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March 19, 2024

RCE™ Monthly Informational Call

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- Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM) Basics
- Policy Development Timeline
- Summary of Feedback Received
- FHIR Early Production Approach
- Educational Resources and Upcoming Events
- Questions and Answers

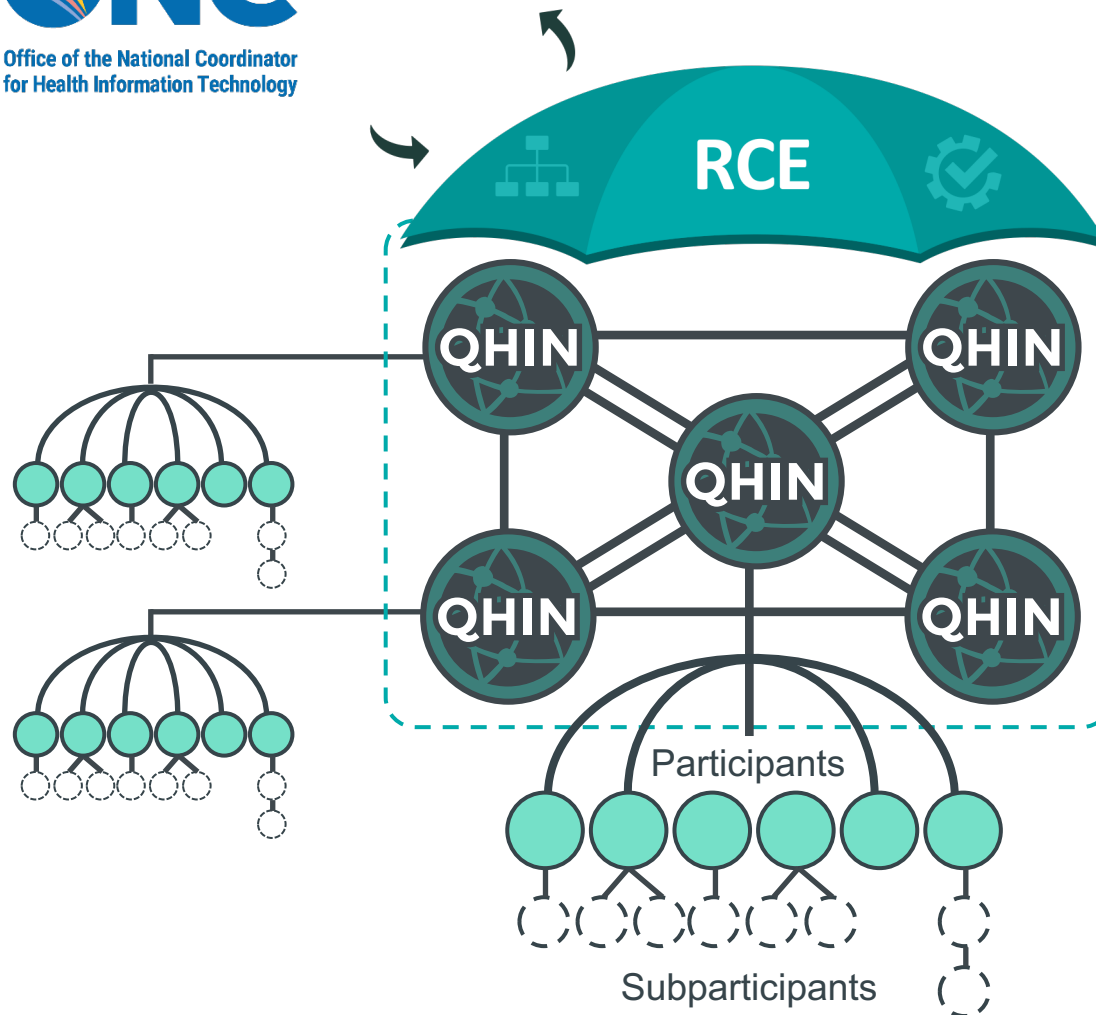
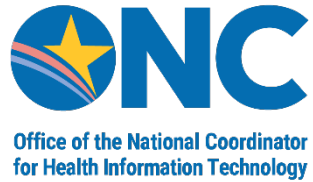
**TEFCA is Live
and Looking
to the Future
with FHIR®!**



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TEFCA Basics

How Does Exchange Work Under TEFCA?



← ONC defines overall policy and certain governance requirements.

← RCETM provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs.

← Qualified Health Information NetworksTM (QHINsTM) connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability.

← Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants.

