

Texas Interoperability Symposium

September 15, 2023



Background: The Sequoia Project & Interoperability Matters

The Sequoia Project's Role

The Sequoia Project is a trusted, independent advocate for nationwide health information exchange.

Supports multiple independent initiatives, each with their own mission, governance, membership and structure.



SECURE



INTEROPERABLE



NATIONWIDE

Evolution of The Sequoia Project





ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

ONC Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Recognized Coordinating Entity



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

This program is supported by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 90AX0026, Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement - Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) Cooperative Agreement Program, in the amount of \$2,919,000 with 100 percent funded by ONC/HHS. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by ONC, HHS or the U.S. Government.

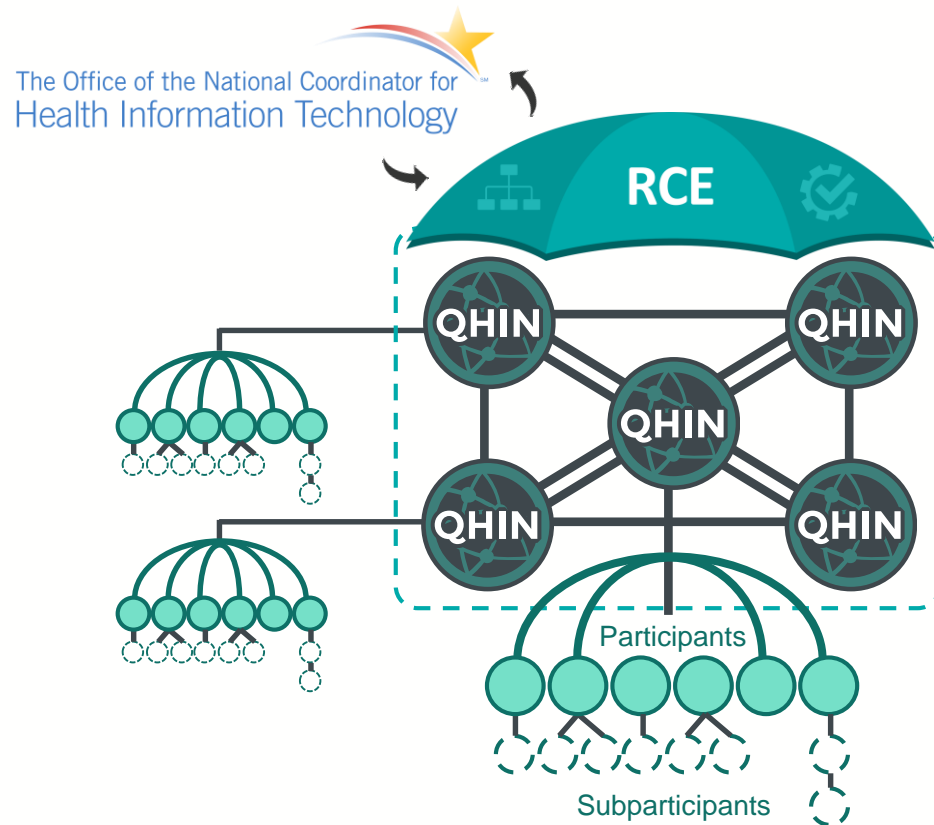


*“[T]he National Coordinator shall convene appropriate public and private stakeholders to **develop or support a trusted exchange framework** for trust policies and practices and for a **common agreement** for exchange between health information networks.”*

