

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Ensuring Competition in the WIC Program: A Case Study of New Vendor Cost-containment Legislation

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: The analysis uses food prices from three sources in 2003 to construct a market basket cost measure for individual WIC vendors. Using 2003 California administrative data, it analyzes sources of bias in redeemed voucher values due to redemption rates and item price variation among WIC vendors and then develops market basket cost models to test criteria for assigning vendors to peer groups. The resulting peer group criteria were used to set maximum values for each voucher type and peer group. The analysis then simulated the effect of maximum voucher redemption values on WIC vendors according to peer group and estimated potential food cost savings under the Interim Rule

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: XX/XX/XX End: XX/XX/XX Completed: 06/01/09

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