TEFCA Components



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Trusted
Exchange
Framework



Framework
Agreements



Standard
Operating
Procedures



QHIN
Technical
Framework



QHIN
Onboarding



Metrics



Governing
Approach

TEFCA is Live!



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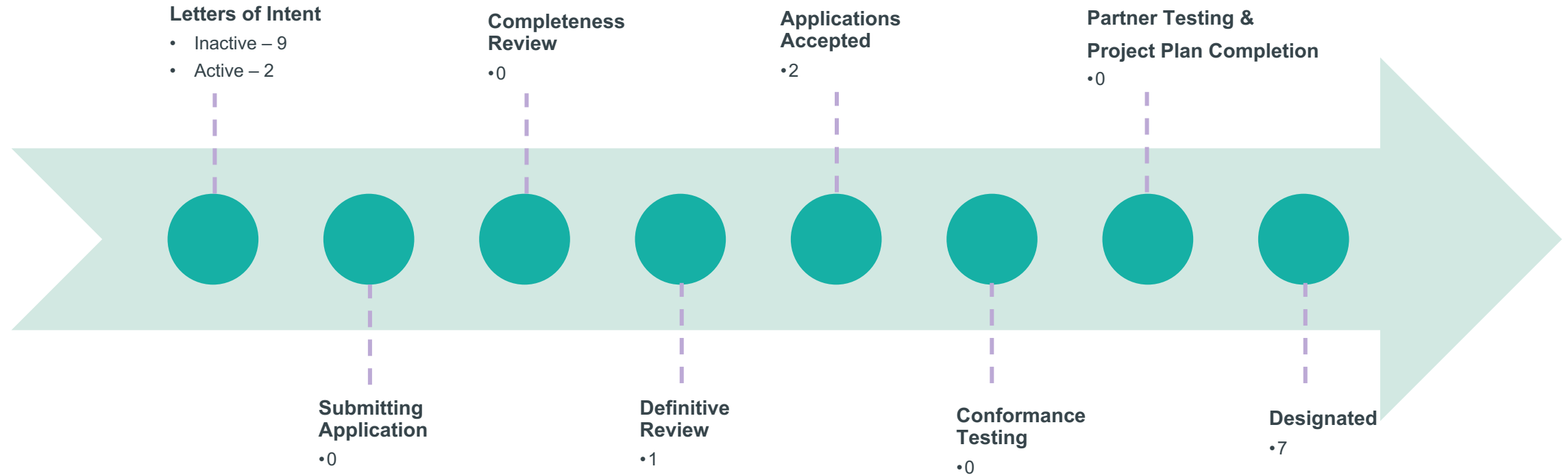


Applicant QHINs include eClinicalWorks and Surescripts Health Information Network.

QHIN Application and Onboarding & Designation



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TEFCA is Looking to the Future

- Updates to technical and policy documents to support greater use of FHIR
- Better support for use cases beyond Treatment
- Stand-alone and static Terms of Participation to ease onboarding
- Ability to participate with multiple QHINs



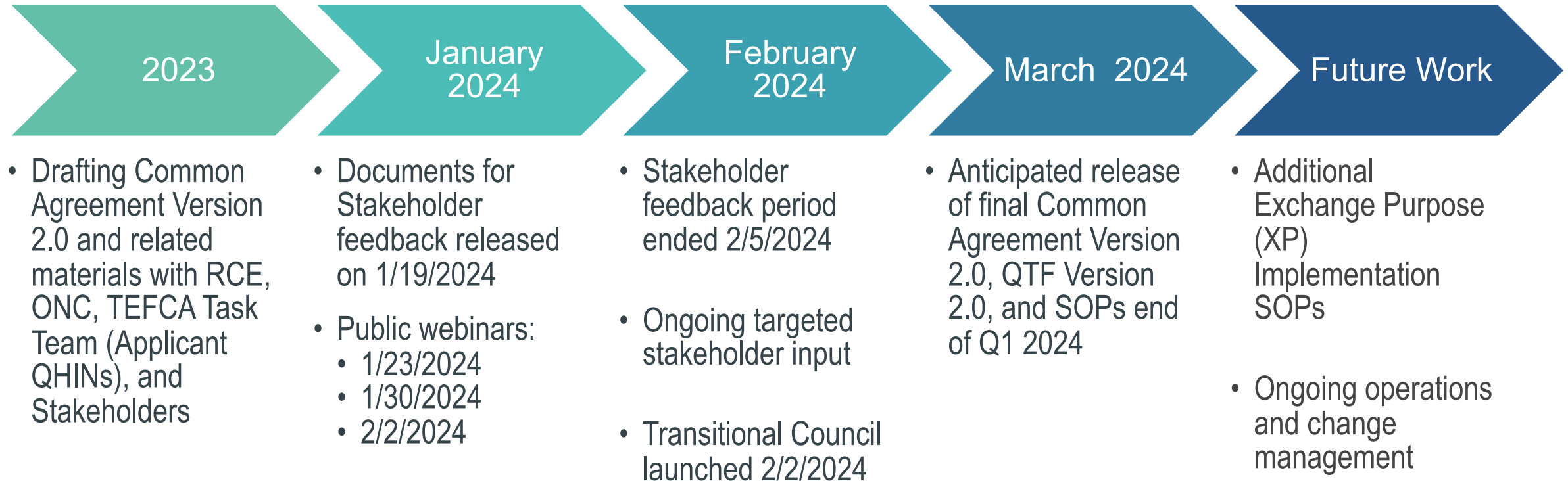
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Policy Development Timeline

