

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Cost Containment in the WIC Program: Vendor Peer Groups and Reimbursement Rates

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

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

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Subject of Review: Cost containment is a concern for the WIC Program, a federal food assistance program aimed at providing women, infants, and children key foods and beverages. Since WIC is not an entitlement program, the amount of aid available depends directly on the extent to which operating costs are obtained each year. This report examines the extent to which cost containment may be improved through changes in the regulations governing WIC vendors and redemption rates for foods covered by the program. Using California, the largest WIC program in the U.S., as a case study, the authors of this report analyze WIC redemption data to investigate whether the types of stores from which WIC vouchers are redeemed have an effect on redemption rates.

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: 11/14/13 End: 1/23/14 Completed: 1/23/14

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

