OUR ROLE
We’re the Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB). We advise the Executive on financial and strategic decision-making for the State of Arizona.

As a highly visible agency at the center of state government, we are responsible for recommending and implementing a $46 billion budget.

Additionally, we advise and work on a wide variety of projects to improve the State.

OUR TEAM
Our team is made up of 16 dynamic and skilled individuals with diverse backgrounds in public administration, business, finance, economics, and information technology. We are passionate about public service and the future of state government.

WHAT WE DO
We’re problem solvers, critical thinkers and visionary leaders. We utilize quantitative and qualitative skills to analyze issues and make recommendations.

As analysts we do a lot more than just ‘crunch numbers’. We work with multiple stakeholders, engage in many important statewide initiatives, and make a real impact through sound fiscal management.
EDUCATION
State agencies: Department of Education; Universities; School Facilities Board; Arizona Board of Regents; Community Colleges

Recent Projects: Teacher pay raise “20X2020”; Results-Based Funding; Arizona Teachers Academy; new school construction; community college district formula funding

PUBLIC SAFETY
State agencies: Department of Public Safety; Department of Corrections; Department of Juvenile Corrections; Courts; Governor’s Office of Homeland Security

Recent Projects: Public safety compensation package; bed management strategy; inmate education program; remote housing for state troopers; body cameras

HEALTH AND WELFARE
State agencies: Department of Economic Security, Department of Health Services; Department of Child Safety; Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (the State’s Medicaid agency)

Recent Projects: Opioid response team; suicide prevention plan; child care assistance program; behavioral health integration; foster children adoption incentives

GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS
State agencies: Department of Administration; Department of Transportation; Arizona Commerce Authority

Recent Projects: Agency consolidation; capital asset management; freeway expansion projects; cybersecurity insurance; statewide IT projects; workforce development initiatives

NATURAL RESOURCES
State agencies: Department of Environmental Quality; State Land Department; Department of Water Resources; Game and Fish Department; Department of Fire and Forestry Management

Recent Projects: Arizona Drought Contingency Plan; air quality attainment; ground water management; fire preparedness and fire suppression; wildlife management
AS AN ANALYST YOU WILL:

SHAPE FISCAL POLICY
With over 120 State agencies and boards, OSPB analysts interface with agency management to identify problems and provide solutions to the Governor.

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
OSPB analysts also serve as a consultant to the Governor’s Office on strategic initiatives, providing analytics and research support to help guide State strategy.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS
By recommending data-driven solutions to real world problems and by presenting solutions to the Governor and the Governor’s executive team, OSPB analysts develop the analytic and communication skills necessary to thrive in today’s workforce.

GAIN EXPERTISE AND BUILD A CAREER
Analysts will gain increasing levels of responsibility and can advance their careers in the office. OSPB is also a training ground for leadership roles in state government and business, and former analysts are now agency directors, chief financial officers, and consultants.
REAL IMPACT

BUDGET ANALYST PROFILE
Name: Yan Gao
Education: BA Political Science, UCSD; MPA, Syracuse
Years at OSPB: 2
Agency Portfolio: $1.5 Billion

Real Work
As the analyst for the Department of Child Safety, I monitored legislation related to integrating behavioral health services into the existing health care plan for children under State care. During this process, I worked with the budget and legislative teams at the Department of Child Safety as well as my colleagues at the Governor’s Office to understand and estimate the fiscal and operational impact of the legislation, which the Governor ultimately signed.

After the legislation passed, the agency submitted a budget request for the next fiscal year related to the implementation of the legislation. To come up with my recommendation, I researched and studied previous legislative reports, created a model forecasting caseload growth, and collaborated with my counterparts at the Department and within the Governor’s Office to develop a funding recommendation of $112 million, which our office included in the FY 2021 Executive Budget proposal.

REAL PURPOSE

BUDGET ANALYST / FORECASTER PROFILE
Name: Zach Milne
Education: BS Economics, ASU; MS Economics, ASU
Years at OSPB: 1
Budget Responsibility: $2.7 Billion

Real Work
I currently work with the School Facilities Board (SFB), which grants State funds to school districts for the construction of new school facilities as well as the upkeep and maintenance of existing facilities. For the past two fiscal years, Building Renewal Grant (BGR) needs have exceeded the budgeted amount due to increased demand.

To address this issue, I collected data from the two previous fiscal years on the monthly spending trends of SFB and used this information to construct a forecast for current fiscal year spending. This forecast projected a total need of $115 million, which was $35 million above the current budget of $80 million. I then worked with SFB to compare my calculation with additional survey data collected from schools in Arizona.

This process led our office to recommending an additional $35 million for BRG spending for the current fiscal year in the FY 2021 Executive Budget.
QUALIFICATIONS
We are looking for driven individuals who are problem solvers, analytical thinkers, and great communicators to join our office as budget analysts. Minimum qualifications are a Master’s Degree in a related field or a Bachelor’s Degree and three to five years of budget experience.

COMPENSATION
Salaries start at $60,000 and are commensurate with experience. Additionally, there are excellent employee benefits, including 21 vacation days per year.

TO APPLY
Interested applicants should email their resume, a cover letter, writing sample, and undergraduate and graduate transcripts to Bill Greeney at bgreeney@az.gov with the subject line “OSP Budget Analyst Application”. Writing samples should not exceed five pages and may cover any topic. Unofficial copies of transcripts are sufficient.

INTERVIEW PROCESS
Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Upon submission, you will be contacted shortly to acknowledge receipt. We may invite you to participate in an interview and case study (both can be done remotely).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Visit us at: http://www.azospb.gov/employment.aspx
Contact Bill Greeney at bgreeney@az.gov or (602) 542-5822