

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the DxF?

The California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) Data Exchange Framework (DxF) is a policy framework to promote secure, real-time health information exchange. It is comprised of a single data sharing agreement (DSA) and accompanying set of Policies and Procedures (P&Ps) to govern the secure and appropriate exchange of data .

What Does the DxF Mean for My Organization?

Many LeadingAge California member organizations are considered required signatories and had a deadline to sign the DSA by 1/31/2023. Visit the [CalHHS Data Sharing Agreement Signing Portal](#) to register and sign the agreement.

Required signatories (as defined in [Health and Safety \(H&S\) Code Section 130290\(f\)](#)) are:

- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs, as defined in [H&S Code Section 1250](#))
- General acute care hospitals (as defined in [H&S Code Section 1250](#))
- Physician organizations and medical groups
- Health care service plans and disability insurers
- Clinical laboratories (as defined in [Business and Professions Code Section 1265](#))
- Acute psychiatric hospitals (as defined in [H&S Code Section 1250](#)).

Most required signatories will be required to start exchanging health and social services information by 1/31/24, but some signatories have until 1/31/26 to begin exchanging information. Please see this [CalHHS DxF FAQ](#) for detailed information on signatories and corresponding timelines for implementation.

Generally, community-based organizations providing social services are not required to sign the DSA, but they are highly encouraged to do so. It is the intent of the DxF to have CA state and public health agencies, as Participants themselves, exchange HSSI with health care entities and other signatories to the DSA, as applicable laws permit. However, there are privacy and security considerations for organizations not covered under HIPAA. We'll spend more time discussing expectations for HIPAA and Non-HIPAA Covered Organizations this summer in a future LeadingAge California webinar.

Why Should My Organization Sign the DSA?

Mandated by law, all health care organizations described above are required to take the first step of signing the DxF DSA under the DxF. If any provider is not compliant with the law, the whole picture of patient health may not be available to provide the best possible care.

In addition, signing the DSA unlocks the ability to apply for funding through the [CalHHS DxF grant program](#), which will support signatories in DxF implementation. The Qualified Health Information Organization (QHIO) Onboarding Grants and the Technical Assistance (TA) Grants will be kicking off soon, and they will be available to support your organization in, for example, covering initial costs of onboarding to a QHIO or in providing operational and technical assistance for implementation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Does My Organization Share Information for the DxF?

The DxF is not a new technology or data repository – it is a framework through which information is shared. It is also technology agnostic, meaning that so long as the DxF requirements are met, signatories can directly share data with other Participants, or they can elect to do so through a third-party technology or a health information organization (HIOs).

Where Can I Find Additional Resources?

- [LeadingAge California DxF website](#)
- [The CalHHS DxF website](#)

What happens next?

Together with our partner, Intrepid Ascent, LeadingAge California will be offering several resources to support our members in understanding the DxF and what it means for your organizations. Information and materials will be shared via email and will be posted to <https://www.leadingageca.org/dxf>. Activities will include (among others):

- A webinar series called The LeadingAge CA DxF Forum was recorded on February 28, 2023 providing a high-level overview of the DxF. Additional webinars will focus on a range of topics including privacy laws overview, key considerations by signatory type, considerations for engaging with QHIOs, and more.
- Additional FAQs to address future DxF updates and common questions.
- A mid-year DxF working session to share DxF learnings from the first half of 2023 and prepare for the remainder of the year.
- Short video clips to highlight key topics such as readiness to implement the DxF, key considerations for HIPAA and non-HIPAA Covered Entities, and key considerations for health information exchange.