Data Exchange Framework

DSA Signatory Grants 101

October 2023

Overview for Applicants

DSA Signatory Grants are designed to provide direct support to Signatories of the DSA to subsize and fund activities required to meet their DSA requirements.

The Vision for Data Exchange in California

Once implemented across California, the Data Exchange Framework (DxF) will create new connections and efficiencies between health and social services providers, improving whole-person care.

The DxF is California's first-ever statewide Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) that requires the secure and appropriate exchange of health and human services information (HSSI) to enable providers to work together and improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

DATA EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK
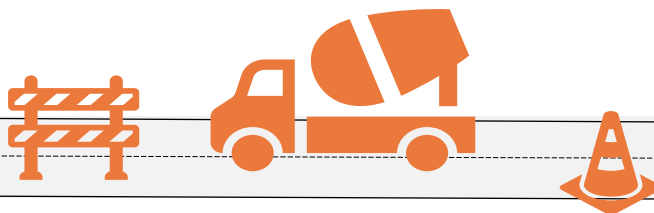
Understanding the DxF

DxF
"Rules of the Road"

Technical Solutions
"Infrastructure"

Data Exchange
"Vehicles"

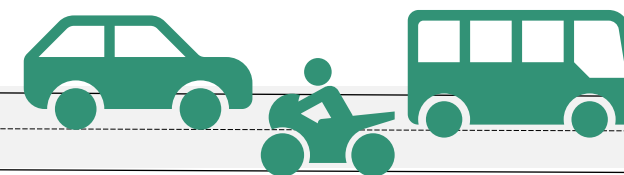*The DxF establishes "rules of the road" for exchanging data through a common Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and Policies & Procedures.*

***The DxF is not a technical solution.** Each entity can choose which "road" they take to comply with DxF rules. The road represents the technologies that Participants use to exchange data. Data may travel through intermediaries, including QHIOs and national networks and frameworks, or individual technology vendors.*

The DxF supports the movement of different types of clinical, administrative, and social service data or that can be exchanged using each Participant's selected technical solution in accordance with the DxF Rules of the Road.

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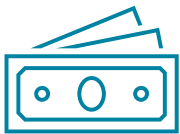
About DSA Signatory Grants

As part of the DxF Grant Program, CDII is administering **DSA Signatory Grants** that provide direct support to Signatories of the Data Sharing Agreement to subsidize their implementation efforts.

Purpose: DSA Signatory Grant funds can be used to implement a range of activities needed to achieve real-time data exchange in accordance with the DxF.

Eligibility: Organizations who have **signed the DSA** and demonstrate a DxF technology need are eligible for a DSA Signatory Grant.

Funding Amount: Applicants may request between $15,000 and $100,000, depending on organizational characteristics, for each electronic record instance.
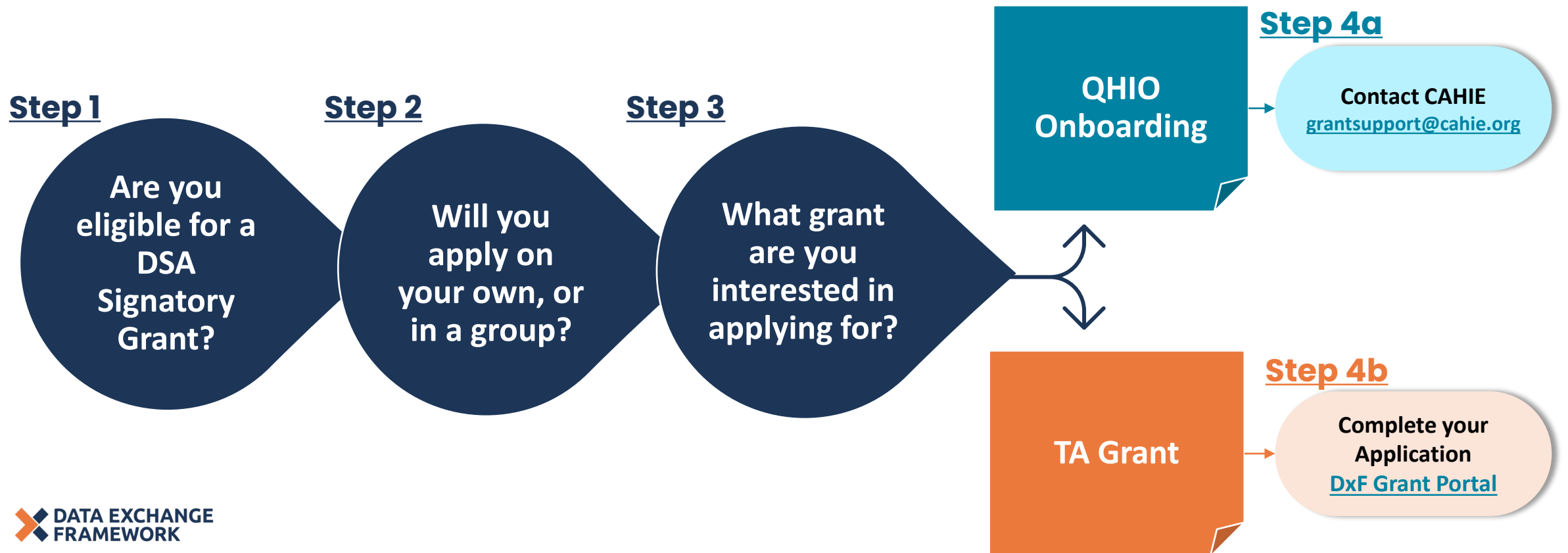
See the DSA Signatory Grants Guidance Document for details, including the full eligibility criteria.

