

# Data Exchange Framework

# INFORMATION IS POWER

## Webinar Series

### WEBINAR 3

DxF Grant Program Overview &  
DSA Signature Portal Demonstration

November 22, 2022

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# Speaker Introductions



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# Agenda

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- Vision for Data Exchange in California
- Study Spotlight
- CalHHS Data Exchange Framework (“DxF”) Update
- DxF Grants Program
- How to Sign the DSA: A Demonstration
- Wrap Up & Q&A



# Vision for Data Exchange in California



## Highlighted Study: Assessing the Benefits of Integrating Health Information Exchange Services into the Medical Practices' Workflow

This study found that educating medical practices on the capabilities of Health Information Exchange (HIE) services significantly reduced the rate of Emergency department utilization and unplanned 30-day hospital readmissions amongst patients.

### Key Findings

- Following the implementation of a three-month HIE training program, the participating medical practice **saw the average number of ED visits and the average number of readmissions** per 1,000 members per month **reduce by 13.3% and 10.2%, respectively.**
- Additionally, qualitative interviews with the clinical and administrative staff found **significant improvement in their workflow.**

The results indicate that introducing and educating practitioners on the capabilities of HIE can improve clinical workflows and patient outcomes.

Source: [Assessing the Benefits of Integrating Health Information Exchange Services into the Medical Practices' Workflow](#)

Sample Group: Case study of a medical practice in Western New York  
Duration: November 2016 to January 2017



# CalHHS Data Exchange Framework (“DxF”) Update

# DxF this Month

Since our last *Information is Power* webinar on October 24th, CDII and stakeholders have continued to advance DxF implementation across several domains.



## Governance

- **The Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)** held its second meeting on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** and discussed the next set of P&Ps, the DxF QHIO program, the DxF Grants program, and the Strategy for Digital Identities.



## DSA P&P Development

- CDII hosted the **second DSA P&P Subcommittee meeting**, at which the Subcommittee discussed and provided recommendations on draft language for the Information Blocking and Monitoring and Auditing P&Ps.



## DxF Grants

- CDII received applications for the DxF Educational Initiative Grants on Oct 31.
- Initial eligibility criteria for the QHIO Onboarding and Technical Assistance Grants were discussed during the second IAC Meeting.



## QHIO

- The QHIO program principles, application process, and qualification criteria were developed and discussed at the second IAC Meeting.

Meeting materials and information are available on the CalHHS DxF [website](#)



# DxF Grants Program Overview

# About the DxF Grant Program

In the 2022-23 California Budget, Gov Newsom and the California State Legislature have allocated \$50 million over two years to support the implementation of the Data Exchange Framework



The funding establishes the **DxF Grant Program** to provide funding to external entities to support:

- Health information exchange onboarding for organizations who do not actively share information through health information intermediaries
- Technical assistance for small/under-resourced providers
- Technical assistance and education for organizations who are new to health information exchange, especially those who are required by AB133 to sign the Data Sharing Agreement

# Three Types of Grant Opportunities

CDII intends to award grants across three primary domains:



## Educational Initiative Grants

Provides grant funding to associations for **educational initiatives** designed to provide information about the Data Exchange Framework and the Data Sharing Agreement to signatories



## QHIO Onboarding Grants

Provides grant funding to QHIOs and signatories for the initial costs of **connecting to a qualified HIO**



## Technical Assistance (TA) Grants

Provides grant funding to signatories for **technical assistance** to support signatories meeting their DSA requirements (beyond QHIO onboarding)

# DxF Grant Program Goals

**CDII has established three key goals for the DxF Grant Program.**



## **Elevate Equity**

Support DxF implementation among DxF signatories in under-resourced geographies and/or serving historically marginalized populations and underserved communities



## **Address Barriers**

Address significant barriers to DxF implementation (operational, technical, or other) for DxF signatories



## **Align with Other Programs**

Align across other grant programs and promote activities ineligible for funding by other grant programs (past or present)

# DxF Grant Listening Session Overview



## Program Goal: Addressing Barriers

CDII gathered stakeholder feedback to identify significant barriers to DxF implementation (operational, technical, or other).

# DxF Grant Listening Session: Overview

To ensure that the DxF Grant Program addresses the critical barriers to DxF implementation, CDII in October hosted two “DxF Grant Program Listening Sessions.”



