



TCU releases 2nd edition of “Guidance for Health Counselors” booklet

The Federal Court of Accounts (TCU) released the 2nd version of the “Guidance for Health Counselors” booklet. With such publication, TCU seeks to enhance the scope of the guidelines, which have been widely used as a manual, to strengthen the training of counselors, so that such agents are able to develop the perspective of all parties involved as to the role that they may have in formulating public health policies.

BACKGROUND

Audit works conducted by the court to verify the daily work of health counselors concerning their knowledge and duties intrinsic to their mission, in accordance with Act no. 8,142/1990 and Resolution no. 333/2003, in force at the time, showed that, despite the time elapsed from enactment of such rules, the low level of qualification of such government agents, combined with the population unawareness of their power to change health policies, constituted a compelling reason for concern.

In order to assist Health Council members in the proper exercise of their duties, TCU released, in 2010, the first edition of the "Guidance for Health Counselors" booklet, of a pedagogical nature.

With the enactment of Decree no. 7,508/2011, Supplementary Act no. 141/2012, and Resolution no. 453/2012, it is necessary to update the publication to adapt it to the new normative scenario. Such legislative framework resulted in changes to the work of health counselors, considering that, in addition to creating new rules for the operation of the Unified Health System (SUS), the legislative framework also expanded the duties of such agents.

TCU PUBLICATION ENCOURAGES GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO START DATA OPENING PROCESS

The Federal Court of Accounts (TCU) believes it is essential for public managers to be sensitive to the need for providing society with full access to government

information, not only because it is determined by the Brazilian laws, but also to allow citizens, companies, teaching and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the government itself to fully enjoy the potential offered by open data. The purpose of the publication "Five reasons for data opening in the Federal Government" is to further the creation of such culture in the Brazilian Public Administration, which encourages government organizations to start a process for opening their data.

Aware of the benefits of open data to society, in 2014 TCU conducted an audit with the purpose of becoming acquainted with initiatives of the Federal Government for publishing such data.

Transparent government actions and active social participation are major instruments for promoting efficient public administration and for fighting corruption. Within this context,

opening government data, by increasing the availability of complete and current information, promotes transparency and, at the same time, encourages people's participation.

To openly make public data available allows the access and processing of a great amount of information by means of information technology resources, which are nowadays widely used.

Accordingly, the citizens may actively take part in developing initiatives aimed at overseeing and improving the management of public resources. Furthermore, private initiative has been using such data to offer to society services of relevant public interest not usually rendered by the government.

Although Brazil has been adopting initiatives towards disclosing government data, such as the creation of the Brazilian Open Data Portal, there is still a long road ahead for the consolidation of an open data culture in Brazil.

Second edition cover of "Guidance for Health Counselors" booklet

