Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Trends and Patterns in Foundation Grants to Rural Areas

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

                                [X]   Influential Scientific Information

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

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag ; eleibtag@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: U.S. foundations are an important source of funds for public needs in the United States and elsewhere, providing more than $45 billion in grants in 2010. Although this represents a small share of the total contributions to charities and other nonprofit organizations, foundations may have an outsized impact as a result of their relative independence from political and market pressures. Some observers have argued that foundations are neglecting rural America, and that the share of foundation grants for rural development has declined in recent years. However, the available estimates provide very little information on the scope and trends in total foundation giving to rural areas, and do not show how grant funds are distributed geographically. The purpose of this study is to characterize recent trends and patterns of foundation grants to rural communities.

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: 06/16/14   End: 11/06/14   Completed: 11/06/14

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