



*Health Information Exchange Governance
A Brief Overview of the Landscape*

The health information exchange (HIE) landscape changed dramatically in recent years. Starting in 2010, HIE efforts grew rapidly with [federal funding](#) directed to every state. As the federal funding has expired, many states are reexamining their approaches to meet HIE needs in a changing environment.

As Colorado considers strategies enabling the exchange of health information to support transformation, governance is a key element for success. Governance refers to the establishment and oversight of a common set of behaviors, policies, and standards that enable trusted electronic health information exchange among a set of participants.¹ Governance should instill confidence among organizations subject to governance, their users, and other exchange partners regarding the way electronic exchange is conducted.² Among characteristics for success, the governance entity should be transparent, neutral, and committed to the common good.

Across the nation, a range of governance approaches are in use, with varying degrees of centralization or federation and a mixture of roles played by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. A governance approach may work well in one state and have less appeal in another, depending on the capabilities and gaps present in a given state, legal requirements, funding, and stakeholders' needs and desires. These examples illustrate some of the many approaches.

- In Kansas, state law provides for a [regulatory organization](#) (formerly a private corporation and now a [state office](#)) to set certification criteria and monitor HIEs operating in the state. The regulatory organization itself does not provide HIE services, but has certified two HIEs.
- In Michigan, a public and private [nonprofit collaborative](#) provides shared services, coupled with a shared governance model and legal and policy framework for exchange, to [multiple sub-state exchanges](#).
- In Pennsylvania, an [independent state agency](#), overseen by a 17-member public-private board of directors, was established by statute. The agency is responsible to develop policy and legal agreements, adopt technical standards, set business rules, and certify participating HIEs. The agency also provides some technology and services to connect the multiple participating HIEs.
- In Maine, an independent [nonprofit organization](#) offers HIE services statewide. The HIE is supported by public and private funding and overseen by a community-based board of directors. The HIE was incorporated in 2006 and went live in 2009, expanding its services over time.

¹ <https://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/health-information-exchange-governance>

² https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/GovernanceFrameworkTrustedEHIE_Final.pdf.