

Colorado Opioids Settlement Memorandum of Understanding

Summary

Below is a brief overview of the key provisions outlined in the Colorado Opioids Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (“Colorado MOU”). The Colorado MOU was signed by Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser on August 26, 2021. In order to receive the full settlement payments for all of Colorado, strong participation by local governments signing on to the Colorado MOU is necessary.

Local governments and the State prepared the Colorado MOU, which prioritizes regionalism, collaboration, and abatement in the sharing and distribution of opioid settlement funds. The points below summarize the framework laid out in the Colorado MOU for distributing and sharing opioids settlement proceeds throughout Colorado. Please see the full Colorado MOU and exhibits for additional details.

While Colorado’s local governments are currently being asked to participate in recent settlements with the “Big 3” Distributors (AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson) and Johnson & Johnson, the Colorado MOU is intended to apply to all current and future opioid settlements.

A. Allocation of Settlement Funds

The Colorado MOU provides the framework for fairly dividing and sharing settlement proceeds among the state and local governments in Colorado. Under the Colorado MOU, settlement proceeds will be distributed as follows:

- 1. 10% directly to the State (“State Share”)**
- 2. 20% directly to Participating Local Governments (“LG Share”)**
- 3. 60% directly to Regions (“Regional Share”)**
- 4. 10% to specific abatement infrastructure projects (“Statewide Infrastructure Share”)**

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.

B. General Abatement Fund Council

A General Abatement Fund Council (the “Abatement Council”), consisting of representatives appointed by the State and Participating Local Governments, will ensure that the distribution of opioid funds complies with the terms of any settlement and the terms of the Colorado MOU. The Abatement Council will consist of 13 members, seven appointed by the State and six appointed by the Participating Local Governments.

C. Local Government Share (20%)

Twenty percent of settlement funds will be paid directly to Participating Local Governments. Exhibit D to the Colorado MOU lists the percentage to each County Area (that is, the county government plus the municipalities within that county), and Exhibit E further breaks down those allocations to an intracounty level using a default allocation.

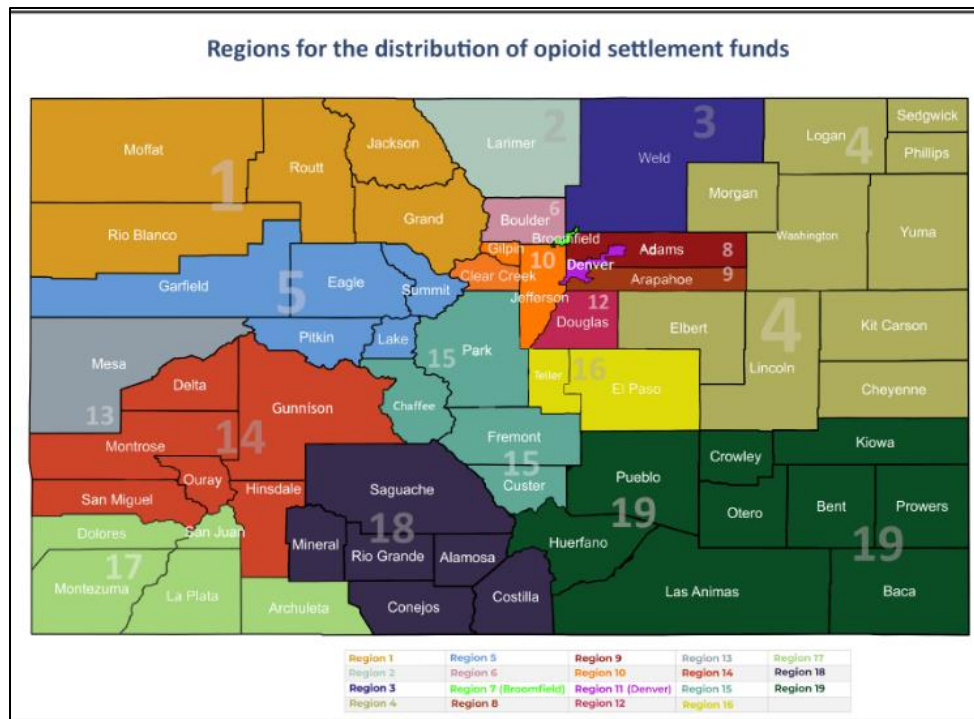
The allocations to each County Area in Exhibit D are based on three factors that address critical causes and effects of the opioid crisis: (1) the number of persons suffering opioid use disorder in the county; (2) the number of opioid overdose deaths that occurred in the county; and (3) the amount of opioids distributed within the county.