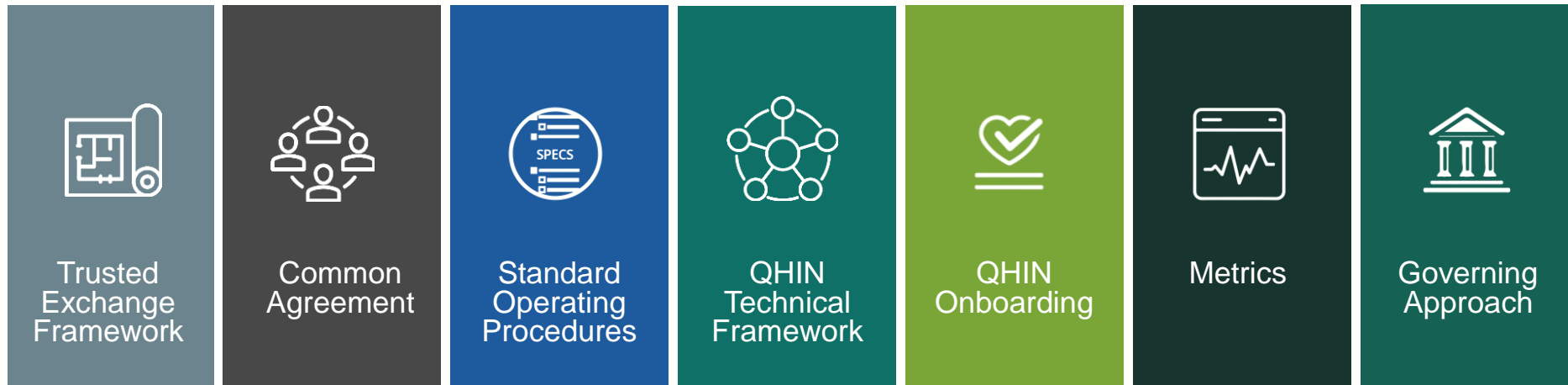
[emphasis added]



How will exchange work under TEFCA?

