Agenda

- **Background**

- **How is TEFCA being operationalized?**

- **What's next?**

- **Questions?**

Background

TEFCA Will Simplify Health Data Exchange

Proliferation of Agreements

While there has been growth in national networks, many organizations must join multiple Health Information Networks (HINs)*, and many HINs do not share data with each other.

The COVID pandemic also underscored the need to share information for care and public health purposes.

Health data exchange must be simplified in order to scale.

*Capitalized terms have the definitions set forth in the Common Agreement Version 1.1.

21st Century Cures Act - Section 4003(b)

*"[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]

TEFCA Goals

GOAL 1

Establish a universal policy and technical floor for nationwide interoperability

GOAL 2

Simplify connectivity for organizations to securely exchange information to improve patient care, enhance the welfare of populations, and generate health care value

GOAL 3

Enable individuals to gather their health care information

Benefits of TEFCA

Relevant, trusted information from nationwide sources for:

Individuals
Use an app to access their own records from TEFCA-connected sources located across the nation.

Providers and Health Systems
Improve care, coordination and population health by obtaining a more informed picture of care across settings through fewer connection points.

Public Health
Improve quality, reduce costs, and expand public health interoperability.

Payers
Get and share data needed for care management, value-based care, payer-to-payer exchange, etc.

Health Information Networks
Enhance the value of network participation and lower the cost of connecting with other networks.

Technology Developers
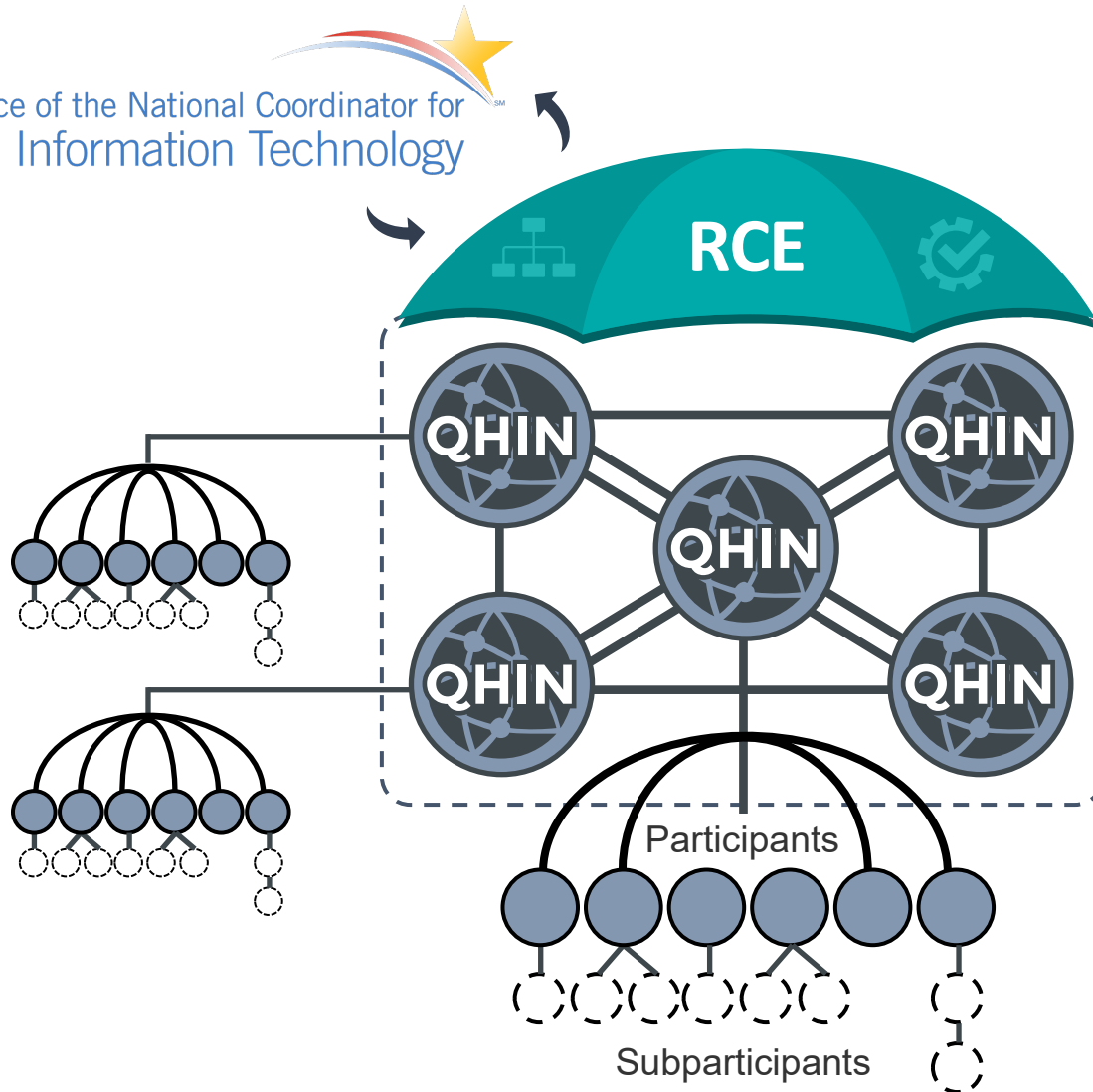Provide a scalable policy and technical ecosystem for innovation.

Researchers (Future)
Improve quality, reduce costs, and expand participation in clinical research.

For more detail on the benefits of TEFCA for stakeholders, see factsheets at: https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/tefca-and-rce-resources/

How does 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.

