

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

**CNSTAT Study on Panel on Evaluation and Improvements to the
Supplemental Poverty Measure**

Meeting Agenda

February 22, 2021 (3 – 6pm ET)

MEETING GOALS: Census Bureau leadership will articulate their goals for the study and their motivation for commissioning it. Presentations by Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics experts will detail current specifications of the Supplemental Poverty Measure and outline priorities for its improvement. Panel members and sponsors will review the project’s *statement of task* and propose modifications as necessary. At the end of the meeting, time permitting, the group will discuss the structure and content of future public meetings, which will be the main vehicle for gathering information from experts beyond the panel on various topics.

- 3:00 pm Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Plan
 – **Jim Ziliak**, *University of Kentucky, Panel Chair*
- 3:10 Overview of the National Academies’ Study Process
 – **Brian Harris-Kojetin**, *Director, Committee on National Statistics*
 – **Mary Ellen O’Connell**, *Executive Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education*
- 3:30 Opening Remarks from the Sponsor: Past SPM Studies; Census Bureau Vision and Strategy for the SPM; Goals for this Study
 – **Victoria Velkoff**, *Associate Director for Demographic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau*
 – Questions; discussion
- 3:45 Overview of the Current SPM, Priorities for the Future
 – **Liana Fox**, *Statistician, U.S. Census Bureau*
 – **Thesia Garner**, *Senior Research Economist, Bureau of Labor Statistics*
 – Questions; discussion
- 4:40 **Break**
- 4:45 Primary Interests, Prioritization of Study Topics as Identified in the Project *Statement of Task* (reproduced below)
 – **Panel members** (3-5 minutes each)
 – Discussion; review and revise *Statement of Task* as needed

5:50 Next Steps

- Staff to discuss project schedule/next meeting plans
- Discussion: Content of public meetings; prioritization of information gathering tasks [time permitting; otherwise develop by email]

6:00 pm ***Adjourn***

Project Statement of Task

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine proposes to convene an expert consensus panel to evaluate the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and recommend improvements to the measure. The intent of the panel is to assist the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to ensure that the SPM is fulfilling its mandate to provide information on aggregate levels of economic need that informs public understanding of economic conditions and trends affecting lower income people. After reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the measure in its current form, the panel will consider technical modifications to the measure as needed. In addition, the panel will assess the relationship of potential improvements to the SPM to the recommendations of the Interagency Technical Working Groups on Alternative Poverty Measures and Inflation and evaluate the process that the SPM Interagency Technical Working Group established for making revisions to the measure in the short and longer terms. The focus of the panel will be on changes to the SPM that would be implemented in a future cycle of revisions. It will not provide input to changes that the SPM working group is considering in the immediate future (to be finalized in September 2020 for implementation in 2021), although it may comment on those changes in terms of their usefulness for the future. At the conclusion of a 24-month study, the panel will issue a consensus report with conclusions and recommendations. The report will be published and disseminated over a 6-month period following initial release in prepublication form.