

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Food Security Deteriorates in Households in the Months Just Prior to Initial Receipt of SNAP/Food Stamp Benefits

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: Data for the study came from annual food security surveys from 2001 to 2006 sponsored by USDA and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau as supplements to the monthly Current Population Survey. The nationally representative samples included about 48,000 households in each year. Two-year panels were assembled by matching households interviewed in two successive years. The primary analysis sample comprised 635 households that began receiving SNAP benefits in their second year in the survey but did not receive SNAP at any time during their first year in the survey nor in January of their second year in the survey.

The food security status of each household in the 30 days prior to each survey (conducted in mid December) was based on the number of food-insecure conditions reported by one respondent in each household—conditions such as cutting the size of meals because there was too little money for food, or being hungry because there was too little money for food. Households were grouped by the month in year 2 in which they began receiving SNAP benefits, and the prevalence of very low food security (a severe range of food insecurity) for each group was calculated for December of year 1 and December of year 2. The month in which SNAP benefits were first received determined the length of time prior to program entry represented by the prevalence of very low food security in December of year 1 and the length of time after program entry represented by the prevalence of very low food security in December of year 2.

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: 06/04/09 End: 07/30/09 Completed: 07/30/09

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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No