

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Incidence of Three USDA Rural Broadband Programs

Type of Report  
(ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: Addressing the digital divide between rural and urban areas and across demographic and socioeconomic groups is a high priority for the Administration and Congress. More than \$50 billion has been invested to date by Federal broadband programs and more than \$85 billion of additional investment is planned under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the Rural Digital Opportunities Fund of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). Despite the high priority of this issue, no published research has investigated the incidence of these programs – i.e., who is benefitting from the programs. This study seeks to begin to address this information gap, focusing on the incidence of three USDA broadband programs – the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), the Community Connect Grant (CCG) Program, and the ReConnect Program (RCP).

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: 09/21/2022 Completed: 9/21/2022

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

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