Common Agreement and QTF Version 2.0 Evolution



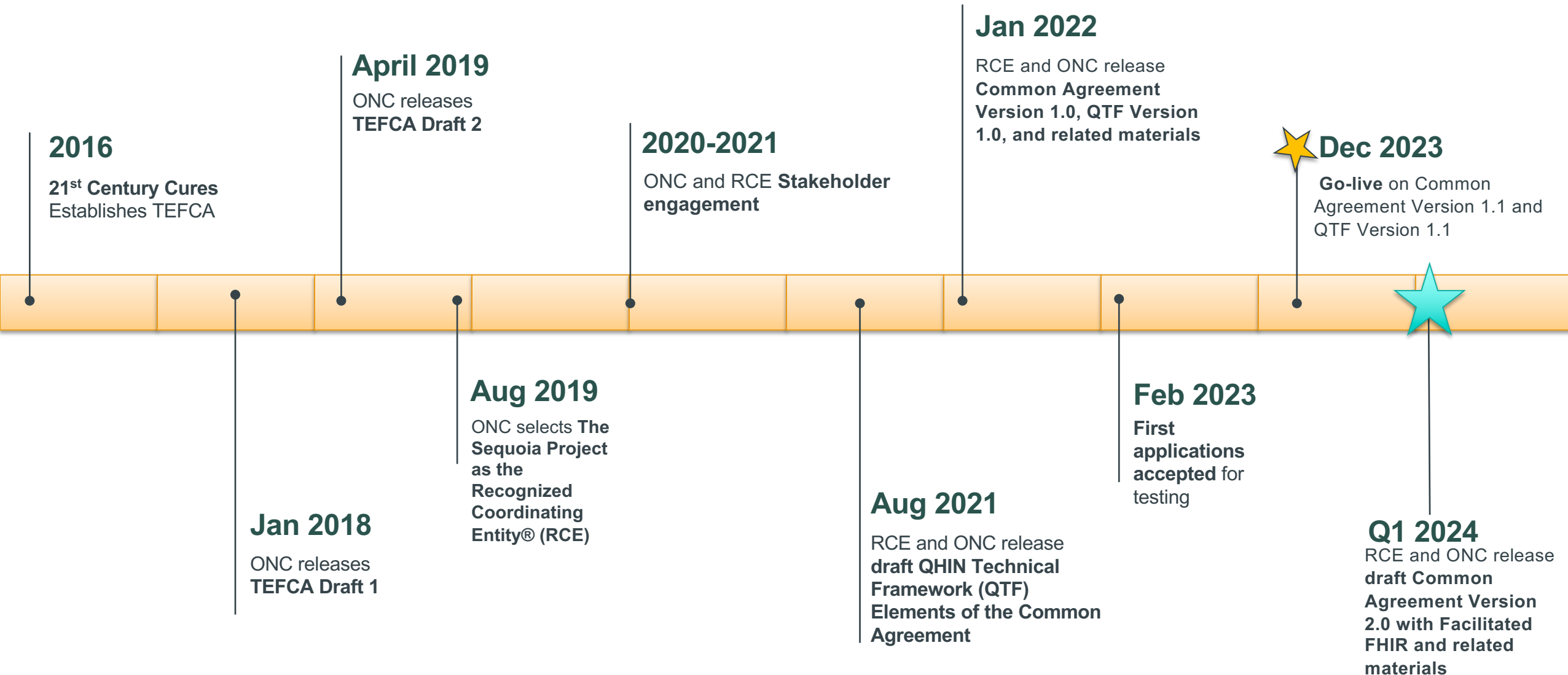
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TEFCA Evolution



