



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

TEFCA Update for ONC Health IT Advisory Committee

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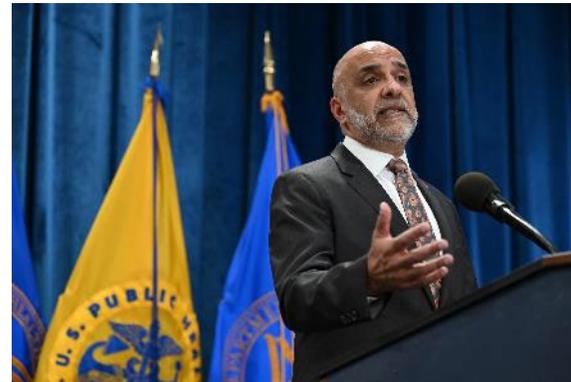
March 9, 2023



Agenda

- **Recap of Secretarial Recognition Event of Candidate QHINs**
- **Timeline Update**
- **Public Health SOP**
- **Other Activities**
- **TEFCA and CMS**

TEFCA Launch Event: February 13, 2023



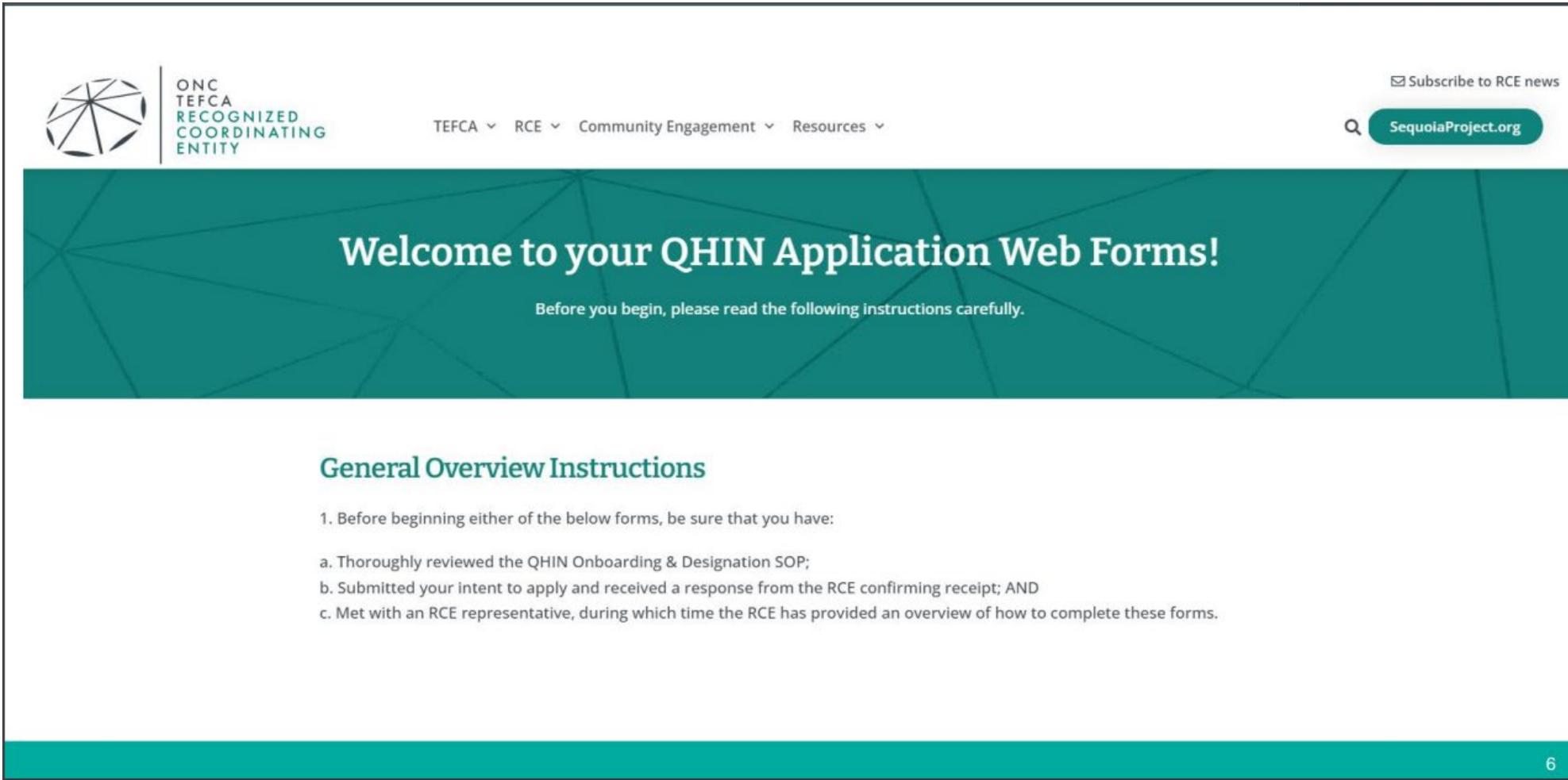
Federal Agency Support for TEFCA

- **HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra:**
 - “Each and every one of us recognizes that this is one of the main ways, long term, that we're going to bring down the cost of health care....”
 - “This is going to benefit patients. It's going to support providers. It's going to be a boon in the end of the day for health care companies. But most importantly for everyone who has some connection in the healthcare system to health and safety, this takes us to the next level.”
- **Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the President’s Science Advisor**, spoke about the possibilities created by TEFCA, including for improving health outcomes across the country.
- **CMS Principal Deputy Administrator and COO Jonathan Blum** pledged to work with ONC hand-in-hand and pledged to use CMS tools to help support TEFCA.
- **CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky** said, “We have to have a nationwide approach to public health interoperability.”
- **Veterans Administration Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal** spoke to the potential of TEFCA to improve care for veterans and improve the VA’s ability to access data in support of its public health mission.

Candidate QHINs Accepted for Onboarding



