

CalHHS Data Exchange Framework Policy and Procedure

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| Subject: Qualified Health Information Organization Program | |
| Status: | Policy: OPP-[X] |
| Publication Date: | Version: 1.0 |

I. Purpose

California Health and Safety Code section 130290 was enacted in 2021 and establishes the creation of the California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework (“Data Exchange Framework”), which requires certain data sharing among Participants. The California Health and Human Services Agency has delegated authority to the Center for Data Insights and Innovation (“CDII”) to establish and manage the Qualified Health Information Organization (HIO) Program. The Qualified HIO Program will, among other things, set forth the requirements an Intermediary must satisfy to be designated a Qualified HIO. This designation process is intended to provide Participants with confidence in the organizational structure, service completeness, and technical and programmatic capabilities offered by Qualified HIOs and enable such Participants to comply with their obligations under the Data Sharing Agreement (“DSA”). Participants may choose to engage a Qualified HIO to comply with their obligations under the DSA, but are not required to.

II. Policy

This policy establishes the Qualified HIO Program.

This policy shall be effective upon publication of the final version by CDII.

III. Procedures

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFIED HIO PROGRAM

a. CDII shall establish, manage, and oversee a Qualified HIO Program that, among other things, shall set forth the requirements for a Participant, who is also an Intermediary, to be designated as a Qualified HIO and any ongoing obligations that a Qualified HIO must meet in order to retain such designation.

2. DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED HIO

a. A Participant that complies with all requirements set forth by the Qualified HIO Program shall be designated a Qualified HIO by CDII under the Data Exchange Framework.

3. ONGOING COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

a. In order to maintain its status as a Qualified HIO, a Participant must comply with any ongoing obligations set forth by the Qualified HIO Program.

4. SUSPENSION AND/OR TERMINATION OF QUALIFIED HIO STATUS

a. In accordance with procedures set forth in the Qualified HIO Program, CDII may temporarily suspend or may terminate a Participant’s status as a Qualified HIO if it determines the Qualified HIO is not in compliance with this policy.

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i. *Complaint Process.* The Qualified HIO Program shall establish a complaint process by which individuals, entities, or Participants may file a complaint against a Qualified HIO, and by which, CDII shall investigate such complaint.

ii. *Appeal Process.* The Qualified HIO Program shall establish an appeal process to allow a Participant to appeal an action where CDII has suspended or terminated a Participant’s Qualified HIO status.

IV. Definitions

“**Intermediary**” means a health information exchange network, health information organization, or technology that assists a Participant in the exchange of Health and Social Services Information and adheres to the standards and policies of the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and associated Policies and Procedures (P&Ps). An Intermediary may be used by a Participant to allow it to meet some or all of its exchange obligations in the DSA and the P&Ps. Examples might include nationwide networks or frameworks, vendors that provide applicable services, health information exchange organizations (HIOs) including Qualified HIOs, or community information exchanges (CIEs).

“**Qualified HIO**” means a state-designated data exchange Intermediary that facilitates the exchange of Health and Social Services Information between Participants.

“**Qualified HIO Program**” means the requirements made publicly available by CDII that a Participant must satisfy to obtain and maintain its designation as a Qualified HIO.

V. References

Qualified HIO Program, available at [\[insert link to Qualified HIO Program materials\]](#).

VI. Version History

| | Date | Author | Comment |
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| | January 19, 2023 | CalHHS CDII | Draft for DxP Data Sharing Agreement Subcommittee review |
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