HITRUST is a Trusted TEFCA Resource

Assuring the Trust in TEFCA

HITRUST is supporting the security requirements of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) program. The TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) – The Sequoia Project – has selected HITRUST and the HITRUST r2 Certification as the first certifying body and certification for organizations to prove they comply with the TEFCA security requirements for their Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) designation.

TEFCA, born from the 21st Century Cures Act, was approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) for national-level healthcare interoperability. TEFCA brings together public and private stakeholders to develop and support an exchange framework for trust policies and practices, as well as a common agreement for data exchange between Health Information Networks.

HITRUST is Actively Certifying Potential Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs)

TEFCA specifies strong security safeguards for the protection of TEFCA Information (TI) in the Common Agreement (§12.1.2), flow-down provisions, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) including the requirement that QHINs "shall achieve and maintain third-party certification to an industry-recognized cybersecurity framework demonstrating compliance with all relevant security controls." HITRUST is the only certifying body currently recognized by the RCE for meeting the Common Agreement criteria for cybersecurity. HITRUST is actively certifying potential QHINs.

> The HITRUST r2 Certification provides Health Information Networks with the third-party certification required by the RCE to achieve qualification as a Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) under the *Common Agreement for Nationwide Information Interoperability* and associated flow-down provisions.

r2 RISK-BASED 2-YEAR
HITRUST® CERTIFIED

Health Information Networks Ready for TEFCA Today

Health Information Networks (HINs) that follow the principles of the Trusted Exchange Framework (TEF) today and have invested in appropriate security for the information exchanged on their network are ready to demonstrate adherence with the Common Agreement. Those Health Information Networks that have achieved assurance of their HIN and HIPAA security controls using an appropriately scoped and tailored HITRUST Risk-based 2-year (r2) Certification are already aligned with the security certification requirement of the Common Agreement.

Health Information Networks Aligning with TEFCA

Health Information Networks preparing for certification using the HITRUST Assurance Program™ may be assured that the control requirements, depth of quality review, and consistency of oversight afforded by the HITRUST r2 Validated Assessment + Certification will meet the requirements for participation in the Trusted Exchange Framework.

Required Transparency for Trusted Participation

The accuracy, consistency, and integrity offered by HITRUST r2 Certification provide the needed transparency for QHINs, their Participants, and Subparticipants around the required data confidentiality, integrity, and availability of digital health information.

Trust for Participants and Subparticipants

QHINs are responsible to ensure that Participants and Subparticipants that connect to them within the trusted exchange implement and maintain appropriate security controls commensurate with risks to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of TEFCA Information. Participants and Subparticipants will also be required to adhere to forthcoming security requirements that may be published as Standard Operating Procedures for Participants and Subparticipants.

Because over 80% of hospitals, health plans, and top cloud service providers use the HITRUST CSF® framework, HITRUST is well-positioned to support QHINs and provide resources to them, their Participants, and Subparticipants in support of implementing and maintaining appropriate security controls:

- The HITRUST CSF, the foundation of HITRUST Assessments, integrates and harmonizes more than 40 authoritative sources and appropriate security controls. The associated set of methodologies, programs, and solutions that form the HITRUST Approach™ are well-positioned as resources to help QHINs and Participants in the Trusted Exchange Framework to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats.

- HITRUST MyCSF® provides an efficient and cost-effective platform for assessing and reporting information risk and compliance including TEFCA requirements. This Software-as-a-Service offering reduces the effort of QHINs as well as Participants in tracking control requirements and documenting adherence to the Common Agreement security principles.

- The comprehensive documentation provided through the HITRUST r2 Assessment and Certification may be of value to QHINs in negotiating the cost of required cybersecurity insurance based upon the quality of assurance available to insurance brokers and underwriters.

- QHINs that facilitate or offer healthcare applications and services on the Trusted Exchange Framework can allow Participants using the applications and services to inherit security controls from their HITRUST r2 Certification as well as document their shared responsibilities where appropriate and applicable. This creates the potential to reduce the effort and time required for Participants to deliver and document the inherited security controls. This adds value to the services being delivered by the QHIN through increased security assurance at reduced complexity.

