United States Attorney's Office
District of Oregon

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Portland Man Found Guilty of Stealing Pandemic Relief Funds

PORTLAND, Ore.—A federal jury found Beniamin Lucescu, age 57, a Portland resident, guilty today of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, between April 2020 and May 2022, during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Beniamin Lucescu and his wife, Georgeta Lucescu, conspired to steal almost $500,000 in pandemic relief funds by lying to the Small Business Administration about their intended use of the funds. Beniamin Lucescu repeatedly lied on the applications for the relief funds, claiming they would only use them for economic injuries their business, Rose City Senior Care, suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In reality, Beniamin Lucescu planned to use the pandemic relief funds for personal expenses and investments. As soon as they received the pandemic relief funds, Beniamin Lucescu used almost all of the $500,000 to pay off their old personal federal tax debt and invest in cryptocurrency.

"The pandemic was a time of unprecedented hardship, when Americans needed their government's help most. Beniamin Lucescu chose to exploit that crisis for his own gain. His fraud stole critical taxpayer-funded resources from Americans who were counting on them. We will not tolerate those who abuse government relief programs for personal profit. Thanks to the dedicated work of the SBA-OIG and my office, Lucescu was held accountable and brought to justice," said Scott E. Bradford, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.

On September 17, 2025, a federal grand jury in Portland returned an eight-count superseding indictment charging Beniamin and Georgeta Lucescu with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Beniamin Lucescu was also charged with money laundering.

Beniamin Lucescu will be sentenced on December 14, before a U.S. District Judge.

Georgeta Lucescu is scheduled for trial on February 8, 2027. Georgeta Lucescu is charged by indictment. An indictment is only an accusation of a crime, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Small Business Administration Office of Inspector General with assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Meredith Bateman and Special Assistant United States Attorney Ethan Bodell.

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