

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: State-Level Food Choices Using USDA Foods Entitlement Funds in Childhood Nutrition Programs after Implementation of Nutrition Standards

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

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

Agency Contact: Kelly Maguire, kelly.b.maguire@usda.gov

Subject of Review: The USDA Foods program provides schools participating in the National School Lunch Program with entitlement funds to purchase foods from a “Food Available” list provided by the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service. In 2019, participating schools were awarded \$0.3625 per lunch served. Schools used these funds to purchase cheese, meat and poultry, fruits and vegetables and other foods, helping school foodservices to cover their costs of providing a meal that meets USDA standards. However, many school foodservices do not make full use of these funds. Data show that the level of funding use varies across States with the difference between the mean use and maximum use amounting to about 20-percent of available funds. This report examines factors associated with State use of funds and assesses how food choices varied with use over 2012-2017, a period during which updated school meal nutrition standards required more purchasing of some items such as fruits and vegetables.

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 08/25/2021 Completed: XX/XX/XX Withdrawn: XX/XX/XX

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