

Understanding Congressional Budgeting and (client Agency) Issues

Presented for (federal agency)

(Agenda from a custom program presented for a federal agency in 2002. To have a program tailored for your organization, contact us.)

Two Day program at Agency headquarters, Washington, DC

Day One, _____, 2002

8:00 Introduction

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8:05 Overview of Congressional Budgeting Today: The Players and the Rules

Expert on Budget Process

- * The framework and basic concepts of the congressional budget process, the key players and their basic roles and relationships
- * The two federal budget processes: discretionary and mandatory spending
- * Budget authority vs. budget outlays
- * How the rules set forth in the Budget Enforcement Act reshaped the congressional budget process

9:00 The President's Role in Congressional Budgeting

- * Formulation of the president's budget
- * The president's budget in Congress

9:30 Break

9:40 The Congressional Budget Resolution Process

- * How the budget resolution is impacted by the discretionary caps established in the Budget Enforcement Act
- * How to interpret the budget aggregates, functional allocations contained in the budget resolution

10:20 Break

10:30 Authorizations

- * Key features and different types of authorization bills
- * The relationship of authorization and appropriation legislation and how differences between the two are reconciled
- * The trend toward annual authorizations and its impact on power relationships in

Congress

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Appropriations (a break will be taken at a convenient time)

- * How the House initiates all appropriation bills, and the rules and structure in place to move this "must pass" legislation through committee and floor consideration
- * How to interpret the nuances of legislative language (expects vs. directs, may vs. shall, etc) in appropriation bills and reports
- * How the various parts of an appropriations bill relate to one another

3:20 Day One Concludes

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Day Two, _____, 2002

8:00 (client Agency) Issues in the 107th Congress

A seasoned reporter will review the salient legislative issues in the 107th Congress of concern to the (client agency), including proposals related to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

9:10 Break

9:20 Panel Discussion: The Staff Perspective

A panel of congressional staffers will provide an overview of the current budget debate from the staff perspective and will discuss generally how (client agency) and its budget and appropriation issues are handled on the Hill. The staffers will also focus on the relationships between congressional and executive branch workers and what the (client agency) can do to work effectively with staffers and to help protect its interests.

10:30 Break

10:40 Executive Branch (client Agency) Budget Process

The speaker will present the considerations involved in the executive branch's formulation of the budget and review the process and results of budget planning in the administration, as it relates to the (client Agency).

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Appropriations continued

* Changes in the appropriations process including Senate initiation of appropriations bills, and conflict in the appropriating process

* How the Senate's lack of formal rules and structure impacts the path of appropriations bills through the Senate; the use of unanimous consent

1:45 Break

1:00 Final Actions on Appropriations and the Reconciliation Process

* How differences between House and Senate legislation are reconciled

* How to interpret the conference report and to determine the status of your program and final dollar amounts agreed to by the conferees

* The three components of the reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution and how to determine whether they will impact programs

1:45 Implementing the Budget Process

* The flow of monies following the passage of appropriations including apportionment, allotments, obligations, and outlays by executive agencies

2:50 Break

3:00 The Budget Outlook

3:15 Complete Program Evaluations

3:20 Program Concludes

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