



SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General
for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

Federal Court Sentences California Recipient Who Defrauded Hardest Hit Fund

In October 2019, Eliseo Delgado Jr. was sentenced to three years of probation and repaid \$52,373 after being convicted of making a false or fictitious claim in the Hardest Hit Fund program.

In November 2014, Delgado knowingly submitted a false application to the HHF unemployment assistance program in California, known as Keep Your Home California Unemployment Mortgage Assistance. The program was designed to help homeowners by providing temporary mortgage assistance to eligible low - to moderate - income homeowners who became unemployed. Delgado's application for homeowner relief benefits fraudulently stated that his income had been reduced because of unemployment. In a "hardship letter" in support of his application, Delgado wrote, "I have lost my job...I fell behind on my mortgage payments in 01/01/2014, earlier this year due to lack of income." In fact, from 2009 to 2016, Delgado was self-employed at various businesses he had founded, and in 2015 and 2016 he earned approximately \$300,000 annually. At no point was he unemployed. From January 2015 to June 2016, he received benefits for 18 months, the maximum length of time permissible under the program, for a total of \$52,373.

SIGTARP investigated the case. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, Riverside Branch Office, prosecuted the case.