

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The effect of local labor market conditions on SNAP Participation: A case study of Oregon

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

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

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Subject of Review: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides an important social safety net for millions of working poor during times of need. It is well known that SNAP caseloads rise when unemployment rates rise and falls when unemployment rates fall. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, SNAP caseloads have not fallen as quickly as in previous economic recoveries. Questions have been raised whether this was due to changing behavior of SNAP participants or to changing labor market opportunities for low-income workers. This paper investigates patterns of SNAP participation and employment in Oregon using a unique administrative data linkage. Specifically, we link SNAP administrative records to UI employment and earnings data for two SNAP intake cohorts: one that entered SNAP in 2005 and another that entered in 2009, each of which we are then able to follow—in both the UI and SNAP administrative records—for at least five years. With this data linkage, we are able to examine how the relationship between SNAP and work may have changed from the pre- to the post-recessionary period. Moreover, by combining the administrative data with information on local labor market indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), we also estimate the differences in SNAP recipients' responsiveness to local labor market conditions across the business cycle.

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: 11/22/16 End: X/X/16 Completed: X/X/16

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:

