



JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

March 30, 2022

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements set forth in the Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act (20 ILCS 65 *et. al*) (the “Act”), the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) hereby submits a progress report detailing the programs and data that have been catalogued for which the demographic categories described in Section 20-15 of the Act have been standardized and, to the extent possible, the data sets and programs that are planned for the coming year.

The Act requires IDHS to “report statistical data on racial, ethnic, age, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and primary or preferred language demographics of program participants for each major program” administered by IDHS.

While “major program” is not defined in the statute, the agency has adopted the following definition provided by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget: *a major program is a program with an enacted appropriation of greater than \$1 million in fiscal year that provides direct services to individuals and/or a reasonable expectation that demographic information can be aggregated via proxy data without substantial cost or disruption to program delivery.*¹

The agency has adopted this definition for “major programs” for the time being, but will be exploring alternative definitions in the coming year.

IDHS has further defined “program participants” as *any individual who receives program services or interventions directly from state agency staff, contractors or grantees.*

Using these definitions, the Agency has identified the following programs and program participant populations for analysis:

- *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*
- *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP Education*
- *Commodity Supplemental Food Program*
- *Domestic Violence Prevention intervention*
- *Emergency Transitional Housing Program*
- *Medical*
- *Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children – WIC Program*
- *Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope)*

- *Title XX Donated Funds Initiative – Senior Services*

In February and March, IDHS began to assess currently catalogued demographic data for each of the aforementioned programs.

Following its initial assessment IDHS has determined the following demographic categories have been defined and standardized across most of the “major programs” identified in this report:

Race
Ethnicity
Sex
Gender
Age


In the coming year, IDHS will utilize the Office of Equity’s guidance to further refine and standardize definitions for the remaining demographic categories. Once the remaining categories are defined, IDHS will work with the Department of Innovation and Technology and the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget to streamline its data collection and gather the relevant data from major program participants.

Furthermore, in the coming year, IDHS will add the following programs to its list of “major programs” to be analyzed:

- Child Care Assistance Program/DEC
- FIRST.IL/DMH
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Intervention/SUPR
- Vocational Rehabilitation/DRS

As the State works to implement the Act, IDHS’ data stewards, information and technology staff, and diversity, equity, and inclusion leaders will work with the Department of Innovation and Technology and the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget to analyze currently catalogued data, identify data gaps, and determine how to collect demographic information. Ultimately, we hope to provide valuable data and analysis that will be meaningful and inform program design and policy-making endeavors.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,


Grace Hou ¹ by *Jamethe Blair*
Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services