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Confidentiality and Data Access: A User's Perspective

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CBO's Role

CBO provides objective, nonpartisan information to support the federal budget process and to help the Congress make effective budget and economic policy.

CBO does not make policy recommendations.

Each year, the agency's economists and budget analysts produce thousands of formal and informal cost estimates for proposed legislation, as well as dozens of reports and other materials on a variety of topics.

Most of CBO's work is available to the Congress and the public on the agency's website, www.cbo.gov.

Use of Restricted-Access Data

Key models used to produce estimates at CBO rely critically on restricted-access data.

When making arrangements to use restricted-access data, CBO generally aims for:

- Continual and long-running access;
- Secure access from CBO's offices (or from home, in the work-from-home environment); and
- Clear and well-understood processes that are similar among agencies.