

Announcement Regarding the Collection of Demographic Information at the Part II Application

June 29, 2022

On February 15, 2022, the Illinois Power Agency published a <u>Rationale Document</u> explaining how and why it reached decisions surrounding the collection of certain demographic and geographic data as required under Public Act 102-0662. As part of that explanation, the Agency explained that questions regarding race and ethnicity would be included as part of the Part II application for the Adjustable Block Program.

In the Adjustable Block Program portal in the Part II application, Approved Vendors must enter the number of hours worked on each project and identify the race and ethnicity of workers on the project by the number of hours worked. On the table for identification of race, there is an option for employees who decline to identify their race. No such option exists within the portal on the table where ethnicity information is to be reported. The application cannot be submitted without the hours worked on a project matching the total reported hours by ethnicity. In order to accommodate employees who decline to identify their ethnicity to their employers and to allow Part II applications to be submitted prior to the portal closing at 2:00 pm Central on June 30, 2022, the Agency offers the following guidance.

In the event that a worker (or workers) on a project declines to identify their ethnicity, the Approved Vendor may fill out the table on ethnicity in a manner which assigns an ethnicity to all hours worked. In order to ensure reporting accuracy, that Approved Vendor must then use the comment field to properly identify the number of hours worked by workers who declined to identify their ethnicity, as well as the corrected breakdown of hours worked by employees who chose to report their ethnicity.

The Agency will ensure that future iterations of the Adjustable Block Program portal will allow for Approved Vendors to select an option for workers who decline to identify both race <u>and</u> ethnicity.

For application specific questions and inquiries regarding this announcement, please contact: <u>Admin@illinoisabp.com</u>