

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Multi-Program Participation in SNAP and Unemployment Insurance: How Tight are the Strands of the Recessionary Safety Net?

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: USDA's Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition assistance to individuals and households that have little if any income. The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides financial support to experienced workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own. The broad goals of SNAP and UI—means-tested nutrition support versus social insurance—are distinct, resulting in differing eligibility requirements and benefit formulas. At the same time, SNAP and UI are two strands of what we call the *recessionary safety net*—the subset of safety net programs for which participation responds counter-cyclically to changing macroeconomic conditions. During the recent recession that began in December 2007, some households received benefits from either SNAP or UI while others received benefits from both programs. This report provides nationally representative annual estimates for 2004-09 of households' multi-program or "joint" participation patterns in both the SNAP and the UI Program, including breakouts of household types categorized by household income relative to poverty, race/ethnicity and education level. The study uses household data on SNAP receipt, UI receipt, and household characteristics from the Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement which is administered each year in February, March and April as a supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is a large, nationally representative survey of the civilian, non-institutionalized population of the United States. ASEC data collected in 2005-10 provide information applicable to calendar years 2004-09.

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: 10/5/12 End: 03/18/13 Completed: 03/18/13

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 No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? Yes No

