Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: SNAP Impacts on the Rural and Urban Economies in the Aftermath of the Great Recession

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR.) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

Agency Contact: Constance Newman, cnewman@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), one of the largest domestic anti-poverty programs, provides nutrition assistance payments to eligible Americans. In economic downturns, SNAP works as a macroeconomic automatic stabilizer because program outlays to U.S. households affected by the labor market disruptions generate positive economic impacts that partially offset the contractionary effects induced by a recession. The Great Recession (2007-2009) induced high levels of unemployment and underemployment that persisted through the recovery period (2009-2014). During this six-year period, SNAP benefit outlays to eligible households annually averaged $71 billion (in 2014 dollars). While other research has analyzed the extent to which these SNAP benefits reduced food insecurity linked to the increased incidence of rural and urban SNAP enrollments during this period, this report provides a quantitative assessment of the importance of these SNAP outlays in stimulating rural industry, employment and household incomes relative to its urban economy impacts.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers


Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization

Organization’s Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How: When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [ ] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [ ] Yes [X] No