



SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General
For The Troubled Asset Relief Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

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TWO HARDEST HIT FUND RECIPIENTS CHARGED WITH STEALING TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM HOUSING ASSISTANCE

*In Two Separate Cases, Defendants Indicted for Stealing from Keep Your Home California, California's
Hardest Hit Fund Program*

Two men self-surrendered late last week in response to separate indictments in the Central District of California. Each defendant is charged with stealing tens of thousands of dollars in unemployment benefits under the portion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) intended to provide mortgage payment assistance for unemployed or underemployed homeowners.

Robert Charles Sneed, 55, of Indio, CA, was charged with eighteen counts of theft of government property in excess of \$1,000, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 641. He was also charged with one count of violating 18 U.S.C. § 287; making a false or fraudulent claim against the United States.

Brandon Corey Smith, 36, of Temecula, CA, was charged with eleven counts of theft of government property in excess of \$1,000, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 641.

Keep Your Home California (KYHC) was a federally funded mortgage payment assistance program that provided eligible homeowners with temporary mortgage assistance so that they could avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. The KYHC program was part of a broader effort by the federal government to stabilize the nation's housing market where states with the most distressed markets received federal monies to develop locally tailored foreclosure prevention solutions. The cases are unrelated to each other. According to the allegations, both defendants received thousands in KYHC unemployment relief funds, to which they were not entitled. USA v. Sneed was jointly investigated by SIGTARP and the FBI.

About SIGTARP

The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program was created as an independent law enforcement agency to investigate fraud, waste, and abuse related to the TARP bailout. To date, SIGTARP investigations have resulted in the recovery of over \$11.2 billion, 388 criminal convictions and 305 defendants sentenced to prison.

To report a suspected crime related to TARP, call SIGTARP's Crime Tip Hotline: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009). To receive alerts about reports, audits, media releases, and other SIGTARP news, sign up at www.SIGTARP.gov/pages/press.aspx. Follow SIGTARP on Twitter @SIGTARP.

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