Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Capturing the Divergence in State Administration of SNAP Using a SNAP Policy Index

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

[X] Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: The administration of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has been largely uniform across States since the early 1970s. However, with passage of welfare reform in 1996, as well as subsequent legislative and regulatory changes, States now have increased discretion in how they administer the program. States have adopted policies that affect income and asset eligibility standards for SNAP benefits, transaction costs associated with enrolling and maintaining benefits, stigma associated with participating in the program, and outreach efforts to raise awareness of SNAP and promote the benefits of program participation. This study creates a SNAP policy index that provides an easily digestible metric that captures differences in implementation of State-level SNAP policy options, using data from ERS's SNAP Policy Database.

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: 2/28/17 End: 7/5/17 Completed: 7/5/17

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