



## Colorado's Health IT Roadmap- Harmonize and Advance Data Sharing and Health Information Exchange Across Colorado

Colorado's Health IT Roadmap was developed by the Office of eHealth Innovation and eHealth commission. The process engaged over 1,000 stakeholders in Colorado's health care community. These stakeholders were involved through interviews, workshops, a statewide survey, organizational briefings, and public forums. As a result, of this broad collaborative involvement, this Roadmap truly represents Colorado. The 16 initiatives recommended in this Roadmap provide guidance and direction for Colorado's health IT efforts. The plan was approved by the Governor's Office and eHealth Commission for implementation in November 2016 and State funds were appropriated to advance efforts for 11 of the 16 initiatives. The majority of these Roadmap initiatives, are eligible for federal funding match through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Health Information Technology Act (ARRA HITECH Act). Efforts are underway to implement these initiatives to support Colorado's health reform goals. Colorado's Health IT Roadmap provides a framework and a direction to guide the state's Health IT efforts and ensure Colorado has the health information technology (HIT) infrastructure and environment necessary to support its ambitious health care reform efforts.

With the transition from the Hickenlooper Administration to the Polis administration, Colorado's new Governor has proclaimed saving people money on health care a top priority. In January 2019 the Governor signed an executive order to establish the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care. Key to this bold effort and work is access to health information and leveraging health IT infrastructure and policies to ensure transparency, coordination of care, and access to information. OeHI and this new office will work closely on addressing this issue in the coming years and leverage Colorado's Health IT Roadmap plans and efforts.

## Colorado's Health Information Exchange Organization Qualifications

**Foundational to executing Colorado's Health IT Roadmap is the agreed upon philosophy by the Office and the eHealth Commission to leverage existing infrastructure and investments for health IT and health information exchange.** Out of all the Roadmap initiatives, the eHealth Commission prioritized Harmonize and Advance Data Sharing and Health Information Exchange Capabilities Across Colorado as one of the top two Roadmap initiative priorities along with Supporting Care Coordination in Communities Statewide. In order, to harmonize and advance health information exchange in Colorado, OeHI and the eHealth Commission must be able to fund Colorado's Regional Health Information Exchanges- Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) and Quality Health Network for this initiative and potentially other initiatives to ensure efficient and effective use of current and future state and federal infrastructure investments in alignment with Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and State procurement rules. The State of Colorado has invested significant funds to date in health information exchange organizations to support the meaningful use of electronic health records and stakeholder have expressed the importance of leveraging these investments. This document is to establish criteria for health information exchange organizations and highlight the process.

OeHI provides the eHealth Commission and the public visibility into this process through the monthly eHealth Commission meetings and workgroup status updates. It is the eHealth Commission's responsibility to review workgroup updates and advise OeHI during the eHealth Commission meetings. OeHI intends to contract directly with qualified health information exchange organizations to execute the Advanced Health Information Exchange Initiative in Colorado's Health IT Roadmap. Funds have only been earmarked this Initiative.

Health IT Roadmap workgroups launched by the Director of the Office of eHealth Innovation, community partners, and general public provide the Office of eHealth Innovation with specific recommendations for Roadmap initiatives and projects. This document does not guarantee funding for Colorado's Health Information Exchange Organizations- nor does it limit other types of organizations the ability to contract with OeHI for all other Roadmap Initiatives. Final decisions will be made by the Office of eHealth Innovation on who to contract and how to fund individual projects. Roadmap contracting and funding is not limited to health information exchange organizations. All OeHI contracting adheres to State procurement rules. OeHI's Project Management Office oversees all project and budgets to ensure alignment, integration, and execution.

### Criteria for Health Information Exchange Organization

The specific criteria for health information exchange organizations to received funding for Colorado's Health IT Roadmap efforts includes the following criteria.

- A qualified nonprofit organization, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)



- Contracted with multiple hospitals, health systems, ambulatory practices, state agencies, and/or others in involved in the collection and sharing of patient-specific health information Colorado.
- Able to provide secure and trusted electronic exchange of health information from electronic health records (EHRs) and health information systems that includes but is not limited; to EHRS from multiple EHR vendors; clinical data from multiple hospitals, practices, and health systems; and other clinical data sources such as labs, prescriptions, etc.
- Provides health information of individuals online in a longitudinal (over a period of time) format with the ability to query individuals.
  - Bi-direction and workflow centric health-information is preferred. This means integrating HIE information into the providers EHR and workflow.
- Event notification via electronic report, HL7 interface, or other forms of technology to notify subscribed individuals or organization when their patients and caregivers are hospitalized or visit an emergency department.
- Provide on-boarding services for providers to achieve meaningful use and promoting interoperability as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
- Aggregation, reporting, and analytics of clinical data for community needs such as clinical quality reporting, population health, and care coordination.
- Aligns with the [Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative \(SHEIC\) definition](#) of health information exchange organizations. SHIEC is a national collaborative organization that represents health information exchanges.

Based on this criteria, the Office of eHealth Innovation and the State of Colorado recognizes these entities through policy, state plans such as Colorado's Health IT Roadmap and Medicaid State Health Plan, and State contracts as a Colorado's health information exchange organization(s). As of January 31, 2019 the Office of eHealth Innovation and the State of Colorado recognize Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) and Quality Health Network (QHN) as qualified health information organizations. These qualified health information exchange may sub-contract with other community organizations and technology partners to address the current needs of the state. Additionally, as the Health IT ecosystem and partners evolve, OeHI and the State of Colorado reserve the right to assess, evaluate, and update the list of qualified health information exchange organizations as appropriate.

### Colorado's Health Information Exchange Organizations- January 2019

Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) and Quality Health Network (QHN) are recognized by the State of Colorado as qualified health information exchange organizations. Both organizations are mentioned in Colorado's Health IT Roadmap, State Medical Health Plan, and both organizations hold state contracts and are mentioned in policy. These organizations meet the criteria for health information exchange organizations listed above.



CORHIO serves the majority of Colorado's health providers and exchanges health information for over 5.4 million patients from numerous electronic health records, health practices, and health systems in Colorado. CORHIO also represents the majority of Coloradans and is a trusted source of health information in Colorado. This organization was formerly the State Designated Entity for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Health Information Technology Act (ARRA HITECH Act) prior to the creation of the Office of eHealth Innovation and eHealth Commission.

Quality Health Network primarily serves the Western Slope of Colorado and works collaboratively with CORHIO to provide coverage and access for providers to their patient health records, alert notifications, and other health information exchange services. Both organizations have been funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support the meaningful use of electronic health records and support Colorado's Medicaid populations.

### Colorado's Health Information Exchange Organizations-Beyond Jan 2019

Organizations that meet the outlined criteria as a health information exchange organization in Colorado are welcome to apply by submitting a proposal outlining qualifications to the Office of eHealth Innovation via email to the Office Director. All proposals will be reviewed internally with the Governor's Office and fiscal agent the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Upon internal vetting, proposals will be presented to the eHealth Commission and the eHealth Commission will be asked to vote on whether the organizations qualify. Note, this does not guarantee funding for any newly designated health information exchange organizations. Decisions will be made by the Office of eHealth Innovation on how Roadmap funding can be leveraged based on financial commitments, state and federal rules, advice from the eHealth Commission and stakeholder input.

*Qualified HIE Approach and Criteria Approved March 2019 by eHealth Commission.*