

Highlights of CBO's Recent Transparency Efforts

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Presentation to a Public Meeting of the
Legislative Branch's Bulk Data Task Force

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Transparency at CBO

Transparency is a top priority for CBO, and the agency continues to bolster its efforts to be transparent.

CBO has three specific goals for transparency:

- To promote a thorough understanding of the agency's analyses through accessible, clear, and detailed communication;
- To help people gauge how estimates might change if policies or circumstances differed; and
- To enhance the credibility of the agency's analyses and processes by showing that they are grounded in data and high-quality professional research and are informed by a range of expert advice.

CBO released its most recent annual report about transparency on March 9, 2022.

Code and Model Releases

In February 2022, CBO published an analysis of how it models effective tax rates on capital income. The agency also released the related data, code, and documentation for its Capital Tax model (CapTax), written in Python, on GitHub.

In April 2021, CBO released an interactive tool, including computer code, showing how increases in the federal minimum wage could affect employment and family income.

In March 2021, CBO released an interactive waterfall model for projecting discretionary spending. It is a simplified version of a model used by CBO to develop baseline projections of discretionary spending, as well as cost estimates for legislation that would authorize discretionary spending.

New to CBO's Website

CBO has created a new section on its website that highlights the agency's work related to the coronavirus pandemic. CBO has also created a new section that compiles all estimates and supplemental materials related to the budget reconciliation process.

CBO has begun publishing tables that include estimates for legislation expected to be considered in the House of Representatives under suspension of the rules (a process by which the House can pass a bill in an expedited manner). Those tables provide the bill's number and title, a summary of the effects on mandatory spending and revenues, and links to the bill's text and a published estimate, if available.

CBO has upgraded the open-source content management system that powers its website to the latest version. That upgrade provides a stronger foundation for future innovations.

CBO has begun publishing its annual request for appropriations.

Other Work

The financial disclosure statements submitted by members of CBO's panels of advisers are now available to the public electronically upon request. Previously, members of the public could review the statements only in CBO's offices.

CBO has provided feedback on the House Clerk's comparative print project.

Future Plans

CBO is creating a new entry page on its website for cost estimates. The new page will make information about cost estimates easier to find by consolidating it.

CBO is working on improvements to the search function for cost estimates on its website.

CBO will continue to publish reports in HTML format to make them more accessible.

More details about forthcoming analyses and data releases are included in CBO's annual report about transparency.

For More Information

- [Transparency at CBO: Future Plans and a Review of 2021](#) (March 2022)
- [CBO's Model for Estimating the Effect That Federal Taxes Have on Capital Income From New Investment](#) (February 2022) and related [code](#)
- ["How Increasing the Federal Minimum Wage Could Affect Employment and Family Income"](#) (including code)
- ["CBO's Waterfall Model for Projecting Discretionary Spending, March 2021"](#)
- ["COVID-19"](#) and ["Reconciliation"](#) on CBO's website
- ["Transparency,"](#) a continually updated list of CBO's most recent transparency activities

CBO welcomes feedback to make its work as useful as possible. Please contact us at communications@cbo.gov.