

Bio of Robert Greenstein

Robert Greenstein is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. He is considered an expert on the federal budget and a range of domestic policy issues, including programs and policies affecting low- and moderate-income families, health policy, various aspects of tax policy, and Social Security.

Greenstein has written numerous reports, analyses, op-ed pieces, and magazine articles on budget- and poverty-related issues. He appears on national television news and public affairs programs and frequently testifies on Capitol Hill. His advice is often sought by policymakers in Congress and the Administration.

In 1996, Greenstein was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship and cited for making “the Center a model for a non-partisan research and policy organization.” In 2008, he received both the Heinz Award for Public Policy, in recognition of his work to “improve the economic outlook of many of America’s poorer citizens,” and the John W. Gardner Award from Independent Sector for playing “a defining role in how people think about critical budget and tax policies... and help[ing] the nation address fiscal responsibility, reduce poverty, and expand opportunity.” He also received the 2010 Daniel Patrick Moynihan award from the American Academy of Political and Social Science, which cited him as “a champion of evidence-based policy whose work at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities is respected on both sides of the aisle.”

Prior to founding the Center, Greenstein was Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture under President Carter, where he directed the agency that operates the federal food assistance programs, such as the food stamp and school lunch programs, and helped design the landmark Food Stamp Act of 1977, generally regarded as the Carter Administration’s largest anti-poverty achievement. He was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 to serve on the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform and headed the part of President Obama’s transition team that dealt with the federal budget. He is a graduate of Harvard College and has received honorary doctorates from Tufts University and Occidental College.