




**MEMORANDUM
CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

OIG Reference: 2018-07-00007

To: Angela Hurlock, Chairperson, CHA Board of Commissioners
Matthew Brewer, Vice-Chair & Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee
Members of the Finance and Audit Committee
Tracey Scott, Chief Executive Officer

From: Kathryn Richards, Inspector General 

Date: May 1, 2023

Subject: Significant OIG Activity – Sentencing of HCV Participant Brenda Jones

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) writes to notify you that, on April 27, 2023, Brenda Jones, a current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participant, was sentenced in the U.S District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, relative to her scheme to defraud the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Jones was sentenced to two years' probation and ordered to pay **\$29,644.00 in restitution to the CHA** and \$70,839.90 to the SSA.

Jones had previously pleaded guilty on December 27, 2022, to one count of theft of government funds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

As Jones acknowledged in her plea agreement, from October 2004 to December 2017, she used two Social Security Numbers (SSN) to enable her to conceal her work activity, income, and assets from the CHA. While working using the second SSN, Jones used the first SSN in connection with her CHA applications and related benefits. Based on the false and misleading information provided by Jones, the CHA made Housing Assistance Payments to Jones' landlords. The plea agreement was entered pursuant to an Information filed on November 16, 2022.

The CHA OIG worked the investigation in partnership with the SSA OIG. Prosecution of the matter was handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois.

The OIG's investigation is now closed. The OIG, however, will provide assistance and monitor the outcome of the CHA's administrative termination hearing of Jones' participation in the HCV program set for May 22, 2023.