DSA Signatory Grants Guidance Document
Updated October 2023

This DSA Signatory Grants Guidance Document provides a comprehensive overview of the DSA Signatory Grants, a component of the Data Exchange Framework (DxF) Grant Program launched in May 2023.

Administered by the California Health & Human Services (CalHHS) Center for Data Insights and Innovation (CDII), the DSA Signatory Grants program supports Signatories of the DxF Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and its associated Policies and Procedures by subsidizing their investments to meet DSA requirements. In this document, readers will find:

- A guide to understanding and choosing between the two types of grants in the program, which are:
  - Technical Assistance Grants; and
  - QHIO Onboarding Grants;
- Details on eligibility and permissible uses of grant funding;
- An overview of the application process; and

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Steps to Applying for a DSA Signatory Grant

CDII has partnered with Public Consulting Group (PCG) and the California Association of Health Information Exchanges (CAHIE) to provide hands-on support for applicants as they follow each of the following steps:

Step 1

Are you eligible for a DSA Signatory Grant?

Step 2

Will you apply on your own, or in a group?

Step 3

What grant are you interested in applying for?

QHIO Onboarding

Step 4a

Contact CAHIE
grantsupport@cahie.org

TA Grant

Step 4b

Complete your Application
DxF Grant Portal

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Step 1. Are you eligible for a grant?

For either the QHIO Onboarding or TA Grants, eligibility organizations are those who:

(1) Have signed the DSA.

Signatories* -- i.e., organizations that have signed the Data Sharing Agreement -- are eligible for grants.

* Technology vendors who sign the DSA are not eligible for a DSA Signatory Grant.

Click here to see if your organization has signed the DSA.

Click here to sign the DSA.

(2) Have an HIT need to conduct data exchange.

In their application, Signatories must demonstrate that they require technical support and additional capabilities to assist in conducting data exchange in accordance with the DSA and its Policies & Procedures.

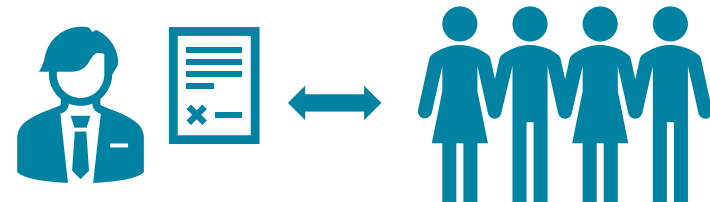# Step 2. Will you apply on your own, or with others?

Eligible Signatories may choose **to apply on their own, or** as part of an "**umbrella" application with other Signatories**.

An **Applicant** is the organization that submits the Application for a DSA Signatory Grant. The Applicant can be:

An eligible Signatory applying on their own behalf.

Examples include a solo physician practice, a single county, or an individual safety net hospital.

An organization applying on behalf of one or multiple eligible Signatories.

