

Brief History of the 2022 Opioid Settlements

Multi-district litigation (MDL) between states and opioid manufacturers and distributors



To resolve their liabilities in 3,000+ lawsuits nationwide, opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson (\$5 billion) and the "big three" distributors McKesson, Amerisource Bergen and Cardinal Health (\$21 billion) offer a \$26 billion settlement.

Jul 2021

Participating states are entitled to about half of the offered (base) payout. To unlock the full amount, states must convince counties, cities to surrender individual suits and join their state agreements.

Aug 2021

Deadline: 46 states confirm participation in the MDL (Ala., Okla., Wash., and W.Va. elect not to participate).

Deadline: 90% of eligible counties, cities surrender individual suits and join their state agreements, increasing the base payout by about 50%.

Jan 2022

Feb 2022

Deadline: Defendants agree MDL has reached critical mass, finalize the \$26 billion settlement.

First payments expected.

Jul 2022

What Comes Next?

- Depending on the individual agreements, settlement funds will be distributed over 18 years, but are largely front-loaded.
- NACo's Opioid Solutions Center provides resources to support planning to use the funds and identifying effective eligible expenses.
- Some states and local governments are moving forward with lawsuits against retailers (CVS, Walgreens and Walmart) while others are finalizing lawsuits against other manufacturers (Purdue and the Sackler family, Teva and Endo).
- Current statuses on retailer lawsuits and details on the distributor and manufacturer settlements by state can be found at opioidsettlementtracker.com