## Purpose

CDII sought to **understand barriers to implementation** for signatories and identify opportunities to address those barriers



## Format

Sessions were hosted virtually and provided participants the **opportunity for written and verbal feedback**



## Participants

Sessions were open to the public and **326 individuals** attended one of the two Listening Sessions.

**26%**

County Health, Social Services, and Public Health

**9%**

Health Information Organization

**8%**

CBO Providing Social Services

**8%**

Physician Organization, Medical Group, Community Health Center

**7%**

General Acute Care Hospital...

# DxF Grant Listening Session: Key Questions

Participants identified shared barriers to DxF implementation and opportunities for grant funding across the three identified domains.

## Participants were asked the following questions:

1. What are the operational, technical, or technological barriers for your organization to implement the DxF?
2. How might DxF grants funds help address those barriers?
3. What would make it easier for your organization to apply for a DxF Grant?

## Findings Across Three Themes

Education

QHIO Onboarding

Technical Assistance



# Listening Session Findings: Understanding Barriers to Implementation, Grant Opportunities

## Education

*Participants need additional education on the roles of QHIOs, how to appropriately operationalize changes, and on the DxF more generally.*



### Implementation Barriers

- Lack of understanding on **what is required of their organization**
- Lack of understanding about the **role of a QHIO**
- Guidance for **connecting with non-HIPAA covered entities**



### Grant Opportunities

- Providing more **educational and training opportunities** about the DxF
- **Resources to learn** about the DxF (toolkits, guides)
- **Clear and specific guidance and scope for each signatory group** required to comply
- Information on **how to become a QHIO**

# Listening Session Findings: Understanding Barriers to Implementation, Grant Opportunities

## QHIO Onboarding

*Many organizations are not connected to a health information organization or intermediary that actively exchanges data.*



### Implementation Barriers

- Many organizations are not **connected to a health information organization**
- Need to **adjust existing technologies, workflows** to connect to a QHIO



### Grant Opportunities

- **Funding to contract** with and establish connections to a QHIO
- Funding for **EHR costs** associated with QHIO connection
- Funding for **dedicated IT staff to onboarding**

# Listening Session Findings: Understanding Barriers to Implementation, Grant Opportunities

## Technical Assistance

*TA can help organizations meet the requirements of the DxF, especially for certain organizations with limited capacity or in-house expertise.*



## Implementation Barriers

- Not having key experts to help **select a QHIO option** (or other technical solution)
- Needing a clear understanding of its **technological gaps** to address to meet its DSA responsibilities
- Not having staff bandwidth or expertise to **manage a technology project** of this kind
- Not having staff bandwidth or expertise to **develop workflows and train staff** to meaningfully integrate shared data



## Grant Opportunities

- **Funding for an expert to support** selection of, and contracting with, a QHIO or other technical solution
- Funding for **experts/consultants to conduct assessments** and gap analysis to understand where organization need to add functionality to meet DSA requirements
- Funding for **experts/consultants to develop workflows**, training staff, or managing the implementation process

# Listening Session Findings: Understanding Barriers to Implementation, Grant Opportunities

## Implications for DxF Grants

Session feedback confirmed the three grant domains and provided guidance on activities to prioritize within each domain:

1. **DxF Educational Initiative Grants** will provide funding for DxF-related education tailored by signatory group.
2. **QHIO Onboarding Grants** will provide funding for organizations not connected to a QHIO to connect with a QHIO.
3. **Technical Assistance Grants** will support organizations with limited resources to complete activities needed to meet DSA requirements.

**Feedback also  
spotlighted  
importance of:**

- Clear grant criteria and requirements
- Sufficient time to complete, vet applications
- Simple application process
- Simple reporting requirements for grantees

# DxF Educational Initiatives Grant



## Program Goal: Addressing Barriers

The Educational Initiative Grants are intended to help address barriers around organizations' understanding of the Data Exchange Framework.

# Educational Initiatives Grant: Overview



## Barriers

DxF Signatories may need stakeholder-specific support to understand their DSA responsibilities and how to fulfill those responsibilities.



## Grant Funding to Address Barriers

CDII is funding DxF-related educational initiatives that will provide educational and informational activities for DxF signatories and are tailored by signatory group.

Eligible awardees are associations representing signatories with expertise in providing education and technical assistance.

