




MEMORANDUM
CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

To: CHA Board of Commissioners
Tracey Scott, Chief Executive Officer
Cheryl Burns, Chief Housing Choice Voucher Officer

From: Kathryn B. Richards, Inspector General 

Date: January 4, 2023

Subject: Significant OIG Activity – Guilty Plea of Brenda Jones, HCV Participant
U.S. v. Jones, 22-CR-612

On December 27, 2022, Brenda Jones, a current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participant, pleaded guilty in the U.S District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to one count of theft of government funds in violation of 18 USC § 641, for her scheme to defraud the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

As Jones acknowledged in her plea agreement, 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's landlords.

From approximately October 2004 to December 2017, Jones caused the CHA to issue an overpayment of HCV benefits in the amount of \$29,644.00.

In addition, from approximately May 2003 to December 2017, Jones caused the SSA to issue her approximately \$70,839.90 in Supplemental Security Income benefits, which she was not entitled to receive.

As part of the plea agreement, Jones has agreed to pay restitution in the above amounts to the CHA and SSA, respectively. The plea agreement was entered pursuant to an Information filed on November 16, 2022. Jones's sentencing date is currently not set, pending receipt of the pre-sentence investigation and sentencing memoranda.

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

The OIG's investigation will remain open pending the outcome of Jones's sentencing. The OIG will also refer the matter to the CHA's HCV department for administrative termination of her participation in the HCV program.