics below:

DISTRIBUTORS: Base and Incentives



JOHNSON & JOHNSON: Base and Incentives



5. Is participation limited to litigating entities?

No, participation is not limited to governments that filed suit in the opioid litigation. Money from these settlements will be used for opioid crisis abatement in communities across Colorado, regardless of whether they have chosen to sue. All Colorado local governments are eligible to participate in the settlements and join the MOU, and the MOU does **not** allocate more funds to cities and counties that chose to file suit—all cities and counties in Colorado are allocated funds based on the same objective factors.

6. How will settlement proceeds be divided within the state under the Colorado MOU?

Under the Colorado MOU, settlement proceeds will be distributed as follows:

- 10% directly to the State (“State Share”)
- 20% directly to Participating Local Governments (“LG Share”)
- 60% directly to Regions (“Regional Share”)
- 10% to specific abatement infrastructure projects (“Statewide Infrastructure Share”)

7. How will the money be spent?

Under the Colorado MOU, all settlement funds must be used only for “Approved Purposes,” a long and broad list that focuses on abatement strategies. These strategies emphasize prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Some examples of these strategies include training health care providers on opioid use disorder (“OUD”) treatment and responsible prescribing, expanding telehealth and mobile services for treatment, and increasing naloxone and rescue breathing

supplies. The list of Approved Purposes is broad enough to be flexible for local communities, while ensuring that settlement funds are used to combat the opioid epidemic. The list of Approved Purposes is attached as Exhibit A to the MOU, unless the term is otherwise defined in a settlement.

To ensure that settlement funds are in fact used only for Approved Purposes, a General Abatement Fund Council (the “Abatement Council”) will be formed. This committee will consist of thirteen representatives appointed by the State and Participating Local Governments to ensure opioid funds are spent in compliance with the terms of the settlements and the Colorado MOU.

8. How will direct payments to local governments be allocated?

Under the Colorado MOU, 20% of the settlement funds will be paid directly to local governments. A list of the percentage of settlement funds that will be allocated to each County Area (that is, the county government plus the municipalities within that county) is Exhibit D to the Colorado MOU. Those allocations are further broken down to an intracounty level in Exhibit E, which is a default allocation.

The allocations to each County Area are based on three factors that address the relative severity of the opioid crisis: (a) the number of persons suffering from Opioid Use Disorder in the county; (b) the number of opioid overdose deaths in the county; and (c) the amount of opioids distributed within the county (measured in Morphine Milligram Equivalent units).

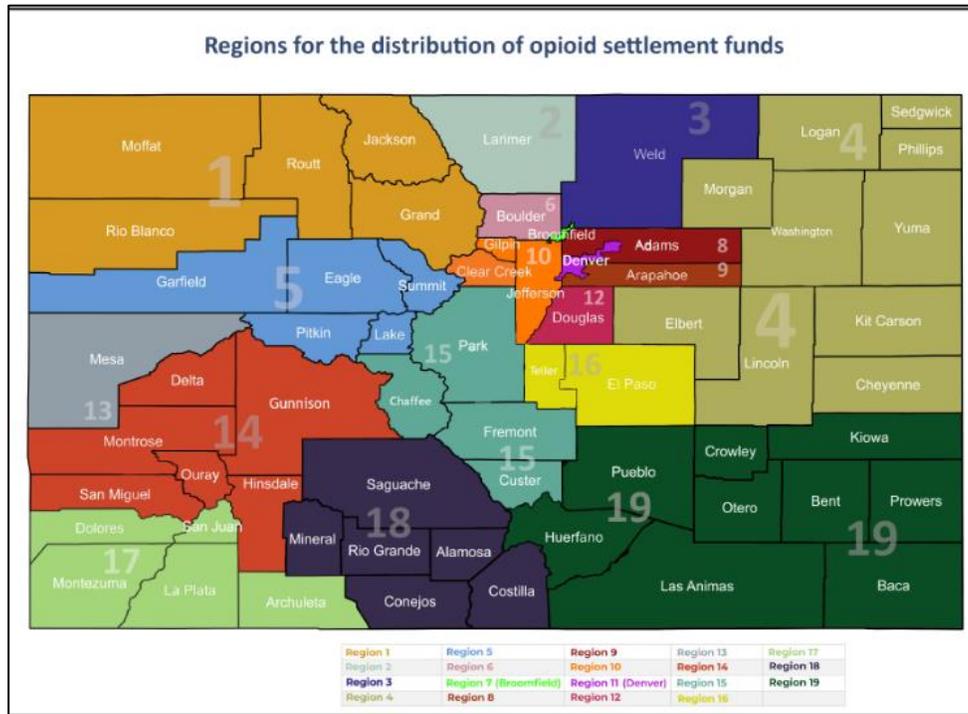
The intracounty allocations in Exhibit E are based on a default allocation model that will apply unless the local governments in a County Area enter into an agreement that provides for a different allocation model. These allocations are based on a model developed by health economist experts, which use data from the State and Local Governments Census on past spending relevant to opioid abatement.

