

## Peer Review Plan

Title of Review: Review of WIC ITFPS-2 Final Report [ X ] **Influential Scientific Information**

Agency: FNS [ ] **Highly Influential Scientific Assessment**

Agency Contact: Rich Lucas

Subject of Review: Review of study Final Report

Purpose of Review: Subject the information to formal, independent, external peer review to ensure its objectivity.

Type of Review: [ x ] Panel Review [ ] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 9/2017 End: 12/2017 Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [ x ] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Peer reviewers with expertise in low-income populations, the WIC program, and infant and toddler nutrition will be asked to review the final report prior to publication.

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

Other: See next page.



The WIC ITFPS-2 is a national, longitudinal data collection examining WIC infant and toddler feeding practices, including the duration of breastfeeding, the age and pattern of introduction of foods other than breast milk or formula, and the age of introduction of cow's milk. The study is examining the influences that shape a mother's decisions regarding how to feed her infant and toddler and describing the changes in feeding practices as the children develop. This study also collects information on nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, and support provided to participants. The final report will be a synthesis of four interim reports during the infant and toddler stages. The peer reviewers will review these reports, which contain and address the following:

1. **Research questions, study design and analysis methods.** Reviewers with significant interest in WIC infant feeding will be requested to determine if (i) the data collection as implemented was appropriate, (ii) whether the analyses as carried out reflect the original plans and (iii) whether the analyses are appropriate given the actual implementation of sampling and data collection.
2. **Compare and contrast the new findings with those from WIC-IFPS-1 and other major studies of infant and toddler feeding.** The ITFPS-2 study will compare its findings to those of other major studies of infant and toddler feeding. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the study's comparisons, including the appropriateness of the comparisons and strength of the analyses and conclusions. Reviewers will be requested, as appropriate, to suggest ways to clarify assumptions, findings, and conclusions, and to identify weaknesses and inconsistencies.
3. **Assess behaviors in overfeeding and overconsumption during early infancy and childhood.** Reviewers will be charged with evaluating the methods and analyses used to examine overfeeding and overconsumption during early infancy and childhood.
4. **High body weight among young children in WIC and obesity status.** Reviewers will be charged with evaluating the methods and analyses used to examine infant and toddler overweight and obesity and critique the analyses and conclusions presented in the study.

All peer reviewers will be informed that the Agency does not have funds to make changes that require additional data collection, reconsideration of the research design, or significant modifications to data collection and analysis methods. The reviewers will be informed that the Agency, while it will welcome recommendations that may improve the design of future studies of infant and toddler feeding practices, requires an evaluation of the current product that is cognizant of the funding constraints.

Each reviewer will be instructed to supply the results of their review in written form. Because the study results are considered influential scientific information, reviewers will be informed that the Agency is required to make available to the public the written charge to the peer reviewers, the peer reviewers' names, the peer reviewers' report(s), and the agency's response to the peer reviewers' report(s).