

# OIG FRAUD BULLETIN

➔ Protect Yourself from Fraud



★★ OFFICE of ★★  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

March 2022

## UNSOLICITED CONTACT FROM HUD

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HUD does NOT initiate contact with individuals regarding its assistance or about obtaining assistance. Obtain their contact information and call HUD directly to verify whether they are legitimate or just hang up or delete the email.

## UNSOLICITED EVICTION HELP

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If somebody contacts you to provide assistance in stopping an eviction for a fee, be suspicious.

## FAKE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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If you are contacted by an unfamiliar organization claiming to be a nonprofit or one that has a name very similar to that of a well-known nonprofit, be suspicious. Provide charitable donations directly to organizations you know or have dealt with before. You can also visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Tax Exempt Organization's website, <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>, to verify that the nonprofit is registered with the IRS before donating..

## PHISHING ATTEMPTS

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If you receive a call or email from someone stating they are from a reputable company or a company with which you may already be doing business asking for passwords or bank or credit card information, be suspicious. You may see a link that looks official but as you hover over it, it shows a different address that is not to the official website. Oftentimes, the individual will make the need for information seem urgent to get you to respond before you realize it is not legitimate. You should go directly to websites or call businesses directly to determine whether they contacted you or need information. Legitimate requests usually will not require you to provide personal information.

If you think you may be a victim of a fraud scheme, report it to the HUD Office of Inspector General by calling the HUD OIG Hotline at 1-800-347-3735, visiting [www.hudoig.gov/hotline](http://www.hudoig.gov/hotline), or clicking the "REPORT FRAUD" button.

REPORT FRAUD

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- ✓ Contact businesses directly rather than responding to emails or calls.
- ✓ Contact your local public housing agency or HUD to speak with a verifiable employee of the agency.
- ✓ Contact your local HUD office to find assistance providers. Find your local office's contact information at HUD's official website, <https://www.hud.gov/local>.
- ✓ Contact the HUD Office of Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-347-3735 or visit the website at [www.hudoig.gov](http://www.hudoig.gov) if you are approached or solicited for upfront payments.



- ✗ Answer online solicitations that require a fee to apply for government assistance.
- ✗ Pay money to anyone who claims you must pay an upfront fee for assistance from HUD, a public housing agency, or other government relief program.
- ✗ Provide personal information in response to an email or phone call.

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