- *Examples include a corporate parent, an Independent Practice Association, others.*
- *All DSA Signatories included in an Application must co-sign the Application.*

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Step 3. Which grant will you apply for?

Qualified Health Information Organization (QHIO) Onboarding Grant

QHIO Onboarding grants are for organizations that are already connected to an EHR and want to **connect to an all-in-one solution** that will establish all the infrastructure they need to conduct data exchange in accordance with the DxF.

This is an "assisted" pathway. Applicants for this grant receive support with submitting applications and managing grants.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE QHIO ONBOARDING GRANT INFORMATION

Technical Assistance (TA) Grants

TA grants are for organizations that either **still need to connect to an EHR** (or a relevant electronic record system for social service organizations), or who want to **establish their own HIE solution** in order to conduct data exchange in accordance with the DxF.

This is an "do-it-yourself" pathway. Applicants for this grant submit applications and manage grants independently.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE TA GRANT INFORMATION
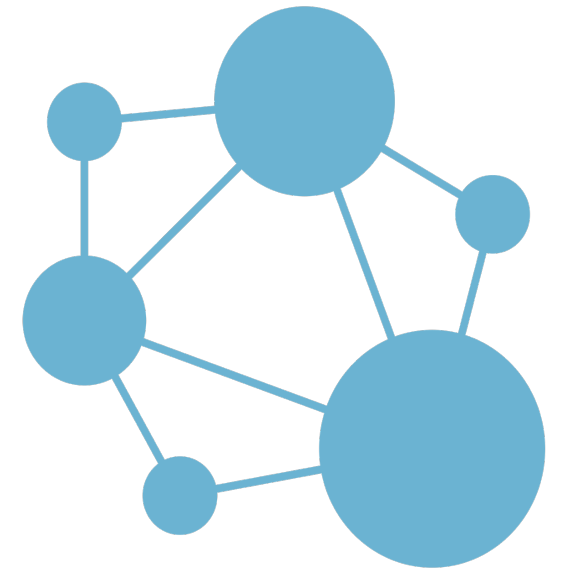
DATA EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK

Spotlight on QHIOs:
What are they, and do I need one?

A QHIO is a health information organization that has been qualified by CDII based on its ability to meet DxF requirements.

To participate in the DxF, signatories must be able to send and receive health and social services information (HSSI), locate a patient record based on person attributes, format HSSI to conform with DxF standards, meet privacy and security requirements, and more.

For many signatories, these are not current capabilities, and they may choose to seek the services of a QHIO to help manage the exchange. Signatories are not required to use a QHIO — however, a QHIO is an organization that has attested to its capabilities to help participants meet many of the data exchange requirements of the DSA.

If you are a DSA signatory and you aren't sure how to exchange health and social services information with other signatories, you may benefit from the services of a QHIO.

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Spotlight on QHIOs: Who are they?

On October 23, 2023, CDII announced the official list of nine QHIOs :

- [Cozeva](#)
- [Health Gorilla, Inc.](#)
- [LANES](#)
- [Long Health, Inc.](#)
- [Manifest MedEx](#)

- [Orange County Partners in Health HIE](#)
- [SacValley MedShare](#)
- [San Diego Health Connect](#)
- [Serving Communities HIO](#)

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QHIO Onboarding Grants

Step 4a. Applicant reaches out to CAHIE

- CAHIE will provide end-to-end application support for **all** QHIO onboarding applicants.

- CAHIE will determine your organizations eligibility <u>and</u> potential maximum funding request.

- If your organization decides it is interested in applying, CAHIE will request information from your organization and fill out the application for you.

  - Applicants for this grant should **not** begin their own application in the DxF Grant Portal (hosted on GrantsConnect) – CAHIE will do it for you!

Interested applicants should contact CAHIE as soon as possible to begin the process by emailing **grantsupport@cahie.org**

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Step 5a. CAHIE submits co-signed application

- Once CAHIE has completed your application, you must review and co-sign before it is submitted.

Interested applicants should contact CAHIE as soon as possible to begin the process by emailing grantsupport@cahie.org

Round 3 Grants Application Window

October 16, 2023 to December 15th at 11:59pm PT

Remember to apply before it's too late!

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Step 6a. Application is scored, and grants are awarded

Applications will be scored using a standard rubric after the close of each round.

