

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title:	Access to WIC-Authorized Vendors and Highspeed Internet Services in Urban and Rural Areas		
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB)	EIB		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Influential Scientific Information	
Agency:	Economic Research Service USDA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact:	Jeffrey Hopkins, jeffrey.w.hopkins@usda.gov		
Subject of Review:	Low-income women, infants, and children who are nutritionally at-risk are eligible for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). WIC supports a healthy diet by providing supplemental foods that are high in nutrients determined to be beneficial for pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women. For WIC participants to obtain the foods prescribed to them, they must have access to a WIC-authorized vendor (a retail food store that accepts WIC benefits). Retailer access in WIC may also impact participation decisions for those who are eligible. WIC State agencies have begun to pilot online shopping options for WIC participants as one way to increase retailer access; however, some areas may lack the internet services necessary for online shopping. This report identifies areas across the nation where limited access to food stores and/or limited availability of mobile and fixed broadband internet may prevent WIC-eligible families from fully benefiting from WIC.		
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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Panel Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):	
Timing of Review (Est.):	Start:	4/9/2025	Completed:
Number of Reviewers:	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 or fewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 to 10 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10
Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review:	Economists		
Reviewers selected by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Outside Organization
Opportunities for Public Comment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:			
How:			
When:			

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?

☐ Yes

☒ No