Monday, March 21, 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”), theIllinois Department on Aging (Aging) 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 Aging 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 Aging.

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; 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*.[[1]](#footnote-1)

***If the agency has not adopted the definition, please explain how the agency identified its “major programs.”***

Aging has further defined “program participants” asany 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:

*Community Care Program, Nutrition Services, Ombudsman, Adult Protective Services*

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

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

*Race: African American/Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian/Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, White/European American, and Some Other Race Ethnicity: Latina/Latino/Latinx/Hispanic.*

In the coming year, Aging 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, Aging 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. One major program, the Community Care Program, is already working on a new information system which will gather all the required information in the statute and is expected to go live in calendar year 2023.

As the State works to implement the Act, Aging 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,

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Paula A. Basta, M.Div.

Director

1. Programs with anonymous reporting of violations, those which utilize tele-help lines, and regulatory/licensure programs have been excluded from this definition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)