



The Congressional Budget Office

Responsive to the Congress yet independent and nonpartisan, the Congressional Budget Office is well regarded for the integrity and objectivity of its work. CBO operates at a distance from partisan politics to provide information to the nation's policymakers. CBO's studies, reports, cost estimates for legislation, and other publications are used by the Congress—its primary audience—but also by researchers, other analysts, academics, and the public at large. The agency produces reliable, unbiased projections of government spending and revenues along with objective, credible, thorough analyses of complex issues and long-term trends.

To fulfill this role, CBO employs a top-notch multidisciplinary staff of professional analysts, including public-policy and budget experts, economists, and other critical thinkers who enjoy challenging and collaborative work.

The camaraderie and supportive leadership at CBO make it a terrific place to work. Our managers consistently recognize our hard work and celebrate our successes while pushing us to learn from our mistakes and improve our analytic and communication skills.

—David Rafferty, Budget Analyst



The Benefits

Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance

Retirement Plan

Tax-Deferred Savings Plan

Vacation and Sick Leave

Holidays

Flexible Spending Accounts

Life Insurance

Long-Term Care Insurance

Commuting Assistance

Professional Development and Training

Community Service Opportunities

Religious Observance Accommodation

Business Casual Dress

Subsidized Health Club Membership

Flexible Work Hours

Library of Congress Borrowing Privileges

Services Available On-Site:

Cafeteria

Post Office

Credit Union Branch/ATM

Shoe Shine and Repair

Health Services

Shower and Locker Facilities

Wellness Programs

Employee Assistance Program

The News

THE HILL

July 28, 2010, Congress Blog—The Congressional Budget Office employs talented economists whose job it is to study every aspect of every bill and predict how much each will cost or how much each will save—years into the future.

The New York Times

Aug. 2, 2009, Albert R. Hunt—The C.B.O. was established more than three decades ago to offer independent analysis of congressional initiatives with the goal of a more coherent and less piecemeal approach to fiscal actions. Remarkably, during both Democratic and Republican rule, it has retained its integrity.

The Washington Post

Dec. 29, 2009, Ezra Klein—I would like to point out that there is one group that is especially deserving of a holiday: the CBO analysts who have been scoring this [health care] bill. They've been working flat out literally all year, and by this point, they have long ago exhausted any reserves of energy they might once have had. They've been doing this because we wanted to have some sort of reasonable model of how much this was all going to cost, and what it was going to do—and whatever my arguments with the CBO model, they have fulfilled their mandate superbly.

Bloomberg Businessweek

July 13, 2010, David G. Blanchflower—As a young economist, I gave a presentation on youth unemployment to [the Panel of Economic Advisers] at the Congressional Budget Office, which produces a forecast twice a year for the U.S. Congress. The panel's purpose is to "provide advice to further the reliability, professional quality, and transparency of CBO's work." Before the talk, I had no idea who was on the panel. Sitting in front of me, among others, were Nobel laureates Lawrence Klein, Paul Samuelson, James Tobin, and Robert Solow.

The Opportunities

CBO seeks professional staff with excellent academic backgrounds and experience in macroeconomics, public finance, health economics, labor economics, financial economics, environmental and resource economics, industrial organization, defense economics, and public-policy analysis. From recent graduates to those with considerable experience, all assume major responsibilities—beginning early in their careers at CBO.

Economists and Policy Analysts, most with doctorates in economics or a related discipline, conduct empirical research, develop economic models, write CBO reports and studies, and draft Congressional testimony. With access to an impressive array of modeling tools and data sources for their research, CBO analysts design and execute the agency's economic and budget projections and analyses for the Congress. They are encouraged to participate in the policy research community by presenting papers at conferences, publishing articles in professional journals, and circulating preliminary research through CBO's working paper series.

Budget Analysts prepare CBO's multiyear projections of federal spending and revenues, analyze the President's annual budget proposals, and estimate the effects of legislative proposals on the federal budget. They also review proposed legislation to identify potential effects on state and local governments and the private sector. Working closely with Congressional staff, budget analysts at CBO operate in a fast-paced environment where both the timeliness and the accuracy of the information they provide to the Congress are vital. Most budget analysts have a master's degree in public policy, public administration, economics, or a related field.

Research Assistants work on a wide range of topics and products, conduct quantitative analysis under the direction of other CBO staff, and may



The Best Places to Work

IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

take on their own projects. Many of them have technical experience with statistical and econometric programs. Most research assistants have completed an undergraduate program in economics or a related field and plan to attend graduate school.

Interns generally are graduate students in economics, public policy, or public administration. Working alongside experts in research and legislative analysis, interns contribute greatly to CBO's support of the Congress. CBO internships help to lay the foundation for thinking critically about the real world and better understanding the relationship between policymaking and analysis. Interns often return to CBO as analysts.

Visiting Scholars work at CBO for a limited period—usually one year or less—on policy-related research. Scholars are typically professors on sabbatical or senior staff on leave from other organizations.

There is a source of pride in working at CBO. I am part of a unique team of skilled researchers providing high-quality, objective analysis of the most important issues facing the country.

