

March 29, 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 Department of Children and Family Services 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 the Department of Children and Family Services 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 the Department of Children and Family Services.

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.

The Department of Children and Family Services has further defined “program participants” as children and families that receive direct service within programs with enacted appropriations of greater than \$1 million, where demographic information can be aggregated without disruption to program delivery.

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

Parents and children who are subjects of an investigation by Child Protection;  
Parents and children directly served through open service cases with Intact Family Services; and  
Parents and children directly served through open service cases with Permanency Services.

In February and March, the Department of Children and Family Services began to assess currently catalogued demographic data for each of the aforementioned programs.

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

Race;  
Ethnicity;  
Sex;  
Language; and  
Age.

As the State works to implement the Act, the Department of Children and Family Services' 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marc D. Smith  
Director  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services