

# Brief History of the \$26 Billion Settlement



*Nationwide settlement between states and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson (\$5 billion) and the “big three” distributors McKesson, Amerisource Bergen and Cardinal Health (\$21 billion)*

To resolve their liabilities in 3,000+ lawsuits nationwide, defendants offer a \$26 billion settlement. Participating states are entitled to about half of the offered (base) payout. To unlock the full amount, states must convince counties and cities to surrender individual suits and join their state agreements.

**Deadline:** 90% of eligible counties, cities surrender individual suits and join their state agreements, nearly doubling the base payout.

Payment process initiated in some states.

Jul 2021

Aug 2021

Jan 2022

Feb 2022

May 2022

Sep 2022

**Deadline:** 46 states confirm participation in the litigation.

Defendants agree plaintiffs have reached a critical mass, finalize the \$26 billion settlement.

First year payments received in majority of states.

## 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 help counties maximize the impact of opioid settlement funds. Visit [www.naco.org/opioid](http://www.naco.org/opioid) to learn more.
- Some states and local governments are moving forward with lawsuits against retailers while others are finalizing lawsuits against other manufacturers.
- The current status of other national lawsuits and state-specific details on the \$26 billion settlement can be found at [opioidsettlementtracker.com](http://opioidsettlementtracker.com)