TEFCA Components

Trusted Exchange Framework

Common Agreement

Standard Operating Procedures

QHIN Technical Framework

QHIN Onboarding

Metrics

Governing Approach

Exchange Purposes (XPs)

Treatment

Payment

Health Care Operations

Public Health

Government Benefits Determination

Individual Access Services

How is TEFCA being operationalized?

TEFCA is Operational!

The following organizations have officially been designated as Qualified Health Information Networks™ (QHINs™) after completing the rigorous TEFCA onboarding process:
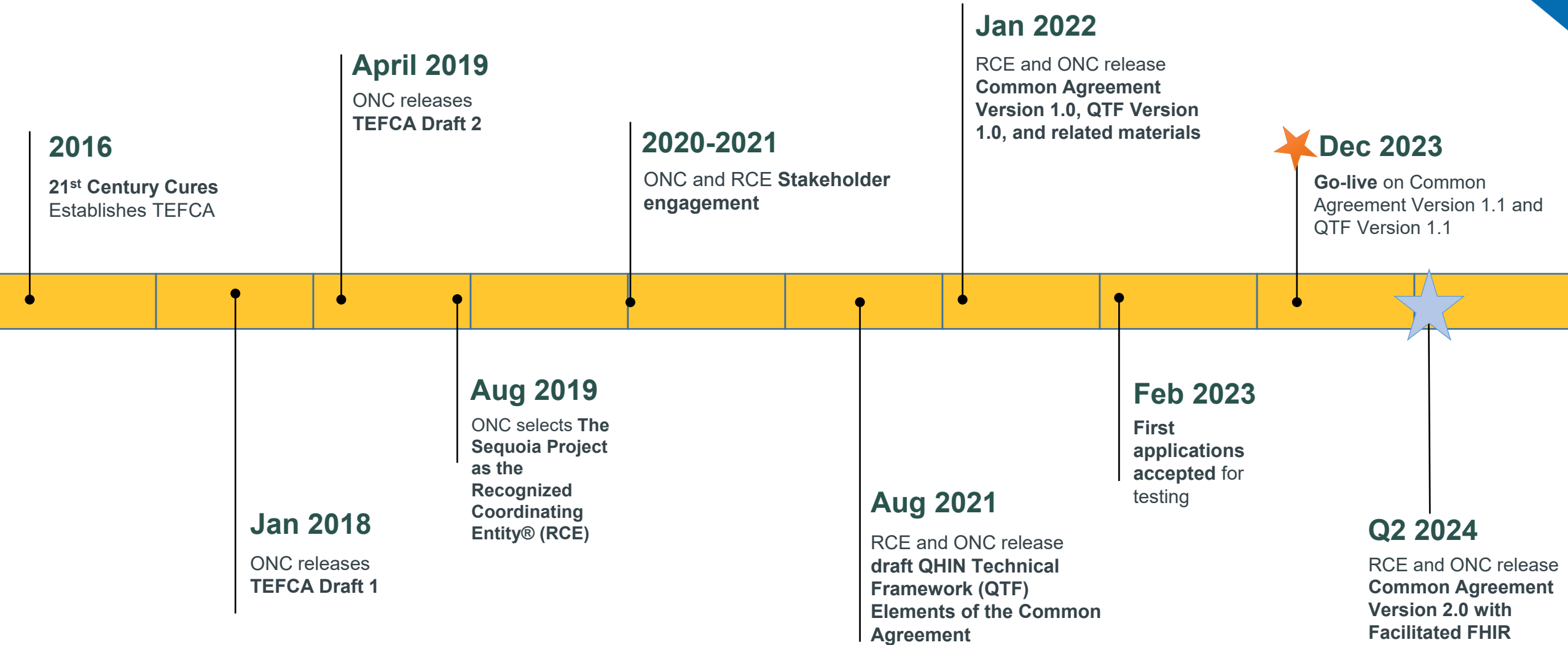
Once designated, these QHINs were able to immediately begin supporting the exchange of data under TEFCA's policies and technical requirements.

New and Updated Documents

- **Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) Roadmap for TEFCA℠ Exchange Version 2.0**

  - Released on December 11, 2023, updates the previous roadmap by providing more details and guidance for the future of FHIR in TEFCA.

- **Common Agreement Version 2.0**

  - Published on May 1, 2024, includes enhancements and updates to support FHIR®-based transactions.

- **New and updated SOPs**

  - Being released in the coming months to support implementation of Common Agreement Version 2.0.

TEFCA Evolution

Jan 2022

RCE and ONC release **Common Agreement Version 1.0, QTF Version 1.0, and related materials**

April 2019

ONC releases **TEFCA Draft 2**

2020-2021

ONC and RCE **Stakeholder engagement**

Dec 2023

Go-live on Common Agreement Version 1.1 and QTF Version 1.1

2016

21st Century Cures Establishes TEFCA

Aug 2019

ONC selects **The Sequoia Project as the Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE)**

Feb 2023

First applications accepted for testing

Jan 2018

ONC releases **TEFCA Draft 1**

Aug 2021

RCE and ONC release **draft QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Elements of the Common Agreement**

Q2 2024

RCE and ONC release **Common Agreement Version 2.0 with Facilitated FHIR**

What's next?

Next Steps

- Advancing additional XPs and use cases (including early demonstrations)

- Expansion of TEFCA participation

- Education and outreach

- Further adoption of FHIR exchange

- Continue to collaborate with Federal partners on the use of TEFCA in support of Federal programs

Questions?