

# CBO's 2014 Summer Internships...

The 2014 CBO summer associates hail from a variety of backgrounds, but they have all found opportunities tailored to their interests. Some worked on analyzing draft legislation, covering topics from defense to health care to immigration. Others took on parts of longer-term projects, including examining data on income and researching environmental policy. All worked with exceptional mentors, who treated them as part of the CBO community.

Summer associates got lots of opportunities to learn about the organization, not only through weekly lectures but also through social events with senior staff. Additionally, associates took advantage of the chance to attend talks in the Congressional lecture series and testimonies.

It's been a valuable summer—filled with challenges and rewards to carry into further graduate studies and careers.



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Public Policy

*Working in the Tax Analysis Division, I explored the issue of underreporting of many government transfer programs in the Current Population Survey, one of the most important data sets for analyzing income distribution and transfers. With the help and guidance of incredibly experienced staff, I evaluated different imputation methods to correct for the undercount in the historical data. As a public policy Ph.D. candidate, I have had my time at CBO broaden my horizon and provide experiences in policy analysis beyond what one could possibly learn in the classroom. Through various seminars, presentations, and firsthand interaction with researchers, I got an insider's look at the policy process. At CBO, it's never dull: The pace is fast, the projects are diverse, and the staff are brilliant—but most important, the work actually makes a difference. ◇*

*Working as a summer associate at CBO is a tremendous opportunity to learn from experts whose understanding of their policy area is truly unparalleled. I gained invaluable experience and an in-depth understanding of the health care sector, particularly the legislative and implementation processes for Medicare policy and the budgetary*



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*implications of those processes. I was involved in research on what is termed outpatient observation (in contrast to standard hospital admission), including the causes, effects, and financial consequences of Congressional action, and began to construct a federal budget model based on my findings. Because the role of CBO is to understand how the policy world works, colleagues*

*are intellectually curious and open. My supervisor and others in my unit regularly invited me to panels and presentations to understand the perspectives of physician groups, health insurance organizations, and other health policy experts. ◇*

*As a summer associate in the Income Security and Education Cost Estimates Unit, I had the opportunity to work on a diverse set of projects pertaining to very timely issues, ranging from student loans to disability insurance to immigration. My experience has extended my knowledge of areas outside of education and has refined my "policy toolkit" by allowing me to develop new skills as well as apply my training to move some of my projects forward. The seminars and lectures—which have featured internal experts, outside policy researchers, a CBO alumna, and Steve Ballmer—are a few of the incredible perks of interning here, as are the many conversations I have had with the countless keen minds at CBO. I have learned a great deal beyond my primary work through these interactions. An internship at CBO is invaluable to anyone interested in being exposed to, and immersed in, a rich array of policy-relevant topic areas. ◇*



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