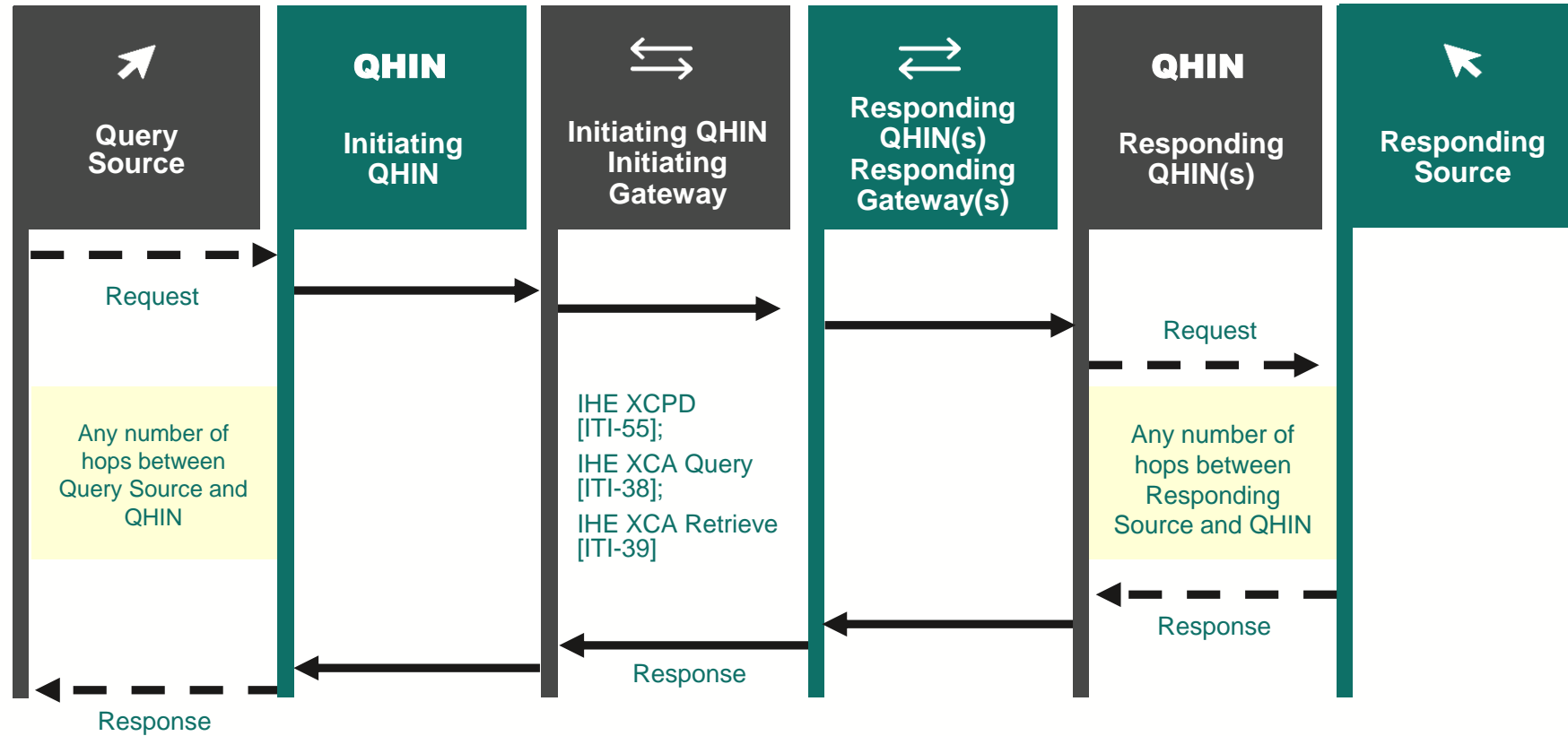


- ← ONC defines overall policy and certain governance requirements.
- ← RCE provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs.
- ← Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs) connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability.
- ← Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants.

