

COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force FACT SHEET

Background

The Attorney General has directed the establishment of the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance enforcement efforts against COVID-19 related fraud. The Task Force will be organized and led by the Deputy Attorney General.

Over the past year, the Department of Justice has led an historic enforcement initiative to detect and disrupt COVID-19 related fraud, charging nearly 600 defendants to date with crimes involving over \$600 million in 56 federal districts around the country.

A whole-of-government enforcement effort is critical to protecting these essential relief programs, which are so important to the health and welfare of Americans everywhere. Working across agencies will help every agency's efforts to thwart those who treat the pandemic as an opportunity for illegal profit.

"The Department of Justice will use every available federal tool—including criminal, civil, and administrative actions—to combat and prevent COVID-19 related fraud. We look forward to working with our federal government colleagues to bring to justice those who seek to profit unlawfully from the pandemic," wrote Attorney General Garland in a memo announcing the Task Force.

Creation of the Task Force will augment the work that is already underway. The Task Force will:

- Detect and disrupt future fraud;
- Support the investigation and prosecution of the most culpable offenders;
- Assist in the recovery of stolen funds;
- Work closely with our interagency partners to share information and insights gained from prior enforcement experience in order to reduce the potential threat to the American people and COVID-19 relief;
- Help agencies tasked with administering these significant relief programs increase their own vigilance by providing information law enforcement learns about fraud trends and illicit tactics, as appropriate;
- Field a public awareness campaign through fraud alerts and a dedicated DOJ website with resources to help the American people take steps to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities; and
- Serve as a deterrent, amplifying the message that exploiting government assistance for personal and financial gain will not be tolerated.

Members

Led by the Deputy Attorney General, the Task Force augments and incorporates existing coordination mechanisms within the Department and will continue to work in close coordination with other efforts underway throughout the federal government.

Entities within the Department of Justice, or their designees:

- Heads of Litigating Components
- United States Attorneys
- The Executive Office for United States Attorneys
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF)
- The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General
- The National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force
- INTERPOL Washington

Key interagency partners:

- Department of Labor
- Department of the Treasury, including the Internal Revenue Service
- Department of Homeland Security, including the United States Secret Service
- Small Business Administration
- Department of Health and Human Services, including the Food and Drug Administration
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Social Security Administration
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Federal Housing Finance Agency
- Federal Reserve Board
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- Special Inspector General for Pandemic Relief (SIGPR)
- The Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)

Case Examples

- [Man Purchased Lamborghini After Receiving \\$3.9 Million in PPP Loans | OPA | Department of Justice](#)
- [Irvine Man Arrested on Federal Grand Jury Indictment Alleging He Fraudulently Obtained \\$5 Million in COVID-Relief PPP Loans](#)
- [Four Additional Members of Los Angeles-Based Fraud Ring Indicted for Exploiting COVID-Relief Programs](#)
- [Nine charged in \\$24 million COVID-relief fraud scheme](#)
- [Texas Man Charged In \\$24 Million COVID-Relief Fraud](#)
- [Seven Charged in Connection with a COVID-Relief Fraud Scheme Involving more than 80 Fraudulent Loan Applications Worth Approximately \\$16 Million](#)
- [Florida Man who Used COVID-Relief Funds to Purchase Lamborghini Sports Car Charged in Miami Federal Court](#)

- [CARES Act Fraud Investigations Identify Twenty-Three Individuals Targeting Thirty-One Million Dollars](#)
- [Twelve Individuals Indicted And Arrested For Unemployment Benefits And Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) Fraud](#)
- [Defendant Charged In \\$1.4 Million Covid-19 Fraud Scheme](#)
- [Russell Co. Woman Pleads Guilty to \\$499,000 Unemployment Fraud Scheme](#)
- [Rapper Who Bragged about Unemployment Benefits Scam in Music Video Arrested for Allegedly Bilking COVID-19 Jobless Relief Program](#)
- [Two Charged with Conspiring with State Contractor in Multi-million Dollar Unemployment Fraud Scheme](#)