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

Participating Local Governments will provide data on expenditures from the LG Share to the Abatement Council on an annual basis. If a local government wishes, it may forego its LG Share and direct it to the Regional Share. 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 for the region where that local government is located.

D. Regional Share (60%)

Sixty percent of settlement funds will be allocated to single- or multi-county regions made up of local governments. These regions were drawn by local governments to make use of existing local infrastructure and relationships. The regional map is shown below, as well as in Exhibit C to the Colorado MOU:



Allocations to regions will be calculated according to the percentages in Exhibit F. Each region will create its own “Regional Council” to determine what Approved Purposes to fund with that region’s allocation from the Regional Share. 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, subject to the terms of the Colorado MOU. Each Regional Council will provide expenditure data to the Abatement Council on an annual basis.

A local government that chooses not to participate or sign onto the Colorado MOU shall not receive any opioid funds from the Regional Share and shall not participate in the Regional Councils.

E. State Share (10%)

Ten percent of settlement funds will be allocated directly to the State for statewide priorities in combating the opioid epidemic. The State maintains full discretion over distribution of the State Share anywhere within the State of Colorado. On an annual basis, the State shall provide all data on expenditures from the State Share, including administrative costs, to the Abatement Council.

F. Statewide Infrastructure Share (10%)

Ten percent of the settlement funds will be allocated to a Statewide Infrastructure Share to promote capital improvements and provide operational assistance for the development or improvement of infrastructure necessary to abate the opioid crisis anywhere in Colorado.

The Abatement Council shall 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.

G. Attorneys' Fees and Expenses Paid Through a Back-Stop Fund

To a large extent, the national opioid settlements occurred because of the pressure that litigating entities and their counsel exerted on defendants through their lawsuits. The attorneys' fee provision equitably allocates the cost of attorneys' fees, while also allowing non-litigating entities to share in the 25% premium for releases by the litigating entities in the "Big 3" Distributor and Johnson & Johnson settlements. The work that was done by the litigating entities and their law firms in the litigation has substantially contributed to achieving the settlements that are currently being offered and those that are anticipated in the future.

The Attorney General and local governments have agreed to a "Back-Stop Fund" for attorneys' fees and costs. 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.

H. Participation in the Colorado MOU and Expected Timeline

The MOU was designed to ensure that as many local governments as possible would agree to its terms. Strong participation from local governments is needed to receive the full settlement payments for all of Colorado. On August 26, 2021, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser signed the MOU. It is projected that settlement funds from the "Big 3" Distributor/Johnson & Johnson settlements could be made available as soon as July 2022 and will be distributed within Colorado according to the MOU.

Along with the MOU, each local government will need to sign a Subdivision Settlement Participation Form for each of the settlements (the "Big 3" Distributor settlement and the Johnson & Johnson settlement) releasing their legal claims and stating they are participating in the settlements. 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. That 95% participation threshold is important because it triggers certain amounts of incentive payments under the settlements and signals to the settling pharmaceutical companies that the settlements have wide acceptance.

A copy of the MOU with signature pages for each local government, the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms, 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:

<u>For Counties:</u> Colorado Counties, Inc. 800 Grant, Ste 500 Denver, CO 80203 Email: Kyley Burress at KBurress@ccionline.org Katie First at KFirst@ccionline.org	<u>For Municipalities:</u> Colorado Municipal League 1144 N. Sherman St. Denver, CO 80203 Email: opioidsettlement@cml.org
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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.