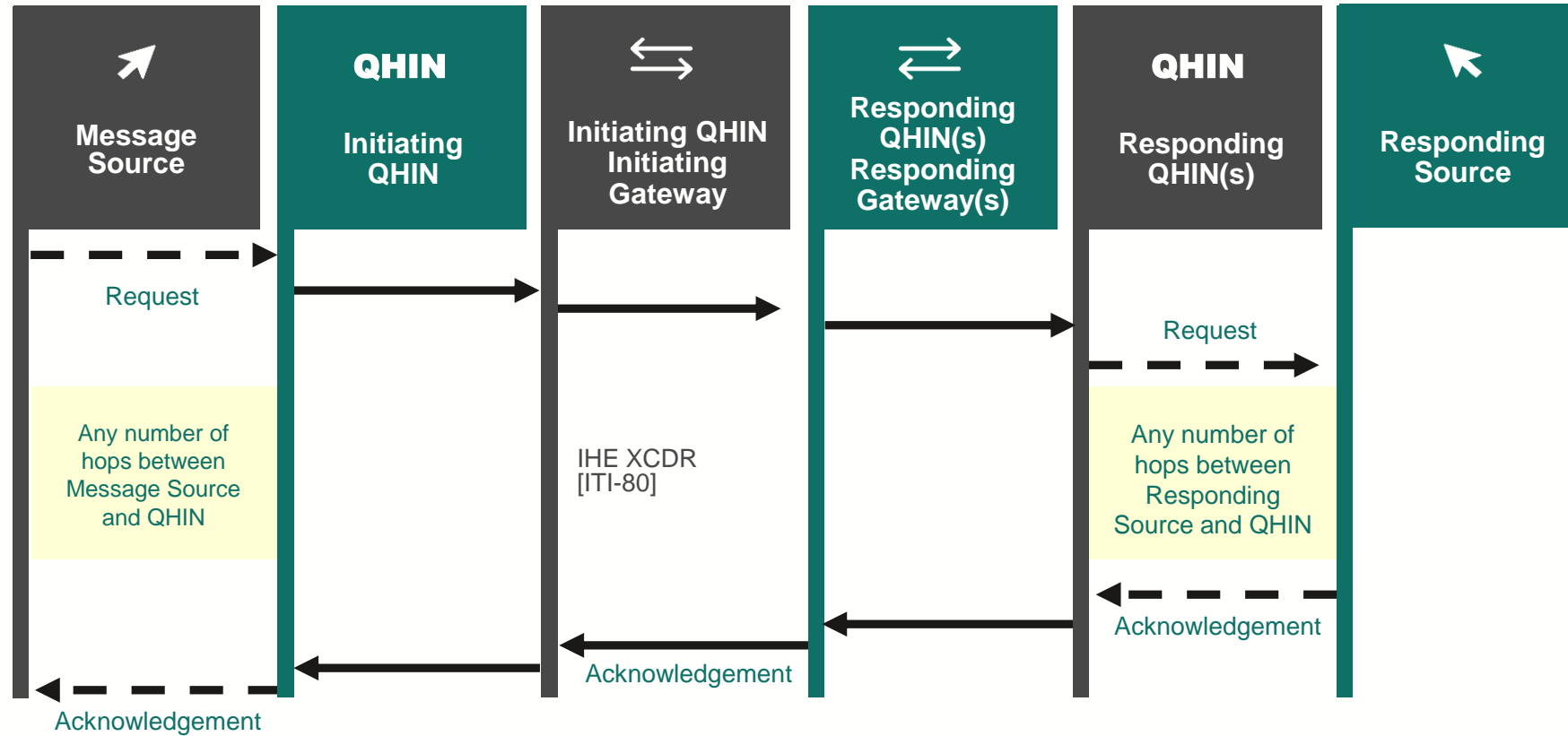


Materials at: <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/tefca-and-rce-resources/> and <https://www.healthit.gov/tefca>.

Query – Technical Data Flow Diagram



Message Delivery – Technical Data Flow Diagram





2021

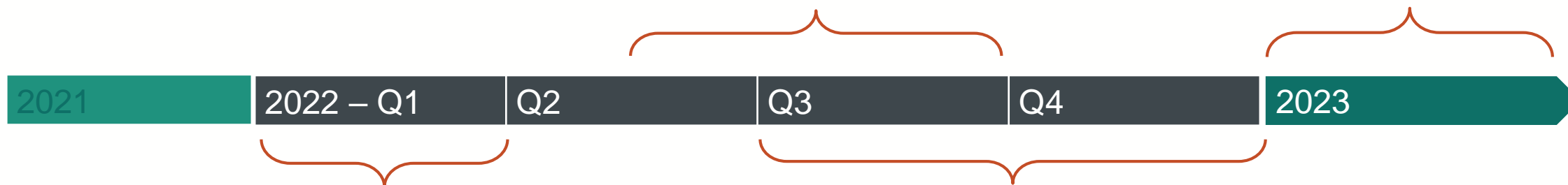
- Public engagement
- Common Agreement Work Group sessions
- RCE and ONC use feedback to finalize TEFCA

Summer/Fall 2022

- Finalize initial SOPs
- QHINs begin signing Common Agreement and applying for Designation

2023

- Establish Governing Council
- Follow change management process to iterate Common Agreement, SOPs, and QTF, including to support FHIR-based exchange



Q1 of 2022

- Publish Common Agreement Version 1
- Publish QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Version 1 and FHIR Roadmap
- Initiate work to enable FHIR-based exchange
- Public education and engagement

Q3 and Q4 of 2022

- **Onboarding of initial QHINs**
- Additional QHIN applications processed
- RCE establishes Transitional Council
- RCE begins designating QHINs to share data
- **Prepare for TEFCA FHIR exchange pilots**



Resources

- Common Agreement v. 1
- QHIN Technical Framework
- FHIR® Roadmap for TEFCA
- Standard Operating Procedures
- User's Guide
- Benefits of TEFCA by Stakeholder Factsheets
- FAQs

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/tefca-and-rce-resources/>

Additional Resources:

<https://www.healthit.gov/tefca>

All Events Registration and Recordings: <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/community-engagement/>

Monthly Informational Calls:
Third Tuesday, of Each Month
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Here](#)



Interoperability Matters

A public-private cooperative that solves high-impact challenges to enable nationwide health information exchange



Your needs are our focus

We bring together diverse stakeholders in health IT and healthcare to create a community of practice.



National-level
issues



Maximum
stakeholder
engagement



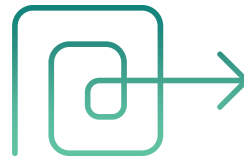
Real-world
implementation

Your priorities drive our process

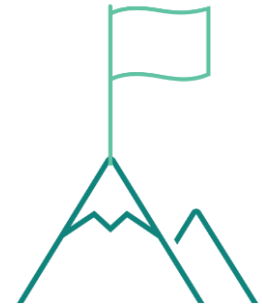
We set our course based on our members' challenges, barriers, gaps, and opportunities.



Identify



Prioritize



Solve

Your voice matters

You have an impact at all levels within the Interoperability Matters initiative.