Scoring Criteria

Applicants can get a higher score if they serve underserved communities or demonstrate greater need.

1. Signatory Characteristics
2. Current health IT infrastructure and capacity for HIE
3. Proposed activities and Funding Request
4. Plan for meeting DSA requirements
5. Plan for maintaining DSA requirements

Award Decisions

All Applications eligible for consideration in a given round will receive one of the following determinations for that round:

- Grant award
- No grant award

DATA EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK

CDII expects to award Round 3 Grants in January 2024.

Step 7a. Grantee selects a QHIO

CDII announced their qualified HIOs in October 2023. Grantees can select their preferred QHIO any time between their application submission, and one year after receiving their grant or one year after QHIOs were announced by CDII, whichever is later .

What if I am already connected to an HIO?

- The Grant can be applied to your HIO as long as the HIO earned their "Q" through CDII's qualification process and you signed a new contract or contract amendment with them to achieve capabilities specific for the DxF.

- Organizations who received a QHIO Onboarding Grant prior to the QHIO announcement may be eligible to switch their funding to a TA grant if their chosen HIO does not become qualified.

- More information can be found in the [DSA Signatory Grants Guidance Document](#).

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Step 8a. QHIO submits progress reports and manages funds on grantee's behalf

A grantee's chosen QHIO is responsible for managing funds and submitting progress reports.

- Since the QHIO Onboarding Grant is the "assisted" pathway, the QHIOs are responsible for the management of all grant funding and reporting.

  o Grantees and QHIOs must agree on how funds will be use.
  o Prior to contracting with a QHIO, the Grantee will need to submit their own progress report.
  o Upon contracting with a QHIO and reaching milestone 1, the selected QHIO will submit progress reports

- Grantees will be required to co-sign milestone attestation forms.

Technical Assistance Grants

Step 4b. Applicant completes their application on the DxF Grant Portal

Applicants for TA Grants should directly complete and submit their Application on **the DxF Grant Portal** (hosted on GrantsConnect).

TA Applicants who have questions about their Application and need support can contact PCG at:
- **DSAGrants@pcgus.com**
- **1-866-698-6525**

Click here for the DSA Signatory Grant Application Template

Step 5b. Applicant determines funding request

FUNDING

An applicant can apply for funding based on the types of signatories under the application, and the number of instances used by those signatories.

- Signatories meeting certain criteria **(like serving underserved geographies or marginalized communities)** may be **eligible for more funding**, referred to as enhanced funding.

- Regardless of Signatory characteristics and the total number of Signatories on the Application, the total potential Application maximum is $500,000.

- For more detailed information, please refer to the "**Funding Maximums**" section of the [DSA Signatory Grant Guidance Document](#).

DATA EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK

Step 6b. Submitted application is scored, and grants are awarded

Once submitted, applications will be scored using a standard rubric after the close of each round.

Scoring Criteria

Applicants can get a higher score if they serve underserved communities or demonstrate greater need.

1. Signatory Characteristics
2. Current health IT infrastructure and capacity for HIE
3. Proposed activities and Funding Request
4. Plan for meeting DSA requirements
5. Plan for maintaining DSA requirements

Award Decisions

All Applications eligible for consideration in a given round will receive one of the following determinations for that round:

- Grant Award
- No Grant Award

Grant Agreements

Each grantee will be required to sign a grant agreement

- Funding will be disbursed evenly across two milestones.

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Step 7b. Grantee submits progress reports to receive funding

TA Grantees will be responsible for submitting progress reports each quarter until Milestone 2 is completed.

- Grantee receive funding once a progress report is submitted demonstrating the completion of TA grant milestones.

- The milestones for the TA Grant will depend on the outcomes you choose in your application.

TA Grant Outcomes

- ✓ Identifying/contracting with a technology vendor
- ✓ Onboarding costs to implement a technology solution that establishes real-time data exchange
- ✓ Adjusting, upgrading, or adopting an EHR
- ✓ Creating/providing training on workflows/processes

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Additional Resources

Educational Initiative Grantees

Eight grantee associations are providing direct and tailored education to various DxF participant groups.