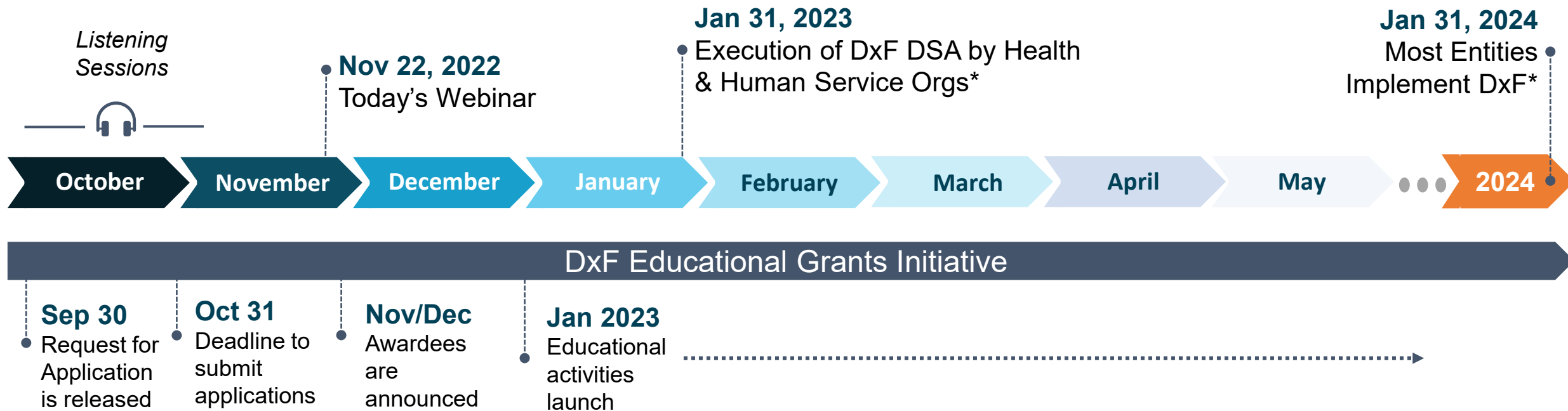


## Sample Educational Activities

- FAQs
- Webinar Series
- Coaching Hours
- HIT conference
- Learning Collaboratives
- Roadshows
- Stakeholder Mapping
- Learner Needs Assessment

# Educational Initiative Grant: Updates

CDII plans to publicly announce notice of Educational Initiative Grant Awards in coming weeks.





# DxF QHIO Onboarding Program and Grants



## Program Goal: Addressing Barriers

The QHIO Onboarding Grants are meant to address financial barriers for organizations looking to meet their DSA requirements by connecting to a health information organizations that meets DSA requirements.

# QHIO Onboarding Grants: Overview

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*



## Barriers

- Many potential DxF Signatories have not made the necessary connections to intermediaries to enable meaningful data exchange
  - A **Health Information Organization (HIO)** is an organization that offers services and functions to support the exchange of health information. The HIO serves as an intermediary, assisting health and human services organizations as they initiate, receive, and reply to requests for information.
  - Regional HIOs exchange data with only about half of the state's hospitals.
- Costs can be a key challenge for organizations in onboarding to an HIO.



## Grant Funding to Address Barriers

CDII will provide grants to cover the initial costs of onboarding to a qualified HIO that meets the requirements for the Data Exchange Framework.



## Potential DxF QHIO Onboarding Activities

- Paying initial QHIO fees
- Costs of connecting QHIO to a Signatory's EHR
- Costs of IT staff at the signatory organizations

# QHIO Onboarding Grants: How Signatories Will Identify Qualified HIOs



CDII in 2023 will **establish a Qualified Health Information Organization (“QHIO”) program** to help signatories meet their obligations under the DxF and AB-133

## What is a QHIO?

A **Qualified Health Information Organization (QHIO)** is an HIO that has demonstrated their ability to meet DxF/DSA data exchange requirements.

As part of the DxF implementation program, CDII will establish these criteria as well as a process to qualify HIOs to validate their credentials.

