

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The WIC Program: Background, Trends, and Economic Issues, 2023 Edition

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental food, nutrition education, and referrals to health care and other social services to low-income, nutritionally at-risk women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), WIC has an annual budget of \$6 billion and serves over 6 million people each month. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) periodically reports on research findings relevant to WIC policy and program operations, often following major changes in the program's design, with the last such report being in 2015. This report explains how WIC works, discusses program trends, and summarizes ERS research findings on key economic and policy issues facing the program, particularly those related to temporary changes to the program during the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing infant formula supply chain disruptions.

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
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 3/16/2023 Completed: 07/13/2023

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

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

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

How:

When:

