

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Federal Assistance and Rural Hospital Closings: The Impact of USDA Community Facilities Program

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) 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 issue of rural hospital closings in the United States has been a major concern for policymakers, community development practitioners, and rural residents. The Community Facilities (CF) Program administered by the USDA Rural Development (USDA-RD) is one of the major federal programs that provides such financial assistance to rural hospitals. Despite the large size of CF investments and length of the time the program has been active, there is hardly any published study that has investigated the effectiveness of this program. The objective of the present study is to investigate the impact of the CF Program on rural hospital closures.

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: 10/26/2023 Completed: 6/10/2024

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

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