The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – previously called the Food Stamp Program (FSP) – is the second largest means-tested Federal program (after Medicaid) and the largest U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program. SNAP payments nearly quadrupled between 2001 and 2013, in part due to changes in policies intended to help stimulate the economy during and after the Great Recession. Although the stimulus impact of SNAP payments during the recession have been predicted using economic models and were part of the rationale for increasing benefits paid under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), no published studies have investigated the impacts of these payments econometrically. This report investigates the impacts of SNAP redemptions on county-level employment during the period 2001 to 2014 using econometric methods, separately estimating impacts during the period prior to the Great Recession (2001 to 2007), during the recession (2008 to 2010), and after the recession (2011 to 2014), as well as the average impact for the period as a whole. We also investigate the impacts of SNAP redemptions on employment in nonmetro vs. metro counties separately.
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?  [ ] Yes  [X] No