Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Targeting Issues and the Type of Rural Development Assistance

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

[X]   Influential Scientific Information

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

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

Subject of Review: Recent proposals to shift the type of USDA rural development funding from grants and direct loans to greater use of guaranteed loans have raised questions about how this shift might affect distressed rural communities. The answers depend partly on how various types of assistance are targeted geographically. This report uses an analysis of the spatial distribution of Federal funding to discuss the potential implications of various possible approaches that might be taken to increase the use of guaranteed rural development loans. Using data from the 2005 Consolidated Federal Funds Reports, we examine per capita obligations for various types of programs in urban and rural areas, as well as within various categories of "distressed" rural areas. By analyzing the geographic distribution of the various ways rural development assistance is currently delivered, the report infers how changing the way rural development assistance is delivered might affect its geographic distribution.

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: 2/18/09   End: 05/05/09   Completed: 09/03/09

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