

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## MAN SENTENCED IN THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY

**BUFFALO** - United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that GEORGE McCRAY, 67, of Niagara Falls, New York, who was convicted of a felony charge of theft of public money on September 15, 2011, was sentenced to 1 year of probation and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$16,017 to HUD by United States District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White, who handled the case, stated that from approximately 2005 through 2010, the defendant was a resident in public housing at the Anthony Spallino Towers in Niagara Falls, New York, receiving rental assistance from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Eligibility for rental assistance through HUD is based on a family's gross income. For each year the defendant completed his household income statement, he claimed his Social Security benefits as his only source of income, knowingly failing to include the Workmen's Compensation benefits he was receiving. The defendant falsely understated his household's gross income in order to fraudulently receive a larger amount of HUD rental assistance benefits than he otherwise was entitled to receive had he reported his true gross income. As a result of the defendant falsely certifying his gross income, he received a total of approximately \$16,017 in additional subsidies from HUD that he was not entitled to receive.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge Rene Febles.

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