QHIN Applications Still Being Accepted



The screenshot shows the top portion of a web page. On the left is the logo for the ONC TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity, which consists of a stylized globe icon and the text "ONC TEFCA RECOGNIZED COORDINATING ENTITY". To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: "TEFCA", "RCE", "Community Engagement", and "Resources", each followed by a downward-pointing chevron. Further right is a search bar containing the text "SequoiaProject.org" and a magnifying glass icon. In the top right corner, there is a link that says "Subscribe to RCE news" with an envelope icon. Below the navigation is a large teal banner with the text "Welcome to your QHIN Application Web Forms!" and "Before you begin, please read the following instructions carefully." Below the banner is a section titled "General Overview Instructions" with a numbered list of requirements.

ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

TEFCA ▾ RCE ▾ Community Engagement ▾ Resources ▾

Subscribe to RCE news

SequoiaProject.org

Welcome to your QHIN Application Web Forms!

Before you begin, please read the following instructions carefully.

General Overview Instructions

1. Before beginning either of the below forms, be sure that you have:
 - a. Thoroughly reviewed the QHIN Onboarding & Designation SOP;
 - b. Submitted your intent to apply and received a response from the RCE confirming receipt; AND
 - c. Met with an RCE representative, during which time the RCE has provided an overview of how to complete these forms.

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/qhin-process/>

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/qhin-application-submission/>

