

**The Congressional Budget Office's Mission
and How the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request Supports It
March 8, 2023**

The Congressional Budget Office was established to give the Congress a stronger role in budget matters. Established under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, CBO provides objective, nonpartisan information to support the budget process and to help the Congress make effective budget and economic policy. CBO aims for its analysis to be timely, rigorous, insightful, and clearly explained. The agency makes no policy recommendations and carries out its mission with integrity.

CBO's chief responsibility under the Budget Act is to help the House and Senate Budget Committees with the matters under their jurisdiction. CBO also supports other Congressional committees—particularly, Appropriations, Finance, and Ways and Means—and the Congressional leadership. Each year, the agency's budget analysts and economists fulfill thousands of requests for technical assistance, produce hundreds of cost estimates for proposed legislation, and prepare dozens of reports and other materials on a variety of topics.

CBO seeks to provide budgetary and economic information when it is most useful. CBO provides technical assistance and preliminary estimates—often on very fast turnarounds—as committees are crafting legislation, as amendments to bills are being debated, and at other stages in the legislative process. For example, CBO supports the Appropriations Committees by providing real-time provision-by-provision estimates of the 12 annual appropriation bills, supplemental appropriation bills, and continuing resolutions and by explaining complicated estimating issues. CBO also reviews thousands of proposed amendments for hundreds of Members. In addition, the agency offers help—in phone calls, emails, and meetings—to Member offices as they are considering and drafting bills or simply asking questions about a complicated estimate or report.

One of the agency's most important benchmarks is to review each piece of legislation ahead of floor consideration. Historically, CBO has met that standard more than 90 percent of the time. Since 2020, the agency's ability to do that has been strained as its resources were devoted to unprecedented legislative activity on large, complex bills affecting many different programs.

CBO's budget request will enable CBO to provide more analysis when the Congress needs it. CBO's budget request of \$70.8 million will enable it to provide even more information that is timely to the Budget, Appropriations, Finance, and Ways and Means Committees, the Congressional leadership, and other committees. CBO will provide options for reducing the deficit and assistance to the Congress as it develops proposals to address the nation's fiscal challenges. CBO will be able to return to its historical benchmark of providing cost estimates before a floor vote for nearly all bills that have been ordered reported. In addition, by increasing the expertise and modeling capability in areas in which CBO expects the Congress to have increased interest (for example, climate change and infrastructure, defense and homeland security, income security, and immigration, as well as long-term projections), the agency will be ready to provide the cost estimates and reports the Congress needs.