

Leveraging Data as a Strategic Asset: Principles for a Comprehensive Federal Data Strategy

The following broad principles are intended to guide the development of a comprehensive data strategy that encompasses the breadth of data the Federal Government acquires, uses, and disseminates for program, statistical, and mission-support purposes. These principles include concepts reflected in existing principles, such as those for the protection of personal information, for federal statistical agencies, and for federal evidence building. The principles will inform the development of practices and action steps for the Federal Data Strategy throughout the data lifecycle.

Stewardship

1. **Exercise Responsibility:** Practice effective data stewardship and governance by maintaining modern data security practices, protecting individual privacy, and maintaining promised confidentiality.
2. **Uphold Ethics:** Consider, monitor, and assess the implications of federal data practices for the public and provide sufficient checks and balances to protect and serve the public interest.
3. **Promote Transparency:** Articulate purposes for acquiring, using, and disseminating data and comprehensively document processes and products to inform data users.

Quality

4. **Integrate Intentionality:** Create, acquire, use, and disseminate data deliberately and thoughtfully, considering quality, consistency, privacy, value, reuse, and interoperability from the start.
5. **Ensure Relevance:** Validate that data are high quality, useful, understandable, timely, and needed.
6. **Create Value:** Coordinate and prioritize data needs and uses, harness data from multiple sources, and acquire new data only when necessary.

Continuous Improvement

7. **Demonstrate Responsiveness:** Improve data sharing and access with ongoing input from users and other stakeholders.
8. **Prioritize Best Practices:** Model, assess, and continuously update best practices throughout the data lifecycle.
9. **Invest in Learning:** Promote a culture of continuous and collaborative learning with data and about data.
10. **Practice Accountability:** Audit data practices, document and learn from results, and make changes as needed based on findings.

SOURCES: European Statistical System Code of Practice <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/european-statistics-code-of-practice>; Fair Information Practice Principles as cited in <https://cep.gov/cep-final-report.html>; First Principles of Project Management, <http://www.maxwideman.com/papers/principles/defns.htm>; Guiding Principles for Evidence-Based Policymaking <https://cep.gov/cep-final-report.html>; Key Principles of Government Information from the American Library Association, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/keyprinciples>; OMB Statistical Standards

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-regulatory-affairs/statistical-programs-standards/>; Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency, Sixth Edition, <https://www.nap.edu/read/24810/chapter/1>.

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