Blog Posts and Recording

Building TEFCA

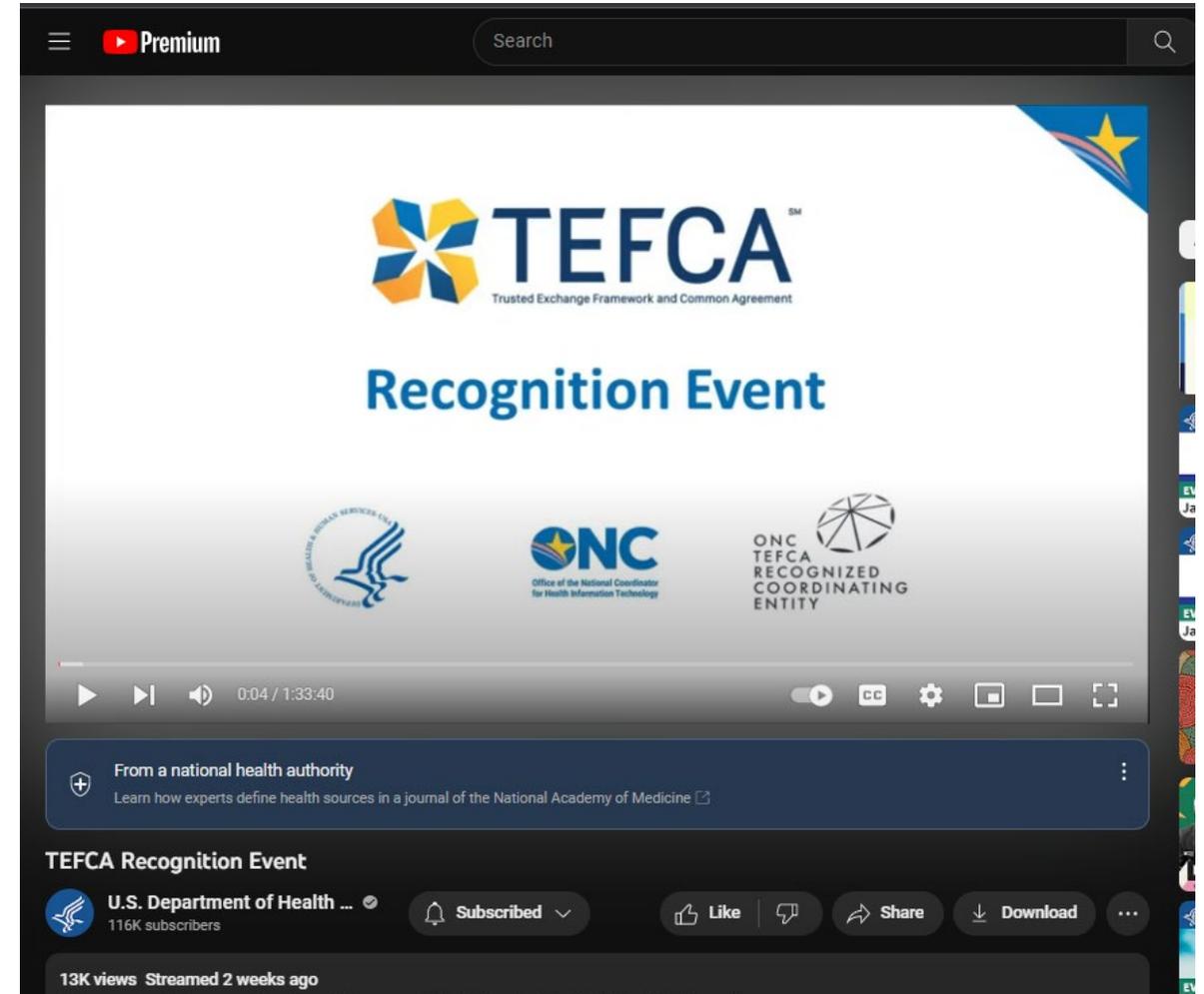
Micky Tripathi and Mariann Yeager, CEO, The Sequoia Project (the TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity) | FEBRUARY 13, 2023



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A little over a year ago, we **announced** the completion of a critical 21st Century Cures Act requirement by publishing the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA). This milestone established a clear infrastructure model and governing approach for nationwide health information exchange.

Today, we marked the next major milestone during an event at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) headquarters, which recognized the first set of networks to be approved to implement TEFCA as prospective Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs). Once fully onboarded, the organizations will officially be “designated” as QHINs. At this event, HHS Secretary Becerra recognized and congratulated **CommonWell Health Alliance, eHealth Exchange, Epic TEFCA Interoperability Services, Health Gorilla, Kno2, and KONZA** for their willingness to voluntarily step up and meet the rigorous TEFCA eligibility requirements, terms and conditions of TEFCA participation, and com-



- [View the recording of the HHS event recognizing the QHIN applicants.](#)

