



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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OIG Reviews Rental Assistance Awards

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a report, [*COVID-19 Rental Assistance Programs*](#), detailing the results of an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) review that examined the County’s COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program (RAP) administered by the Housing Opportunities Commission on behalf of Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), and the COVID-19 Rental Relief Program (CRRP) administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The review was focused on determining whether vulnerabilities exist in the rental assistance programs that create opportunities for fraud or abuse and whether specific instances of fraud or abuse were committed by applicants or other program participants. The OIG ultimately found no specific instances of fraud within the tested samples but found several administrative vulnerabilities. The OIG also noted that the programs’ reliance on applicant-provided information made it difficult to identify intentional misrepresentations.

The OIG made six recommendations related to administrative issues found during the review, many of which have since been addressed by DHHS in revised guidance that was produced after completion of the OIG’s review and discussions between OIG and program staff. The Chief Administrative Officer’s response indicates general concurrence with the OIG’s recommendations.

The full report can be found at the following location,

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2022/OIGReport2-004_RentalAssistancePrograms.pdf.

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