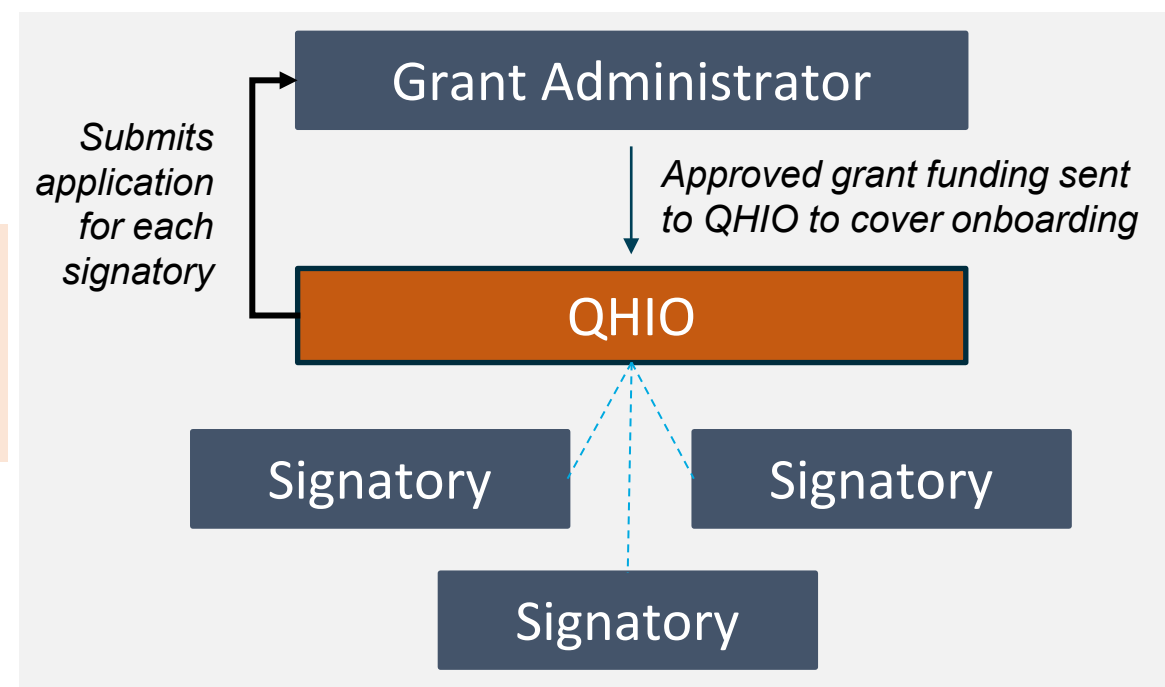
Signatories are not required to connect to a QHIO.

# QHIO Onboarding Grants: Application Process

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*

To receive a QHIO Onboarding Grant, organizations will select a QHIO, and that QHIO will apply to CDII for the grant on their behalf.

- 1 Signatory selects QHIO that they want to connect with, and the organizations sign an tentative connection agreement.
- 2
  - a) QHIO screens signatory to see if they are eligible for a QHIO Onboarding Grant.\*
  - b) If eligible and with signatory's co-signature, QHIO submits grant application to CDII.
- 3 If approved for grant funding, CDII releases funding to the QHIO when the signatory and QHIO reach pre-determined onboarding milestones.



*\* Eligibility criteria are still being defined*

# QHIO Onboarding Grants: Funding Parameters

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*

## CDII expects to provide maximums for funding requests.

- Maximums will specify the largest amount that each organization can apply to receive through the QHIO onboarding grant.
- CDII expects to set maximum funding amounts by signatory group.
- CDII is leveraging funding amount maximums set in previous grant programs to inform maximums for the DxF Grant Program.

## CDII expects to release funding based on milestones.

- Grant administrator would release funding to the QHIO based on achievement of *simple* milestones.
- Graphic at right illustrates potential milestones for this program; milestones are not yet finalized.



# DxF Technical Assistance Grant Program

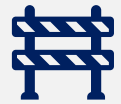


## Program Goal: Addressing Barriers

TA Grant Funding is meant to support organizations who need additional resources and help in their implementation of the DxF (beyond QHIO onboarding).

# Technical Assistance (TA) Grants: Overview

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*



## Barriers

Organizations who choose to onboarding to a QHIO may need resources to help select or contract with a QHIO, or with the meaningful integration of shared data into technological and operational/clinical workflows.

Organizations also may choose to meet their DSA requirements without onboarding to a QHIO, and they may need to resources to support the implementation of their selected solution.



## Grant Funding to Address Barriers

CDII is providing technical assistance funds that organizations may use to support QHIO onboarding or to meet its DSA requirements without onboarding to a QHIO.