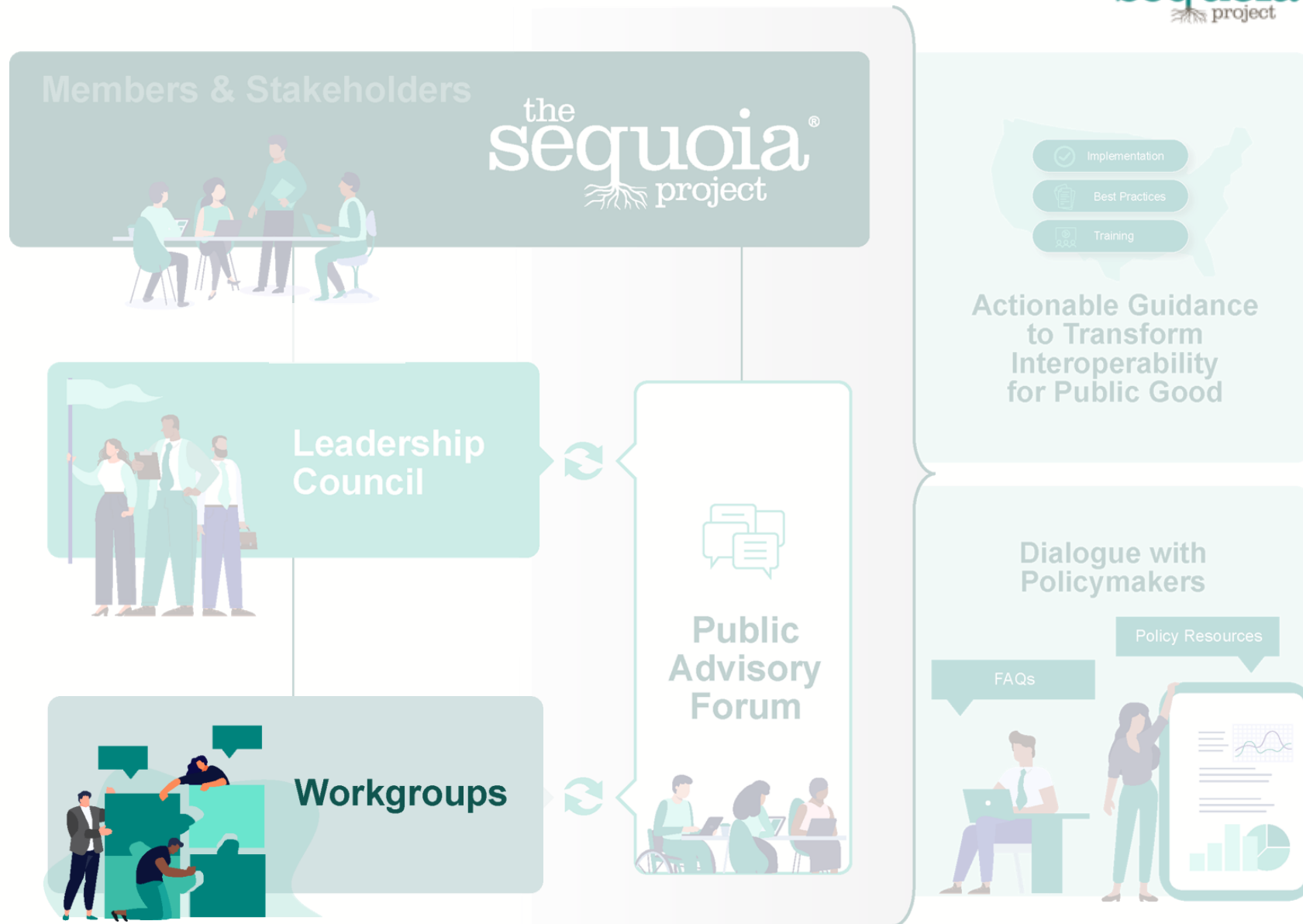


Workgroups

- Made up mostly of **members**, but also some other **stakeholders**
- Produce **best practices, policy resources, implementation guides, and tools**

