Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Meaning and Measurement of Annual and Monthly SNAP Participation Rates

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

[X]   Influential Scientific Information

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

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag, eleibtag@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: A key aspect of the performance of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the extent to which the program reaches its target population—the rate of participation among people who are eligible for SNAP benefits. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) publishes national and State-level estimates of participation among eligibles for an average month of the year, which the report refers to as "monthly" SNAP participation rates. This report demonstrates the feasibility and usefulness of estimating an "annual" (or "ever-during-the-year") SNAP participation rate as the number of individuals who participated at some time during the year as a share of individuals who were eligible at some time during the year (for one or more months). An annual SNAP participation rate is a valuable measure, complementing the monthly rate, because it captures how well the program reaches all people who were eligible, independent of the number of months of eligibility; monthly eligibles tend to be those who have the most months of need.

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: 04/22/14   End: 03/31/15   Completed: 03/31/15

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   [X]   No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No