



# SIGTARP

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

October 25, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Janet L. Yellen – Secretary of the Treasury

FROM: Ms. Melissa Bruce – Acting Special Inspector General for the  
Troubled Asset Relief Program

SUBJECT: Engagement Memorandum – Evaluation of SIGTARP’s Findings  
and Recommendations on EESA Housing Programs (EVAL-018)

***SIGTARP’s Audit Mission:***

The Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) and the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF) are two of the largest housing programs Treasury implemented under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA). Both programs were created to help families keep their homes and stabilize communities in the wake of the 2007-2008 financial crisis. HAMP’s goal is to prevent avoidable foreclosures by modifying mortgages for struggling homeowners to be more affordable and sustainable. Since 2009, 1.7 million homeowners have had their mortgages permanently modified under HAMP. Treasury expects to disburse final incentives payments to eligible homeowners in September 2023 or earlier, and the program is projected to close by December 2023. HHF sought to prevent foreclosures in areas hit hard by home price declines and high unemployment through locally-tailored solutions, such as mortgage payment assistance, principal reduction, down payment assistance, and blight elimination. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia participated in HHF. The program closed in December 2021.

As part of its oversight of EESA, SIGTARP has issued multiple audit and evaluation reports and other products on HAMP and HHF. These reports and products include numerous findings and recommendations to Treasury that aimed to improve in the efficiency and effectiveness of the two programs; enhance transparency and accountability; and reduce the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse.

***Newly Announced Evaluation:***

SIGTARP is initiating an evaluation to summarize the findings it made in its reports and other products on HAMP and HHF, and to assess the status of the recommendations in those products. The results of this evaluation will offer valuable information to Treasury, members of Congress, and the public on SIGTARP’s oversight of HAMP and HHF, and lessons learned that could be applied to similar ongoing and future housing programs.

A member of SIGTARP staff will contact Treasury staff to arrange an entrance conference to discuss the scope and objectives of the evaluation. Please contact me at any point during this evaluation if you have any questions or need additional information.