It is well understood that degenerate elliptic PDEs in divergence form play an important role in many areas of mathematics. For a non-negative definite measurable matrix valued function $A(x)$ and $1 \leq p < \infty$, the degenerate matrix-weighted Sobolev spaces $H^{1,p}_A(\Omega)$ (defined as a completion of $C^\infty(\Omega)$) and $W^{1,p}_A(\Omega)$ (defined as a collection of functions with locally integrable distributional derivatives) play a central role in regularity theory and applications. In this talk, I present joint work with D. Cruz-Uribe and K. Moen that gives a sharp condition on the matrix function $A$ for the equality $H^{1,p}_A(\Omega) = W^{1,p}_A(\Omega)$. 