

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Rural American at a Glance 2021

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

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

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Subject of Review: The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic jarred American communities. Starting in March 2020, many States and communities ordered significant restrictions on nonessential businesses and government agencies. Schools moved classes online and people were asked to minimize contact with anyone outside their immediate family to prevent spreading the disease. Even as communities began to reopen, restrictions such as building capacity limits and size limits for social gatherings remained in place, preventing economic and social life from returning to normal.

Rural America experienced these shocks differently than urban America. This year's Rural America at a Glance focuses on characteristics of rural communities that underscore those differences and that affected their resiliency and recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic: intensity of infection, population and employment change, and broadband availability and access.

In addition to rural and urban differences, a distinction is also made between persistent poverty counties, where 20 percent or more of the population lived in poverty during four consecutive Census measurements dating back to 1980, and other counties. Persistent-poverty counties often have fewer resources for weathering economic and social stress, making them less resilient and slower to recover

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 09/03/2021 Completed: 09/28/2021 Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX

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