

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 not only 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
- Paid Holidays
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Life Insurance
- Long-Term Care Insurance
- Commuting Assistance
- Professional Development and Training
- Community Service Opportunities
- Flexible Work Hours
- Business-Casual Dress
- Discounted Health Club Membership
- 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
 - Employee Assistance Program

*Great coworkers.
Supportive management.
Meaningful work.
CBO is the best place to work on the Hill.*
—Bill Ma, Budget Analyst

The News

THE HUFFINGTON POST
Jan. 9, 2014, Jerry Jasinowski—People who know CBO well, including many who have worked there, invariably testify that the employees are scrupulous to a fault avoiding any hint of partisanship . . . Appointment of CBO directors rotates back and forth between the Senate and House Budget Committees. This time it is the Senate's turn. The amazing thing about this haphazard system and the conflicting pressures on CBO is that **the agency somehow always retains its objectivity and integrity** . . . When political scientists say democracy depends on credible institutions, they are talking about institutions like the Congressional Budget Office.

CQ WEEKLY
Nov. 26, 2012, CQ Roll Call, Inc., Paul M. Krawzak—Since it opened its doors in 1975, the CBO has walked a tightrope between politics and policy as it has produced cost estimates, analyses and projections that seek to put legislation through unfiltered accounting. Throughout the years, the agency has come under scrutiny for its methods and approaches, and the attention has intensified as the CBO has expanded its view by looking at alternatives to formal policy proposals and diving more deeply into the long-term drivers behind federal costs. **Yet the agency has preserved its reputation for impartial, professional assessment** even as it has drawn criticism from members of each party, some of it aimed directly at the inner workings of economic models and some of it no more than highly charged attacks that show the vivid contrast between CBO's "just the facts" reports and the controversies surrounding the subjects.

POLITICO
Jan. 2, 2015, Burgess Everett—The stakes are high: **CBO reports are highly referenced in Washington politics by members of both parties** as reasons to support or oppose new legislation.

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 is a fabulous place to work. The work is always interesting and challenging, and I learn new things every day from my colleagues, who are smart and hardworking and are always encouraging to newer analysts as we grow professionally.

—Kate Fritzsche, Budget Analyst

The Opportunities

CBO seeks professional staff with excellent academic backgrounds and experience in macro-economics, 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. Analysts 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



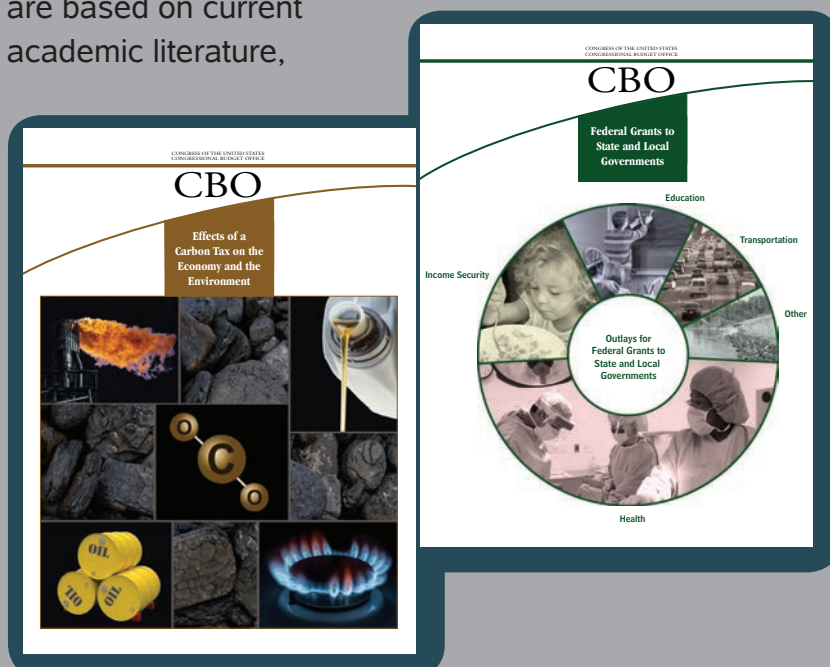
take on their own projects. Many of them have technical experience with statistical and econometric programs. Most research assistants have completed an undergraduate program in economics or a related field and plan to attend graduate school.

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. Past fellows have contributed to studies about the cost of chronic conditions, the costs of obesity and their effects on the federal budget, “supply” issues within the health care workforce, and the impact of health information technology on the federal budget.

Everyone at CBO shares a deep commitment to producing high-quality, objective analyses and communicating the results as clearly as possible. That commitment is the glue that binds us, the source of our solid reputation, and the reason many of us wouldn't work anywhere else.

—Charles Whalen, Economist





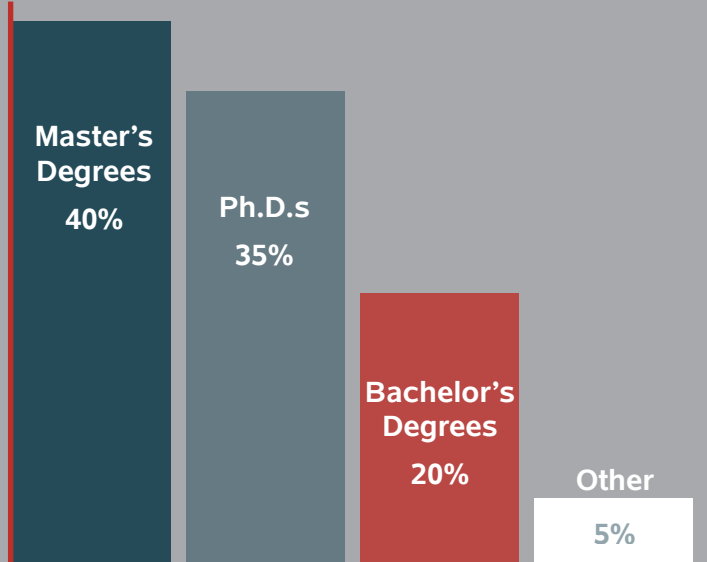
The Organization

CBO is an agency of approximately 235 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, Retirement, and Long-Term Analysis; Macroeconomic Analysis; Microeconomic Studies; National Security; and Tax Analysis. An eighth division—Management, Business, and Information Services—provides human resources, financial, editorial, and technology 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 offers easy access throughout the metropolitan area.



The People

Some people have to go to work, but I "get" to go to work. I get to use my mind in the ways I love in a setting that fosters my ideas, appreciates my thoughts, and matters for making people's lives better.

—Kyle Redfield, Assistant Analyst

Collaborating ...



Analyzing ...



Socializing ...



Singing ...



Commuting ...



Mentoring ...