## Potential DxF TA Grant Funded Activities

- Hiring expert to identify best solution for meeting DSA requirements
- Hiring expert to select and contract with a QHIO
- Hiring consultant to design and host trainings on new workflows



# TA Grants: Application Process

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*

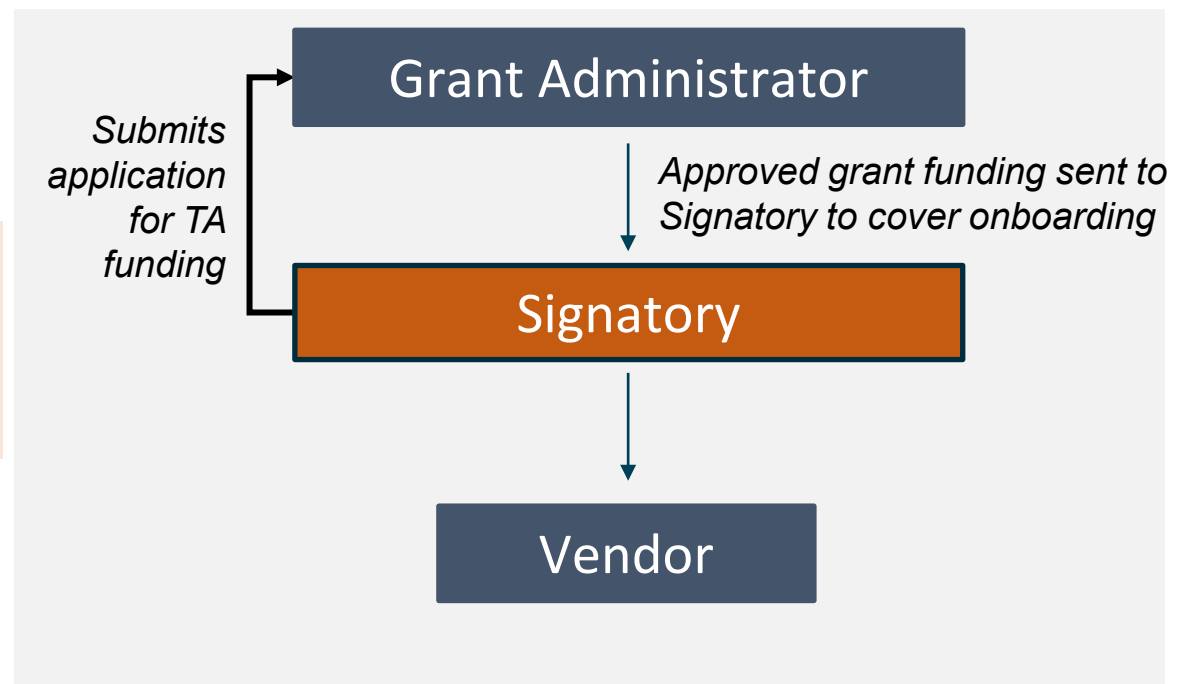
**To receive a Technical Assistance Grant, organizations will apply directly to CDII's Grant Administrator for funding.**

**1** Signatory identifies a technical assistance need to help them meet their DSA requirements and a vendor that could address that need.

**2**

- a) Signatory reviews TA Grant criteria to see if they are eligible for a TA Grant.\*
- b) If eligible, signatory submits application for Technical Assistance funding

**3** If approved for grant funding, CDII releases funding to the signatory when the signatory and vendor reach pre-determined milestones.



*\* Eligibility criteria are still being defined*

# TA Grants: Funding Parameters

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*

## CDII expects to provide maximums for funding requests.

- Maximums will specify the largest amount that each organization can apply to receive through the TA grant.
- CDII expects to set maximum funding amounts by signatory group.
- CDII is leveraging funding amounts from previous grant programs to inform maximums for the DxF Grant Program.

## CDII expects to release funding based on milestones.

- Grant administrator would release funding to the signatory based on achievement of *simple* milestones.
- Graphic at right illustrates potential milestones for this program; milestones are not yet finalized.



# A Focus on Equity in the Application Process and Awards



## Program Goal: Elevating Equity

CDII is developing an application process and selection criteria for the DxF Grant Program design to ensure equitable access to and distribution of grant funding.