Managing and Reporting Certification for QHINS, Participants and Subparticipants

HITRUST Results Distribution System™ (RDS)

The HITRUST Results Distribution System (RDS) provides QHINs with the appropriate dashboards to document and report the results of their certification to the Recognized Coordinating Entity. QHINs also have the requirement to flow-down and enforce the security obligations of TEFCA to Participants and Subparticipants. RDS is an online toolkit that helps to successfully manage the third-party risk of Participants and Subparticipants that are leveraging the HITRUST CSF and have achieved validation or certification.
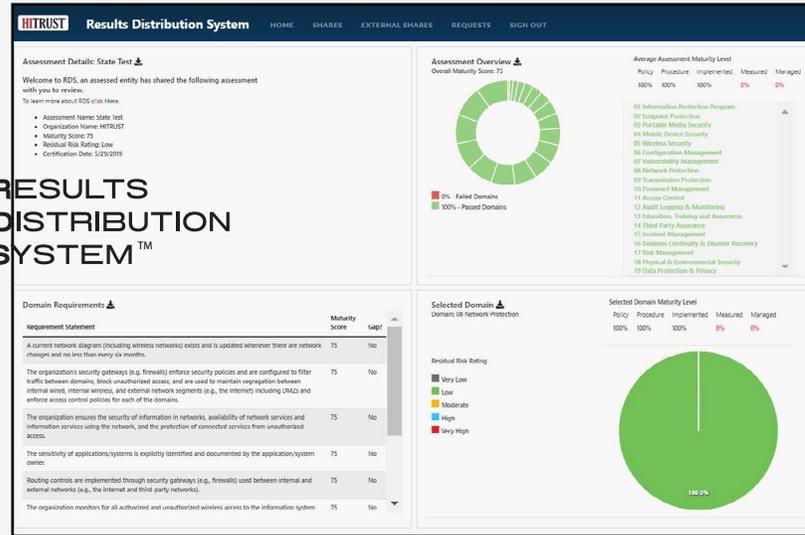

The HITRUST Assessment XChange (The XChange)

As an extension of your organization's third-party risk management program, the HITRUST Assessment XChange™ can provide QHINs with an ongoing methodology to assess the inherent risk of their business relationships and determine what level of assurance/type of certification that their third parties need to satisfy TEFCA requirements. Plus, QHINs can maintain constant visibility into their third-parties' assessment statuses before, during, and after the assessment process.
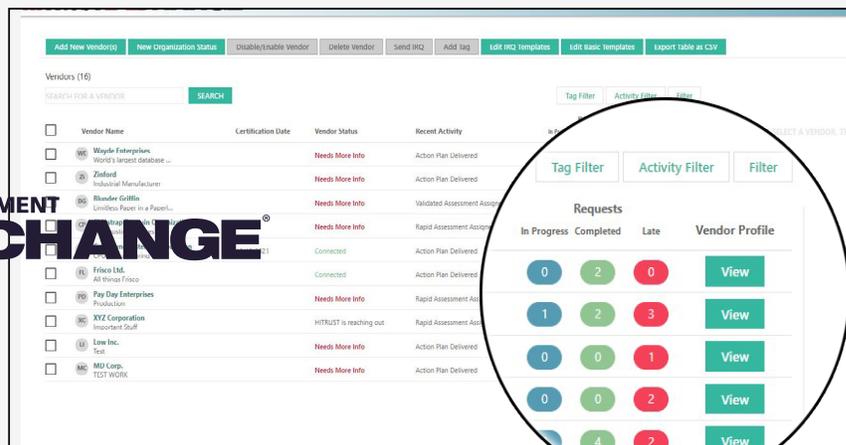
For More Information about How HITRUST Can Be a Valuable Resource to Help Your Organization Meet TEFCA Information Security Certification Requirements:

Call: 855-448-7878 or Email: sales@hitrustalliance.net