

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: SNAP and the Economy: New Estimates of the SNAP Multiplier

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

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

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Subject of Review: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is one of the largest safety net programs in the United States. The Department of Agriculture spent \$70.9 billion on SNAP in fiscal year 2017 and served 44.2 million individuals. By design, SNAP has a countercyclical effect on the wider economy—program enrollment increases with unemployment and vice versa. We build upon previous analysis done by ERS to examine the countercyclical impacts of SNAP. Specifically, we measure the impact of SNAP on gross domestic product, employment, and incomes across the farm economy and for all other industries impacted by SNAP. The Great Recession motivated new research on the impacts of different stimulus tools, including SNAP spending. A review of this literature suggests that SNAP spending during a recession stimulates economic output more than several other fiscal policy tools that have been used to increase economic activity. We estimate multiplier effects of SNAP expansion using a newly compiled Social Accounting Matrix multiplier model and the most recent data available for this purpose. We find that a \$1 billion SNAP expansion during economic downturns increases GDP by \$1.54 billion, implying a 1.5 GDP multiplier, supporting 13,560 U.S. jobs and \$32 million in new farm income.

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 11/8/2018 Completed: 03/28/19 Withdrawn: XX/XX/19

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