Educational Initiatives Grantees		Signatory Type
Multi-Association Initiative led by America's Physician Groups (APG)	DxFeducation@connectingforbetterhealth.com	Physicians (Group Practices/Family Physicians/etc.), Aging Providers, Skilled Nursing Facilities (includes nursing homes and ICFs), Health Information Exchanges
California Medical Association	DxFQuestions@cmadocs.org	Physician Organizations, Medical Groups
California Primary Care Association	grants@cpca.org	FQHCs
The County Health Executives Association of California	admin@cheac.org	Local health departments
California Association of Health Plans	info@calhealthplans.org	Health insurance plans
Leading Age California Foundation	Meredith Chillemi: mchillemi@leadingageca.org	Skilled Nursing Facilities, Health Plans, Community-Based Organizations
American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 1	info@aapca1.org	General acute care hospitals, Physician organizations and medical groups, Acute psychiatric hospitals, Community-based organizations providing social services, Behavioral health providers, County health, social services, and public health, Other health care entities
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies	response@cccbha.org	Community-Based Organizations Behavioral Health Providers

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You can also reach out to CDII directly at cdii@chhs.ca.gov.

DSA Signatory Grants: Application Guidance Document

The **Guidance Document** provides additional information on the DSA Signatory Grant Program, including details specific to each of the grant domains.

DSA Signatory Grants
Guidance Document
Updated October 2023

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Click here for the DSA Signatory Grant Guidance Document

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Still Have Grant Program Questions?

- **For questions about:**

  - The **DxF broadly**, contact DxF@chhs.ca.gov or CDII@chhs.ca.gov
  - Applying for **TA Grants**, contact DSAGrants@pcgus.com or call (866) 698-6525
  - Applying for **QHIO Onboarding Grants**, contact grantsupport@cahie.org

- **Also be sure to check out:**

  - [DxF Grant Portal](#)
  - [DxF Homepage](#)
  - [DxF FAQ](#)
  - [DSA Signatory Grant Application Guidance](#)
  - [DSA Signatory Application Template](#)

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Appendix

Key Concepts

Signatory

A **Signatory** is defined as an organization that has signed the DSA. Organizations may sign the DSA directly, or a "parent organization" may sign the DSA on their behalf as a "subordinate organization."

A subordinate organization is considered a Signatory for the purpose of the DSA Signatory Grant Program.

Applicant

An **Applicant** is the organization that submits the Application for a DSA Signatory Grant. An Applicant may be a Signatory applying on its own behalf, or it may be an organization apply on behalf of one or multiple Signatories (referred to as an Umbrella Applicant).

Applicants are referred to as "Grantees" if they receive a DSA Signatory Grant.

Instance

An **Instance** represents a singular configuration for an electronic record system product -- which may be an electronic health record (EHR) or otherwise* -- that may exist within and/or across multiple DSA Signatories included in the Application.

Organizations that **do not have an EHR should consider their current electronic record system.*

QHIO

A **Qualified Health Information Organization (QHIO)** is an HIO that has been "qualified" by CDII based on its ability to meet DxF data exchange requirements.

TA

Technical assistance is technological or operational support for an organization and can comprise a range of activities.

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Summary of DSA Signatory Grant Options

	Qualified Health Information Organization (QHIO) Onboarding Grant	Technical Assistance (TA) Grants
Eligible DSA Signatories may apply for _one_ of the following grant opportunities:		
	The "**assisted**" pathway.	The "**build your own**" pathway.
Required Grant Outcomes	Complete onboarding with a **Qualified Health Information Organization (QHIO)** ➢ A QHIO is a health information organization that has been qualified by CDII based on its ability to meet DxF data exchange requirements.	Achieve at least one of the following **required outcomes**: 1. Identified and contracted with a technology solution 2. Implemented a technology solution capable of supporting real-time data exchange 3. Adjusted, upgraded, or adopted an electronic documentation system 4. Created or provided training for new workflows
Activities	CDII will publish a list of QHIOs, who can help Signatories identify technical or operational solutions to complete onboarding.	Applicants are responsible for identifying technical or operational solutions to achieve DSA requirements.
Application Process	Applications are submitted by CAHIE on the Applicant's behalf.	Applications are submitted by the Applicant.
Grant Management	The Grantee's contracted QHIO receives and manages grant funds.	The Grantee receives and manages the funds directly.

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