In Progress

- Information Sharing
- Public Health
- **Data Usability** ★
- Consumer Voices
- Consumer Engagement
- Privacy & Consent
- Payer-to-Payer API



Phase 1:
Administration
and Prioritization

223
Organizations
351
Participants

- ★ **October 2020**
Workgroup launches
- Open call for participation
- Priority work items discussed for scoping on Draft Implementation Guide
- Input on data usability pain points received, categorized, and prioritized

- **March 2021**
Workgroup votes on priority work items

Phase 2:
Developing
Initial Draft

- **April 2021**
Begin writing Draft Implementation Guide

- **June 2021**
Clinician Workshop gathers feedback from additional vendors and workgroup members

- **August 30, 2022**
Draft Implementation Guide published

Phase 3:
Public Comment Period/
Recommended Next Steps

- **August 30, 2022**
45-Day public comment period begins

Sequoia Project works with industry partners and leaders to encourage and solicit feedback

- **October 14, 2022**
Public comments due

Phase 4:
Finalizing
Implementation Guide

- **December 14, 2022**
The Sequoia Project Annual Member Meeting

Implementation Guide published

Continues through January 2023
Industry vendor call to action for commitment to implement guidance

Iterate for future versions of Implementation Guide



Thank you to our Data Usability Taking Root Initiative Co-Sponsor

The logo for AlliMA features the word "AlliMA" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A white swoosh underline starts under the first "A", curves under the "i", and ends under the final "A". A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned to the upper right of the final "A".

What is the difference between the **Data Usability Taking Root Movement** and the **Data Usability Workgroup**?



Data Usability Workgroup
 Develops Guidance

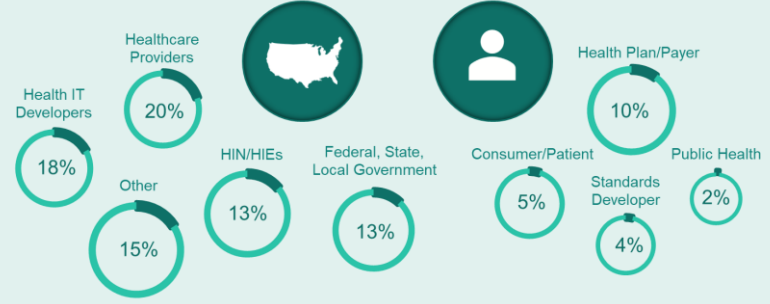


Taking Root Movement
 Implements Guidance

An initiative co-sponsored by **AHIMA**



268 Organizations | 443 Participants



Community of Practice

Roundtables	Technical Assistance
Testing Platform	In-person Convenings

Participation Levels

IMPLEMENTER | **SUPPORTER** | **SPONSOR**



It's one thing to get health data to the right place
at the right time; it's quite another to make sure
that data is complete and useful.

Cross-industry Guidance for Data Quality & Usability

3 years in the making

2 years of public input

268 engaged organizations

443 subject matter experts

It's time for this guidance to **take root**.

Why Join Our Data Usability Initiative?

Because...

- More complete quality data improves outcomes.
- Better data leads to better and timely decisions.
- High quality and usable data are more actionable
- Reduces clinician burden.
- Guidance promotes consistency across technologies.
- Practical, incremental improvements simplify implementation.
- Addresses a common challenge across all actors.
- It's the right thing to do.

Pragmatic Guidance

V1.0 Implementation guidance on clinical content for information exchange

- provider-to-provider
- provider-to-public health
- healthcare entity-to-consumer



Guidance for
Data Provenance &
Traceability
of Change



Guidance for
Data Integrity, Format
and Trust



Guidance for
Effective
Use of Codes



Guidance for
Data Tagging /
Searchability



Guidance for
Reducing
the Impact of
Duplicates



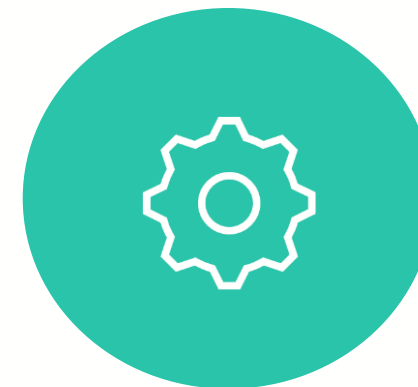
Guidance for
Effective Use
of Narrative
for Usability

