



Rod R. Blagojevich, *Governor*

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., *Secretary*

535 W. Jefferson • Springfield, Illinois 62702

June 5, 2006

Dear Prospective SEED Supporter:

I am delighted to write this letter of endorsement and wholeheartedly recommend this truly inspiring organization. SEED is working at the leading edge. They have a very smart strategic approach, promoting widespread social and economic well being by powering up the front line institutions and coalitions who are best positioned to make a significant impact.

As Director of the Division for Community Health and Prevention, Department of Human Services in the State of Illinois, I can tell you that our work affects the lives of millions--individuals, families, and whole communities throughout the state. The opportunities before us are enormous and so are the challenges.

Our capacity to deliver on the public trust that we enjoy depends on our ability to effectively partner with hundreds of agencies, departments, community organizations, providers, and clients scattered throughout 14 bureaus, 28 counties, and 166 municipalities. We need to become much better than we are at forging these partnerships.

The barriers at times seem insurmountable. Bureaucratic red tape, institutional inertia, shrinking budgets, alongside ever-increasing community needs, a culture of waiting for the "right moment," or the next election to propose innovation, and shifting political realities make significant transformation in our operations a daunting task.

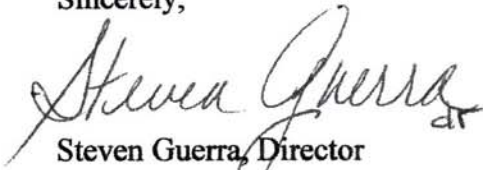
Over the past six months, SEED has worked with 25 of our most senior leaders. SEED has assisted us to reconnect with the vision and passion that led us to public service. SEED has brought to the surface individual talents and latent collective creativity. We are thinking more strategically (and expansively) about "scale" and we are collaborating and designing the next steps as a real team.

I knew when we began this work that our biggest challenge lay not outside the Division, but within ourselves - in our entrenched cynicism, our fear of change, and our internalized belief that we are not destined for brilliance. SEED has gifted us with a different vision of what's possible.

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There is much work ahead, but I am confident that with SEED, we can meet the challenges. I look forward to our continued collaboration. I will be pleased to speak with you and assist this organization in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Guerra". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Steven Guerra, Director
Division of Community Health and Prevention

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