



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
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December 8, 2021

Dear Minnesota Cities and Counties:

I'm pleased to announce that counties, cities, and the State of Minnesota have reached an agreement that will govern how funds from recently announced settlements with opioid companies will be distributed within Minnesota. In order to finalize this agreement, I am asking you to sign the enclosed State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement (MN MOA) and also to join both settlements with opioid distributors McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardinal Health, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson by January 2, 2022. Minnesota stands to receive more than \$300 million from these settlements, the vast majority of which will go to cities and counties, but we need your cities and counties to sign on to the settlements to maximize the resources to fight the epidemic. Simply put, the more cities and counties that sign on by January 2, 2022, the more money we will have for treatment, prevention, and a whole host of programs and strategies to abate this crisis.

Over the last few months, my Office has been working tirelessly with cities and counties to come to an agreement on allocation and distribution of opioid settlement funds. We have been working alongside the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, representatives from litigating cities and counties, members of the Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council, the Governor's Office, and numerous state agencies, among others. The MN MOA is the result of this work.

Since 2000, the opioid epidemic has cost more than 5,400 Minnesotans their lives, and has torn families apart and ravaged communities. The last year has been especially hard, as the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a surge in opioid overdoses, both fatal and nonfatal. No amount of money will ever be enough to make up for the damage and destruction caused by these companies, but these historic agreements are at least a measure of accountability, if not justice.

Enclosed with this letter are several documents with more information about these agreements. Additional information about the settlements and how they will be implemented in Minnesota can be found on our website at www.ag.state.mn.us/opioids. Also, please do not hesitate to contact my Office with any questions you may have. You can send an email to opioids@ag.state.mn.us, or leave a voicemail at (612) 429-7126.

Sincerely,

KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General

Enclosures: *Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement*
Executive Summary
One-Page Overview
Frequently Asked Questions
Checklist