Putting Guidance Into Practice

- **Identify where to start**
 - Which V1.0 sections are priorities?
 - Which can be done quickly?
 - What is the timeframe?
- **Track progress**
 - Potential self-reported score card promotes transparency and healthy competition
 - # elements supported
 - % of customers supporting
- **Incremental approach**
 - Enables rollout in conjunction with other IT projects
 - Elevates data usability for all IT projects - UAP
- **Other Considerations**
 - Leverage for governmental programs (e.g., EHR certification, USCDI, TEFCA, etc)
 - Address as part of Data Usability Round Table

Participants
choose their
own
implementation
pathway and
pace...

Implementation Enablers



Technical Assistance

Community of Practice

Testing Platform Services

What makes this distinctive

Data Usability Guidance leverages existing standards to address pain points from end users on the frontline.

- The universal benefit of this work cannot be achieved in isolation.
- This work empowers diverse actors to affect change.
- The industry is entwined in interdependencies.
- When there is strength in numbers, momentum will accelerate.
- Collective action will solve a shared pain point.
- Those that adopt early will have first mover advantage.
- Practical focus can inform future versions of USCDI.
- Model of continuous improvement of data quality.



Data Usability Taking Root

Supporter

Pledges to support the data usability movement as a member of the data usability community of practice. Grants right to Sequoia to include logo in its Taking Root member directory. Participates in Data Usability Roundtables. Supporters that are also Sequoia members are invited to Taking Root Summits.

Implementer

Pledges to implement V1.0 data usability guidance across one or more topics within a defined timeline. Invited to participate in the data usability community of practice, the Data Usability Taking Root Planning Committee, and the Taking Root Summits. Grants right to Sequoia to include logo in its Taking Root member directory.

Sponsor

Pledges to provide sponsorship of the Taking Root Summit(s). Socializes and evangelizes the purpose and power of this work. Co-hosts Taking Root Summits and participates in The Data Usability Taking Root Planning Committee, Roundtables, and Summits.



Levels of Engagement

Roadmap

2023

- Early Supporters for V1
- Round Table
- Taking Root Summit

2024

- Expand participation; develop V2 to include FHIR
- Community of Practice
- Technical Assistance
- Implementation begins
- Movement grows

2025

- Community of Practice expands
- Technical Assistance expands
- Conformance Testing
- Movement grows



Taking Root Meetings

- July 13, 3pm ET: Planning Committee Meeting #1
- July 31 12pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable #1
Level-setting & polling to inform Summit Planning
- Aug 10 4pm ET: Planning Committee Meeting #2
Summit Plans
- Aug 24 3pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable #2
Summit Plans
- Sep 06 9-4pm ET: Taking Root Summit, Washington, DC (in-person)
-  Oct 25 2pm ET: Monthly Community of Practice Roundtable
- Nov 29 2pm ET: Monthly Community of Practice Roundtable



Join the Movement Now!

<https://sequoiaproject.org/data-usability-taking-root-movement/>

Contact Us

Thank you for your interest in The Sequoia Project's new **Data Usability Taking Root** Initiative for V1.

[Follow the development of V2.0 guidance](#)

If you would like to get in touch you can reach us at:



takingroot@sequoiaproject.org



AHIMA[®] 23 CONFERENCE

OCTOBER
8-10, 2023 | Baltimore Convention Center
BALTIMORE, MD

Virtual | OCTOBER 26-27, 2023

WHERE HEALTH INFORMATION
COMES TO LIFE

REMINDER:

- AHIMA will be hosting a Data Usability Taking Root Workshop
 - Sunday, October 8, 2023 – 1pm - 4pm EST
 - Baltimore Convention Center
 - If interested in attending, please register and share on social media with others to help support the event
 - <https://ahima23.eventscribe.net/index.asp>

Sequoia & Carequality Annual Meeting!

<https://sequoiaproject.org/2023-annual-meeting/>



It's time for data usability guidance to **take root.**



Contact Info

takingroot@sequoiaproject.org