Timeline to Operationalize TEFCA



2021

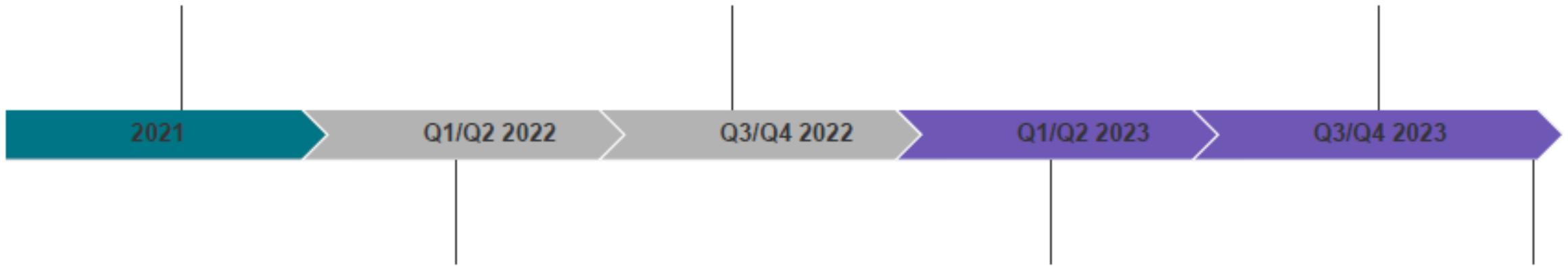
- Public engagement
- Common Agreement Work Group sessions
- RCE and ONC use feedback to finalize TEFCA

Q3/Q4 2022

- Finalize additional SOPs
- QHIN application review
- Prepare for TEFCA FHIR-based exchange pilot

Q3/Q4 2023

- Additional QHIN applications processed
- Continue onboarding of initial QHINs
- Refine Common Agreement, SOPs, and QTF, including to support FHIR-based exchange



2021

Q1/Q2 2022

Q3/Q4 2022

Q1/Q2 2023

Q3/Q4 2023

Q1/Q2 of 2022

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

Q1/Q2 of 2023

- **Public announcement: First Approved QHIN Applicants**
- Onboarding of initial QHINs
- Additional QHIN applications processed
- Launch TEFCA FHIR-based exchange pilot
- Payment & Operations SOP
- Public Health SOP

First QHINs go-live

Public Health Exchange Purpose Implementation SOP

- **We are seeking deeper engagement with STLTs interested in helping to flesh out the TEFCA Public Health Exchange Purpose (participation model, SOP, IGs, first use cases).**
 - Aiming for a potential engaged cohort of early adopters to develop proposals for input by broader PH community
 - Please contact Grace Mandel, gmandel@cdc.gov, if interested
 - To participate in the Public Health Exchange SOP development
 - Please contact Lisa Moon (lmooon@sequoiaproject.org) or Debbie Condrey (dcondrey@sequoiaproject.org).
- **All STLTs should:**
 - Review the Common Agreement and the educational materials on the RCE's website
 - Identify potential changes to state and local programmatic requirements needed to participate in TEFCA
 - Consider existing health information exchange infrastructure and technical capabilities
 - Understand the capabilities QHINs and how public health might benefit from exchanging data through QHINs
 - Participate in TEFCA information sessions and ask questions!
 - **Sign up at RCE.SequoiaProject.org**

Status Updates

- Define the scope of potential changes to Common Agreement v2
- Payment & Healthcare Operations Implementation SOP
- Additional Security requirements for QHINs, Participants and Subparticipants
- TEFCA Facilitated FHIR Implementation Guide Testing
 - IHE TEFCA Facilitated FHIR Projectathon – March 8-9, 2023 - Austin, Texas
 - HL7 FHIR Connectathon – May 6-7, 2023 - New Orleans, Louisiana

TEFCA and CMS

- Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes Proposed Rule (**comments due March 13**)
 - Request for Information on advancing the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-26479/p-867>).
- ONC continues to engage across CMS on opportunities for leveraging TEFCA.
 - TEFCA optional measure included in 2023 IPPS and PFS (summarized in [ONC Buzz Blog post](#) in October).
 - TEFCA RFI in National Directory of Healthcare Providers and Services RFI (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-21904/p-63>).



Questions



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

Contact ONC

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Health IT Feedback Form:

<https://www.healthit.gov/form/healthit-feedback-form>



Twitter: [@onc_healthIT](https://twitter.com/onc_healthIT)



LinkedIn: [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-of-the-national-coordinator-for-health-information-technology)



Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HHSONC>

HealthIT.gov

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