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Summary of Feedback Received

- **Input received through:**
 - » Web-based form
 - » RCE email
 - » Webinars
 - » Targeted stakeholder engagement calls



Summary of Stakeholder Feedback Received



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Participation in Multiple QHINS

- Support for flexibility to allow Participation through multiple QHINS
- Desire for additional flexibility from what was proposed

Principal/Delegate

- Broad support for defining Principal/Delegate roles with some recommendations for clarification
- Support for delineating between initiating and responding systems

Terms of Participation Transition

- Recommendation to provide transition period for Participants/Subparticipants to adopt Terms of Participation

FHIR® Based Exchange

- Recommendation to allow for transition period to adopt widescale FHIR using UDAP, including allowing for multiple approaches for Facilitated FHIR in the interim
- Recommendations to clarify FHIR US Core Version

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback Received



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Health Care Operations SubXP SOP

- Varied views on scope of Health Care Operations SubXP:
 - Some desire to narrow use-cases while others support broader definition
 - General concern for Response requirements for HCO SubXP when using FHIR

Public Health SubXP SOP

- Public Health is seen as a valuable Exchange Purpose
- RCE received input on a variety of uses cases, including Electronic Case Reporting, Electronic Report, and Case Investigation
- The RCE is working closely with the CDC and ONC on alignment of TEFCA Exchange to optimize support for Public Health and expand educational efforts



US Core Version

- Concern with incompatibility between US Core 3.1.1 and subsequent versions
- Suggest supporting any of the FHIR US Core versions that are conformant to FHIR US Core 4.0.0

HL7 FAST UDAP Security for Scalable Registration, Authentication, and Authorization STU 1.0.0 US Implementation Guide (HL7 SSRAA IG)

- Concern that HL7 SSRAA IG is not yet broadly adopted within the industry and an early requirement to use the HL7 SSRAA IG could slow adoption of FHIR
- Suggest creating an interim approach to allow for more than one method of FHIR exchange while QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants implement the HL7 SSRAA IG



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FHIR® Early Production Approach



Create an interim approach, starting in 2024, to enable FHIR Early Adopters to do Facilitated FHIR using more than one method for registration, authentication, and authorization.

Provide a roadmap to adopt a consistent, widescale approach to Facilitated FHIR with sufficient lead time for implementation.



- **The SOP will detail the allowable methods of FHIR for registration, authentication, and authorization through December 31, 2025, including:**
 - » HL7 FAST UDAP Security for Scalable Registration, Authentication, and Authorization STU 1.0.0 US Implementation Guide (HL7 SSRAA IG)
 - » SMART Application Launch Framework Implementation Guide (SMART) Release 1.0.0
 - » Some other authentication and authorization framework that adheres to the requirements of the QTF based on out-of-band arrangements between exchange partners including manual registration
- **After January 1, 2026, all TEFCA Exchange using FHIR will use HL7 SSRAA FHIR IG Release 1.0.0**
- **FHIR exchange will comply with US Core v4.0.0**



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Educational Resources and Upcoming Events



Frequently Asked Questions

The 21st Century Cures Act, signed by President Obama in 2016, calls on the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to “develop or support a trusted exchange framework, including a common agreement among health information networks nationally.” The Sequoia Project serves as the ONC TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity[®] (RCESM) under a contract with ONC.

The overall goal for the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM) is to establish a universal floor for interoperability across the country. The Common Agreement will establish the infrastructure model and governing approach for users in different networks to securely share information with each other—all under commonly agreed-to expectations and rules and regardless of which network they happen to be in.

These Frequently Asked Questions address common stakeholder questions and will be updated regularly. You may submit a question to be considered for addition to this list by emailing rce@sequoiaproject.org.

The Common Agreement and related resources, including a User’s Guide, are posted to the [RCE website](#). All capitalized terms below are specifically defined in the Common Agreement.

TEFCA is Live

What does it mean for TEFCASM to be “live”?



Can Participants/Subparticipants participate in TEFCASM through more than one QHINTM?



<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/rce/faqs/>

RCE Resource Library

TEFCA is a multifaceted, living framework that enables seamless and secure nationwide exchange of health information.

GETTING STARTED



Below is a guide to the Common Agreement, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), technical documents, and other resources that make up TEFCA's rules of the road. Start your journey to next generation interoperability here.

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/rce-resources-new/>

Additional Resources:

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

All Events Registration and Recordings:

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/community-engagement/>

Upcoming Events:

- April 16, noon-1pm ET: Monthly Information Call



Questions & Answers

For more information:
rce.sequoiaproject.org