

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Food Banks in the United States: Systems, Programs, and Participation

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

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

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Subject of Review: Food banks and pantries collectively distribute free groceries to millions of U.S. residents every year, providing an important component of food acquisitions and forming part of the safety net that serves those in need. While privately run, food banks are impacted by government policies and programs, with an increasing proportion of their food supplies coming from government sources, predominantly via The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and, to a lesser extent, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) which serves seniors. Both TEFAP and CSFP provide “USDA Foods,” which are domestically produced foods that USDA purchases and makes available to organizations that provide food to households or individuals in need. This report examines the current state of food bank systems from a national level, describing the size and resources of local and regional food bank networks, programs that provide USDA Foods to food banks and their affiliates, and household use of food bank services. It includes a look back at trends and events that have shaped the current state of food banks, with a focus on 2007-2021, with additional information for 2022, 2023 and 2024 where data is available.

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: 10/09/2024 Completed: 3/12/2025

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