—Jonathan Schwabish, Economist

The Work

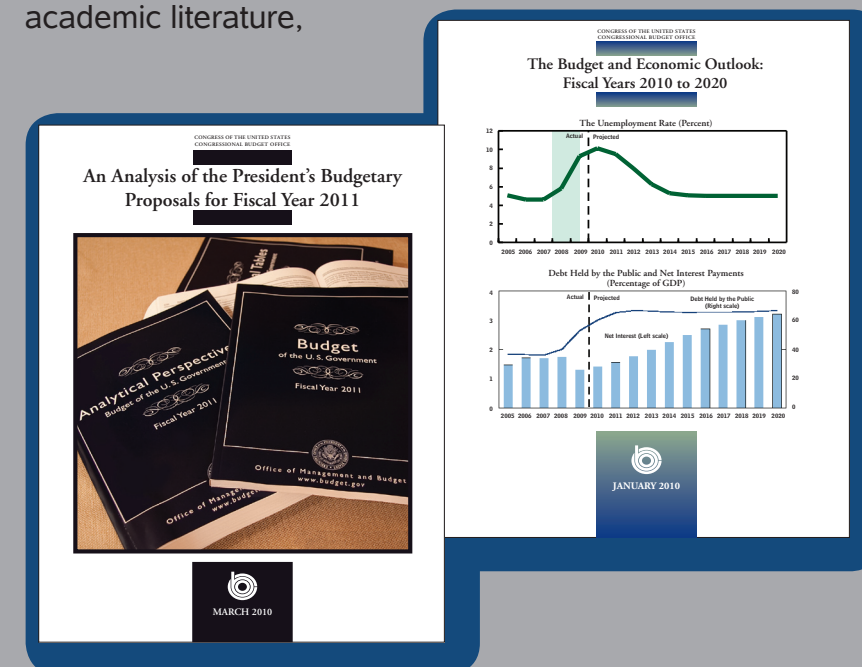
CBO's work offers diverse challenges, from quick-turnaround cost estimates that are critical to important legislation to in-depth studies of economic and social issues.

CBO's report *The Budget and Economic Outlook*, issued each January and updated each summer, serves as the starting point for annual budget deliberations in the Congress. The *Outlook*, which presents 10-year projections of economic conditions and federal spending and revenues, provides lawmakers and others with a neutral baseline for assessing proposals.

Each year, after the President submits a budget request to the Congress, CBO analyzes the proposal and estimates its costs. The agency also regularly identifies and analyzes hundreds of options for altering spending and revenues that the Congress can consider.

The Congress calls on CBO to estimate the cost of proposed legislation and to identify and assess the impact of legislative mandates on state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector. CBO's estimates can result in significant changes to policy proposals.

In anticipation of future Congressional deliberations, CBO's analysts prepare reports, studies, and issue briefs on a wide variety of topics. The agency's cutting-edge economic analyses are based on current academic literature,



proprietary data, and sophisticated models developed by CBO staff. Those products aim to provide the Congress with an objective, analytical basis for addressing the major policy issues facing the nation and help prepare the CBO staff to analyze legislative proposals when those issues arise.

The agency vests significant responsibilities in its analysts, who, as experts in their budgetary and public-policy specialties, interact directly with Congressional staff and often participate in academic seminars and conferences on complex issues.

CBO's analysts frequently prepare testimony for Congressional committees seeking analyses for economic and budgetary decisions. The agency regularly hosts delegations from foreign countries and representatives from U.S. universities who come to learn about the agency's role in the budget and policy process.

CBO provides a unique nonpartisan perspective in an often partisan environment on Capitol Hill. Providing information to policymakers on both sides of the aisle and to the public offers exciting analytical challenges. My experience working at CBO has surpassed my expectations of job satisfaction and reward.

—Stephanie Cameron, Budget Analyst



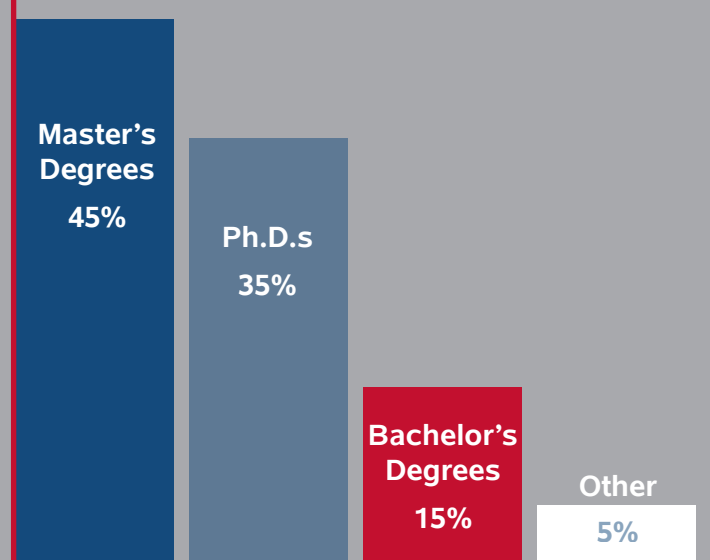
The Organization

CBO is an agency of approximately 250 employees located adjacent to Capitol Hill. Its organizational structure is collegial more than hierarchical, fostering collaboration and teamwork.

CBO's analysts are organized into seven divisions: Budget Analysis, Financial Analysis, Health and Human Resources, Macroeconomic Analysis, Microeconomic Studies, National Security, and Tax Analysis. An eighth division—Management, Business, and Information Services—provides human resources, financial, editorial, and computer support.

CBO's Panels of Economic and Health Advisers, composed of eminent economists from academia and the private sector, review and comment on the agency's forecasts and methods and provide insight on new economic research and its relevance for policy analysis.

The Staff



The City

Washington offers the diversity and amenities of a great national capital: historic landmarks, advanced research and medical facilities, varied businesses and industries, prestigious universities, and world-class museums—along with a wealth of restaurants, professional sports teams, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Metrorail system facilitates easy access throughout the metropolitan area.



The People

CBO was my number one choice when I graduated from college, but actually working here has greatly exceeded my expectations, both professionally and personally. The experience and skills I have acquired have played an essential role in my preparation for graduate school.

—Priscila Hammett, Assistant Analyst

Collaborating...



Analyzing...



Mentoring...



Singing...



Commuting...



Playing...

