



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Office of Inspector General
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OIG Report of Results of Pandemic Relief Fraud Investigations at CPSC

BETHESDA – Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued its summary report on potential Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) fraud by CPSC employees. The OIG performed these investigations as part of a government-wide effort to review CARES Act disbursements and recover fraudulent payments. The OIG is pleased to partner with the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) in ensuring accountability in the disbursement of pandemic relief funds. Since its inception, the PRAC has partnered with OIGs to ascertain the propriety of CARES Act payments to federal employees.

The PRAC identified 36 CPSC employees linked to CARES Act loans. Of these 36 employees, the OIG determined that 26 showed no sign of any wrongdoing. Either no funds were disbursed or funds were properly distributed, either to a family member or to the employee, because of a legitimate claim related to a prior position or approved outside employment.

Eight CPSC employees or their spouses were found to be victims of identity theft. OIG staff contacted each impacted person individually and provided links to resources the victims could access to protect themselves.

Two CPSC employees were found to be connected to questionable loans. In one case, there is no available evidence linking the employee directly to wrongdoing related to pandemic relief funds. The OIG determined the second employee received most of their pandemic relief funds as a result of false statements. The OIG conservatively estimate that this CPSC employee received \$24,049.60 in pandemic relief funds through their false statements.

The results of this investigation were provided to the Department of Justice and CPSC management for further action as warranted.

The OIG is an independent office within the CPSC that performs audits and investigations of the CPSC, and prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse. For more information, visit [OIG.CPSC.GOV](https://oig.cpsc.gov).

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