



For Immediate Release:
April 8, 2019

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Judith Gethner to Retire as Illinois Partners' Founding Executive Director

CHICAGO, IL – Today Illinois Partners for Human Service announced that Judith Gethner will retire June 3, 2019, after leading the organization as founding executive director. Gethner will continue with Illinois Partners to ensure a smooth transition while the Board of Directors conducts a search for a new executive director.

“It is with a mix of emotions that we express our appreciation and gratitude to Judith for nearly a decade of outstanding leadership,” said Jamal Malone, Illinois Partners’ Board Chairman. “Judith has transformed Illinois Partners from a vision of providing a voice for the sector to the success of a strong and growing coalition of hundreds of human service leaders representing organizations from Chicago to Bloomington to Southern Illinois. She has been a mentor to many and has played an essential role in unifying the sector around complex and vital issues that affect human service organizations every day—from adequate funding and fair policies to leading statewide efforts to build broader and deeper support for human services. We can’t thank her enough for her tireless work, energy and dedication over the years.”

Gethner has served as Illinois Partners’ executive director since 2009. She built Illinois Partners from a start-up to over 800 human service provider partners located in every legislative district throughout the state.

During Gethner’s tenure, her strong combination of private and nonprofit experience positioned Illinois Partners as an advocate for the entire sector and led to successful campaigns to inform and educate community organizations, including providing valuable research on the impact of the state’s new minimum wage law, recent budget impasse and other fiscal issues; producing various reports on the economic impact of the sector and importance of adequate funding; informing political discourse through collaborative advocacy efforts with human service organizations, elected officials, state agencies and the business/civic community; launching public awareness campaigns; and lending her expertise to government councils and agencies.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be part of an organization that is so deeply committed to maximizing the human potential of all Illinoisans,” said Judith Gethner. “I am grateful for the dedication of the Illinois Partners’ Board and team who continue to advance the mission of building well-being in our communities every day. I am confident the Board will select a new leader that will position Illinois Partners to continue to be a trusted collective voice for human services today and beyond.”

The Illinois Partners Board of Directors formed a search committee and has engaged Kittleman & Associates, a nonprofit executive search and recruiting firm, to facilitate the search.

About Illinois Partners for Human Service

Illinois Partners is the largest shared voice of human service organizations across the state with coalition partners in every county and legislative district. Illinois Partners focuses on collective advocacy to protect funding and fair policies for human services so that all Illinois residents can reach their potential and fully engage in our communities.

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