# Ensuring Equity in the Application Process

CDII is designing their grant programs to address equity in several key ways, including:

## *In the Educational Initiative Grants:*

- **Educational initiatives** include specific activities and efforts to reach organizations that serve under-resourced geographies and/or serving historically marginalized populations and underserved communities.

## *In the QHIO Onboarding and TA Grants:*

- The **application process** is being designed to ensure that organizations with limited capacity and/or bandwidth are able to easily apply and access funding.
- **Scoring criteria** will prioritize organizations that serve under-resourced geographies and/or serving historically marginalized populations and underserved communities.



# Other Health IT Grant Programs in Flight



## Program Goal: Ensuring Alignment

CDII is aligning the DxF Grant Program requirement with those of other grant programs and will promote activities ineligible for funding by other grant programs (past or present).

# Other HIT Grant Funding Opportunities

CDII is coordinating with DHCS to ensure alignment of the DxF Grant Program with other funding opportunities for health IT and data exchange, including:

## CalAIM Providing Access & Transforming Health

**PATH** is a five-year, \$1.85 billion initiative to build up the capacity and infrastructure to implement CalAIM. Funding opportunities include:

- **Capacity and Infrastructure Transition, Expansion and Development (CITED) Initiative** will provide funding to build ECM and Community Supports provider capacity and infrastructure. Round 1 applications have closed.
- **Technical Assistance (TA) Marketplace Initiative** will connect providers, community-based organizations, county agencies, public hospitals, tribal partners, and others with technical assistance vendors – including for data & capacity building – to support CalAIM implementation. Launches in 2023.

PATH launched in 2022 and is administered by DHCS

## Equity and Practice Transformation Grants

Included in the 2022-2023 California Budget, the \$650M **Equity and Practice Transformation Grants** over five years will support investments in provider infrastructure, including infrastructure to support data exchange and advanced data analytics, and practice transformation efforts to achieve Medi-Cal's quality and equity goals and support practices to prepare for alternative payment model

\$200 million of the funding will be dedicated towards preparing practices for value-based care, including supporting necessary infrastructure including:

- Electronic health record systems that support population health management, including population health analytics and services;
- Data collection and recording capabilities;
- Improved data exchange; and
- Care management systems.

Grants will be administered by DHCS. [Click here](#) for more information.

# Next Steps



# QHIO Onboarding and TA Grant Applications in 2023

*The following draft DxF Grant Parameters are not comprehensive and are subject to change.*

**Applications for QHIO Onboarding and TA Grant will open in early 2023.**

- CDII will announce **funding opportunities** in 2023.
- To support need for rapid implementation, CDII will **prioritize grant funding for required signatory groups in initial round(s)** of funding.

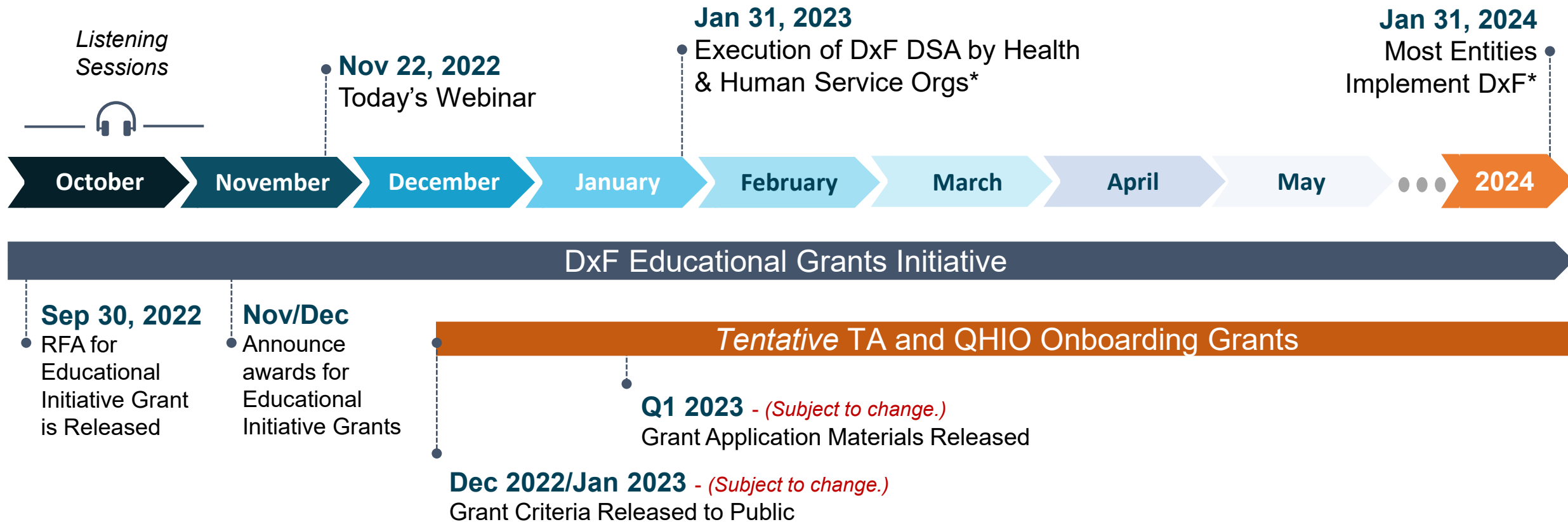
## **Signatories Identified Under AB-133\***

