Any communities in Connecticut are struggling, even while they live side-by-side with neighborhoods of prosperity and privilege. Black and Brown communities often have less wealth and power, and frequently their lives and needs are ignored. These disparities make it difficult for them to live with dignity and respect, to raise their families, and to participate fully in public spaces. Their lives are impacted by these disparities in many ways:

- Children and their parents having less access to quality public education
- Families torn apart by the escalation of immigration enforcement and separation of families
- Community members having inadequate access to health insurance and as a result suffering poor health outcomes
- Victims of crime afraid to contact the police and individuals afraid to make public statements because of fear of retaliation by Immigration or local law enforcement.

**WHO ARE WE?**

Make the Road Connecticut (MRCT) builds power in immigrant, Latinx, and working class communities in Bridgeport and Hartford to achieve dignity and justice. We realize change through community organizing, legal and survival services, transformative education, and policy innovation. We tackle the issues that directly impact our communities of color—including immigration reform, economic justice, education equity, and healthcare access.

**WHAT DO WE DO?**

In just six years of community organizing in Connecticut, we have grown our member base to over 1,000, launched three community campaigns around education and immigrant justice, built six active member committees, expanded from Bridgeport to Hartford, and led countless rallies and protests. Recent victories achieved by our members include:

- A successful language access campaign by parents in Bridgeport Public Schools
- Bringing community voices to advocate for the passage of the CT TRUST Act in 2019 to disentangle local law enforcement from Immigration
- An effective campaign to include youth educational and transportation justice policy recommendations in the Bridgeport Master Plan
- A victorious campaign to pass a Sanctuary City Ordinance in Bridgeport in 2020

MRCT helps students and parents become leaders in their schools and communities and to fight for their right to a safe, just, and quality education.
Over the past year we have been working to respond to the pressing needs of our members during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing weekly Know Your Rights Trainings, fighting for improvements in the distance learning model, ensuring undocumented immigrant and Latinx communities have equal access to and information on the COVID vaccine, and raising and distributing $30,000 in cash assistance to members of our local community. In addition, we have distributed over $285,600 in rental relief through the statewide rental assistance program in partnership with CT Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. We continue to advocate for statewide policy changes including rent cancellation, healthcare access for all communities, and freedom for those locked up in dangerous and unjust detention centers and jails.

**WHAT ARE WE BUILDING TOWARDS?**

*Make the Road Connecticut* is acutely aware that our current capacity is insufficient to meet the serious needs found in Connecticut’s immigrant, Latinx, and working class communities. Since 2015, we have gradually increased the size of our staff and our level of impact. It is imperative that we continue this growth. We must expand our presence to other cities in our state that have significant immigrant communities and a lack of community based organizations. We need to increase our immigration services, as well as our legal information and referral programs, and to grow our footprint in Hartford with the addition of a youth organizer and a parent organizer. Most importantly we must work to keep families together.

**HOW WILL WE GROW?**

*Make the Road Connecticut* is building a Strategic Council of individuals who have the knowledge, passion for justice, connections, and resources to support our vision. Council members will help us expand our reach and impact by sharing their professional expertise, providing strategic counsel, and engaging their personal and professional networks. We anticipate Council members will also support us by assisting with revenue acquisition. It is our hope each member will help raise $10,000 each year through personal and network donations, as well as reaching out to their connections to philanthropic support.

We believe people have the power. Please join us to help build that power in Latinx, immigrant and working class communities in Connecticut.