

March 31, 2023

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) (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: *a major program is a program with an enacted appropriation of greater than \$10,000,000 in a fiscal year; direct services provided to individuals and/or a reasonable expectation that demographic information can be aggregated via proxy data without substantial cost or disruption to program delivery.*”

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:

- *Child Care Assistance Program*
- *Commodity Supplemental Food Program*
- *Emergency and Transitional Housing Program*
- *FIRST.IL*
- *Medical*
- *Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Intervention*
- *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP Education*
- *Women, Infants and Children - WIC Program*
- *Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring and Hope)*
- *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)*
- *Title XX DFI Senior Services*

- *Vocational Rehabilitation*

Since the July 2022 statistical report, IDHS has taken the following actions to assess the changes needed to catalogue 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

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 B. Hou
Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services