- General acute care hospital
- Physician organizations and medical groups
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Health service plans and disability insurers
- Medi-Cal managed care plans
- Clinical laboratories
- Acute psychiatric hospitals

**\*Source: AB-133**

# DxF Grant Implementation Timeline

*Timeline is subject to change.*



# Receiving Grant Updates

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## Looking to stay up to date on the DxF Grant Program?

All updates – including the release of the final criteria and application materials, and details on how to and when to apply for funding – will be send to the DxF Community email distribution.

Email [CDII@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:CDII@chhs.ca.gov) to be added to the distribution list.

# How to Sign the DSA: A Demonstration

# Signing the DSA: What to Know

**Beginning the week of November 28<sup>th</sup>, both mandatory and voluntary signatories may begin executing the DSA.**

- CDII has created a self-service portal application to sign the DSA electronically.
- Organizations wishing to sign the DSA will need to determine:
  - Who is authorized to sign the DSA within your organization.
  - What facilities or subordinate entities are included in the DSA; a signatory may sign on behalf of multiple facilities or subordinate entities if authorized.
  - Information about the individual signing, their organization, their contact information, all subordinate entities, including their state license number (or EIN for physician organizations and medical groups), will need to be listed on the DSA prior to signing

**All mandatory signatories are required by AB-133 to execute the DSA by January 31, 2023.**

# Signing the DSA: Next Steps

**CDII will announce availability of the signature portal application next week.**

- CDII will announce availability of the signature portal application next week.
- Mandatory signatories should be reviewing the DSA now to plan for executing it by **January 31, 2023** and complying with its provisions and associated P&Ps.
  - Organizations may not negotiate changes to the DSA prior to signing.
  - Organizations should continue to monitor development of P&Ps through the coming months.

**All mandatory signatories are required by AB-133 to execute the DSA by January 31, 2023.**

# Who Has to Sign the DxF DSA?

#	Required Signatory Type
1	<b>General acute care hospitals</b> , as defined by Section 1250.
2	<b>Physician organizations and medical groups.*</b>
3	<b>Skilled nursing facilities</b> , as defined by Section 1250, that currently maintain electronic records.
4	<b>Health care service plans and disability insurers that provide hospital, medical, or surgical coverage</b> that are regulated by the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance. This section shall also apply to a <u>Medi-Cal managed care plan under a comprehensive risk contract</u> with the State Department of Health Care Services pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 14000) or Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code that is not regulated by the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance.
5	<b>Clinical laboratories</b> , as that term is used in Section 1265 of the Business and Professions Code, and that are regulated by the State Department of Public Health.
6	<b>Acute psychiatric hospitals</b> , as defined by Section 1250.

County health, public health, social services, and other organizations are also encouraged to sign the DSA

# Wrap Up & Q&A



# Questions + Answers

## Stay Involved

1. **Join our next Information is Power webinar on the DxF QHIO Program on December 13, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**
2. **Participate in IAC or DSA P&P SC meetings.**
  - **DSA P&P SC Meeting #3:** December 15, 2022, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.
  - **IAC Meeting #3A:** December 20, 2022, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM.
  - Meeting materials, participation information, and recordings will be posted on the [CalHHS DxF website](#).
3. **Join mailing list by emailing [cdii@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:cdii@chhs.ca.gov).**
  - CDII welcomes suggestions for future webinar topics.