



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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OIG Finds Fraudster Stole Over \$39K in COVID-19 Rental Assistance Funds

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a new Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Memorandum of Investigation, [*Public Synopsis – Fraudulent Rental Assistance Payments Obtained by a DHHS CRRP Applicant*](#), detailing the results of an OIG investigation into allegations that an applicant for COVID-19 related rental assistance fraudulently obtained benefits. The investigation was predicated on information provided by the County's Department of Finance.

The County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) administered the COVID-19 Rental Relief Program (CRRP) which was designed to provide short-term rental subsidies to low and moderate-income households in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The multi-phase program was financed with a combination of funds from the Montgomery County General Fund Reserves, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the U.S. Department of Treasury's (Treasury) Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Funds awarded through the CRRP were typically sent directly to applicant landlords to cover rents.

The OIG established that an applicant submitted fraudulent documents and information in an attempt to substantiate false claims that they were eligible for the program. In total the applicant unjustly obtained \$39,250 in CRRP benefits. The OIG referred the findings of its investigation to the Montgomery County State's Attorney's office for consideration.

In response to this investigation, the County's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer advised that she had discussed the matter with DHHS leadership.

[Read the full report.](#)

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