

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The Economic Impacts of Breastfeeding: A Focus on USDA's WIC Program

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

ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service
USDA

Influential Scientific Information
 Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: In March 2018, Congress directed USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) to report on the economic benefits of breastfeeding, including its potential cost-savings for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Medicaid programs. This study, a result of that directive, found that if 2016 breastfeeding rates among WIC participants had hypothetically increased to medically-recommended levels, the number of mothers who participated in WIC that year would have increased by an estimated 646 thousand per month, an 8 percent increase in the total number of WIC participants. WIC program costs would have risen by an estimated \$7.6 million, or by less than 1 percent (0.13 percent) of WIC's total cost in 2016. Federal Medicaid costs would have decreased by at least \$107.5 million, resulting in an estimated decrease of \$99.9 million in combined Federal WIC and Medicaid costs. In addition, health-related cost savings (that accrue to WIC households or their health insurance providers) would have totaled \$9.1 billion (excluding the savings that accrue to the Federal portion of Medicaid).

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 5/23/2018 Completed: 9/19/18 Withdrawn: XX/XX/18

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? Yes No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? Yes No