



## Patient Information

### Why do we ask these questions?

River Valley Family Health Center values your privacy and understands that these questions can be sensitive for patients to answer, however, we are required, as a federally funded healthcare facility, to collect certain information on race, ethnicity, language and income.

Your answers are kept confidential, will not prevent you from receiving care, and may help us:

- Understand your individual needs including language preference, cultural preferences, etc.
- Determine programs that can help pay for care.
- Help you (the patient) establish a medical home so you can get better comprehensive care.

We understand that each person is special and you may feel the answers provided (as defined by the federal government) may not fit you. Please select answers that best apply to you (the patient). Race and ethnicity categories can be confusing and below is a guide to help you choose your answers.

### What's the difference between "Ethnicity" and "Race"?

#### Race

**Definition:** A person's race is based on distinct physical characteristics. It can include skin color, skin tone, eye and hair color, as well as the tendency towards developing certain diseases. It is not something that can be changed or disguised.

**Categories:** Asian: A person from the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- **Native Hawaiian:** a person from Hawaii
- **Other Pacific Islander:** A person from Guam, Samoa, Palau, Truk, Yap, or other Pacific Islands in Micronesia, Melanesia, or Polynesia.
- **American Indian/Alaskan Native:** A person from North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliations or community attachment.
- **Black or African American:** Anyone from any of the black racial groups of Africa including Haiti, Dominican Republic, Somalia, etc.
- **White:** A person from Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. People of Hispanic/Latino origin can also be considered White.

#### Ethnicity

**Definition:** Ethnicity is about tradition, behavior, and customs. It is about learning where you come from and celebrating the traditions and ideas that are part of the region.

**Categories:**

- **Hispanic or Latino:** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Guatemalan, South or Central America, Spain, or other Spanish cultures or origin including those Hispanics or Latinos born in the United States.
- **Non-Hispanic or Latino:** A person not of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