To ensure transparency and that settlement funds are used for Approved Purposes, local governments that receive settlement funds directly will be required to provide expenditure data to the Abatement Council on an annual basis. Local governments that wish to join the MOU but do not wish to receive any direct payments have the option to redirect their payments to the Regional allocation described below.

A local government that chooses not to participate or sign onto the Colorado MOU will not receive funds from the LG Share and the portion of the LG share that it would have received will instead be re-allocated to the Regional Share described below.

9. How will payments to Regions be allocated?

Under the Colorado MOU, 60% of the settlement funds will be allocated to single- or multi-county regions made up of local governments. Local governments in Colorado worked collaboratively to develop the Regional Map, which emphasizes existing local infrastructure and relationships. The regional map is below, as well as included in the Colorado MOU as Exhibit C:



For more information on the percentages of settlement funds that will be allocated to each Region, please see Exhibit F of the Colorado MOU.

10. How will the Regions be governed?

Each Region will create its own “Regional Council” consisting of members from the constituent local governments to determine what Approved Purposes to fund with the Region’s allocation. The Regional Council will have the power to make spending decisions in the Region. The Regions will designate a fiscal agent prior to receiving any settlement funds. Regional governance models are attached to the Colorado MOU as Exhibit G. Each Region may draft its own intra-regional agreements, bylaws, or other governing documents to determine how the Regional Council will operate. Each Regional Council will provide expenditure data to the Abatement Council on an annual basis.

11. How will the Statewide Infrastructure Share work?

Many stakeholders have expressed a need for capital improvements across Colorado, and particularly in underserved areas, to abate the opioid crisis. The Colorado MOU directly addresses this by allocating 10% of settlement funds going to these projects. This money will be distributed by a statewide committee based on need. The Abatement Council will establish and publish policies and procedures for the distribution and oversight of the Statewide Infrastructure Share, including processes for local governments or regions to apply for opioid funds from the Statewide Infrastructure Share.

12. How will attorneys' fees and expenses be paid?

The Attorney General and local governments have agreed to a "Back-Stop Fund" for attorneys' fees and costs. The attorneys' fee provision in the Colorado MOU equitably allocates the cost of attorneys' fees across all local governments, while also allowing non-litigating entities to share in the 25% premium for releases signed by the litigating entities in the "Big 3" Distributor and Johnson & Johnson settlements.

Before a law firm can apply to the Back-Stop Fund, it must first apply to any national common benefit fee fund. The Back-Stop Fund will only be used to pay the difference between what law firms are owed and the amount they have received from a national common benefit fee fund. Attorneys' fees are limited to 8.7% of the total LG Share and 4.35% of the total Regional Share. No funds will be taken from the Statewide Infrastructure Share or State Share.

A committee will be formed to oversee payments from the Back-Stop Fund. The committee will include litigating and non-litigating entities. Importantly, any excess money in the Back-Stop fund, after attorneys' fees and costs are paid, will go back to the local governments.

13. Why is this a great result for local governments?

The Colorado MOU will ensure effective and efficient use of funds without dilution or diversion of opioid settlement money to unrelated purposes or unnecessary overhead expenses. In the Colorado MOU the local governments control 80% of the settlement funds.

- Bottom-Up Approach – The need is at the local level, so the resources should be, too.
- Local Voices – The communities bearing the brunt of this burden must have a meaningful seat at the table to make decisions about where resources go.
- Flexibility – The Colorado MOU provides an opportunity for local governments to decide how to entrust their own regional funds without unnecessary red tape.

14. How do I sign the MOU?

Local governments should sign four documents.

a. First is the MOU.

b. Next, each local government will need to sign a Subdivision Settlement Participation Form for each of the **two settlements** (the "Big 3" Distributor settlement and the Johnson & Johnson settlement) releasing their legal claims and stating they are participating in the settlements.

c. In addition, a Colorado Subdivision Escrow Agreement should be signed to ensure legal claims are released only when 95% participation by certain local governments has been reached, which secures a significant portion of the incentive payments described in FAQ 4, above. Under the terms of the Colorado Subdivision Escrow Agreement, CCI (for counties) or

CML (for municipalities) will hold the MOUs and the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms for each of the settlements in escrow until 95% participation by local governments has been reached as to specified incentive payments under the respective settlement agreements.

Copies of the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms, the MOU with signature pages for each local government, and the Colorado Subdivision Escrow Agreement will be provided by the Attorney General’s Office. The documents should be executed by the individual or body with authority to do so on behalf of their respective county or municipality and submitted by mail or email to either CCI or CML at the following addresses:

<p><u>For Counties:</u> Colorado Counties, Inc. 800 Grant, Ste 500 Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Email: Kyley Burress KBurress@ccionline.org Katie First KFirst@ccionline.org</p>	<p><u>For Municipalities:</u> Colorado Municipal League 1144 N. Sherman St. Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>Email: opioidsettlement@cml.org</p>
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If you have any questions, please reach out to Heidi Williams of the Colorado AG’s office at Heidi.Williams@coag.gov.