

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The WIC Program: Background, Trends, and Economic Issues, 2015 Edition

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

ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental food, nutrition education, and referrals to health care and other social services to low income, nutritionally at risk women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. On average, over half of all infants born in the United States, and over a quarter of all pregnant and postpartum women and children less than 5 years of age participate in the program. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 which authorized funds for WIC, is set to expire on September 30, 2015. The reauthorization process provides an important opportunity to re-examine the operation and effectiveness of the program and to consider improvements to the program. In anticipation of the discussions surrounding the reauthorization process, this report provides a better understanding of how WIC works, examines program trends, and informs public debate on some of the major economic issues facing the program, including the impact of economic conditions on participation, the direct and indirect effects of WIC, equity-related concerns, and various cost management issues.

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  Individual Reviewers

Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 06/25/14 End: 09/19/14 Completed: 09/19/14

Number of Reviewers:  3 or fewer  4 to 10  More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by:  Agency  Designated Outside Organization

Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment?  Yes  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

