**The National Opioid Settlements**

On average[, 296 Americans are dying every day](https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates)  from opioid abuse. According to the documentary [Untreated & Unheard: The Addiction Crisis in America,](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keIdRqCIar0) the number of opioid related deaths is like “9/11 happening every 10 days.” Opioid abuse is affecting communities at an alarming rate, from adolescents and teens to adults and the elderly; the opioid epidemic is a national public health emergency and is touching every facet of our society.

There has been a significant increase in opioid related deaths over the last decade and in recent years, there has been growing concern over the impact opioids have on communities. As light has been shed on the effects of opioids in relation to addiction, several lawsuits have been filed against pharmaceutical companies that manufacture and distribute opioids as they played a role in creating and perpetuating the opioid epidemic. Many of these companies marketed their opioid medications as a non-addictive pain management medication, despite knowing that they were highly addictive.

The settlements are aimed to address the harm and provide funds to support those affected by opioid addiction through addiction treatment. They also include provisions to ensure manufacturers and distributors change their practices and act responsibly in the future.

**Break Down of the National Opioid Settlements**

* **Who:**The Federal Government, states, local communities, and political subdivisions are working together to end the opioid epidemic following national opioid settlements. Each state has its own approach to spending the funds.

***See the distribution of opioid settlement funds here.***

* **Why:**States and local communities are in the process of developing strategies to allocate and/or use the funds made available to them by the national opioid settlements. The funds are to improve society safety and oversight the distribution of prescription opioids to support efforts to prevent opioid abuse and overdose deaths, expand access to addiction treatment and recovery services, and support programs aimed at reducing the supply of opioids. Ultimately, the goal of opioid abatement funds is to help reduce the devastating impact of the opioid epidemic on individuals, families, and communities.
* **Where:**Opioid settlements have been made nationwide from states to local communities.

[See the National Opioid Settlement tracker here](https://www.opioidsettlementtracker.com/globalsettlementtracker)

As the opioid crisis continues to impact lives across the country, [The National Association of Attorneys General has led the charge](https://www.naag.org/issues/opioids/) in combatting the opioid epidemic through:

* Advocating for state and [**federal legislation**](https://www.naag.org/our-work/policy-advocacy/legislative-priority-public-health/) to stop the epidemic and actions to help those grappling with opioid-use disorder.
* Investigating and suing opioid manufacturers, distributors, and other related parties for their actions in fueling the crisis and to recover funds to help address the damage they have caused.

**Timeline of Settlements**

On July 21, 2021, a bipartisan coalition of attorney generals announced final agreements with pharmaceutical companies and distributors. The settlements require 85% of funds be allocated to programs that will help address the ongoing opioid crisis through treatment, education, and prevention efforts. The settlement is the first of its kind to administer resources directly to the state and local governments specifically for relief programs to help rebuild the devastation caused by the opioid epidemic.

[The settlement also calls for injunctive relief that requires the “Big Three” drug distributors and Johnson & Johnson to make significant changes to corporate practices to protect consumer health and welfare.](https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Opioids_release_20220225.pdf)

The 2022 National Settlements are “opt in” settlements that are open only to states, as well as state subdivisions (e.g., tribals, municipalities, counties, parishes, cities, towns, incorporated townships, villages, and boroughs) and certain special districts (e.g., school districts, fire 1 The 2022 National Settlements define the specific entities entering into the respective agreements, as well as the “Released Entities.” 2 districts, and hospital districts).

For the Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, and CVS Settlements, these settling Defendants will then have until May 18, 2023, to determine whether to proceed further with their respective settlements.3 The Walgreens and CVS Settlements include an intervening deadline (May 2, 2023) by which states are to determine whether there has been sufficient subdivision-level participation to proceed with those settlements.

**Who is Eligible to Apply for Funding?**

The eligibility criteria for applying varies depending on specific programs and the state. In general, the funds may be available to government agencies, non-profit organizations, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations working to address the opioid crisis. Programs may have specific requirements, it’s important to check the specific requirements and eligibility for each program before applying to ensure that you meet necessary qualifications.

[List of remediation use here.](https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/TEVA-Exhibit-E.pdf)

**Why You Should Care**

[Government data shows](https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates), more than 500,000 overdose deaths over the past two decades -- including more than 80,000 in 2021 alone -- are connected to the US opioid crisis. An estimated 9.5 million Americans age 12 and older reported in 2020 to have misused opioids, including 9.3 million prescription pain reliever abusers and 902,000 heroin users. The settlement will directly support more than 3,000 state and local governments in seeking meaningful progress in addressing the opioid crisis.

While the opioid settlements are an important step forward, they are just a part of the larger effort to address addiction. It’s important to continue to invest in treatment and preventative programs. With continued investment in these programs, we can work together to combat the crisis and ensure that all individuals have the support they need to overcome addiction.

**See What Your State Funding Looks Like:**

Opioid settlement state funding varies by the way it is distributed. The settlements are reached between each individual state with the pharmaceutical companies. While the terms of each settlement may vary, the funds are distributed to states based on a formula that considers the severity of the opioid crisis in each state, the number of opioid-related deaths, and the number of opioids prescribed per capita. The distribution of funds is determined by each states government, the funds may be allocated to addiction treatment programs, expanding on preventative and reactive support, and increasing support to law enforcement for opioid trafficking. It is up to the state government to manage the distribution of funds. This can be done through grant programs, community organizations, or other stakeholders in areas of need.

See state participation status here: <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/state-participation-status/>

**For More Information:**

<https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/faq-explanatory-charts/>

<https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/executive-summary/>