



Make The Road Connecticut

OUR WORK

MRCT builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities to achieve dignity and respect. Our multi-issue and multigenerational work combines deep base-building and leadership development with highly effective issue-based campaigns and robust civic engagement programs utilizing the strategies described below.

Community Organizing

Our members identify common problems, devise solutions, and wage grassroots campaigns to enact those solutions. Victories include winning a campaign to expand translation and interpretation services to ELL parents and students in Bridgeport public schools, passing municipal and statewide legislation to protect immigrant rights by limiting cooperation between local law enforcement and Immigration, and organizing tenants of corporate landlords to fight for decent, healthy living conditions and protection from unjust evictions.

Legal and Survival Services

MRCT regularly conducts Know Your Rights training and Emergency Preparedness planning sessions and hosts legal clinics to help safeguard the community against the threat of ICE detention and deportation. We also support community members in immigration proceedings by providing accompaniment and referrals to trusted legal services providers. In addition, as part of our health access services, we use a promotores/CHW model to ensure immigrant families are able to navigate health care access and learn their rights in a healthcare setting.

Policy Innovation

Our leadership works with members to design enforceable solutions to widespread problems. Some examples include MRCT's fight to improve the schedules of CT workers to be more predictable and fair, leading a statewide coalition to pass an English Language Learners and Parents Bill of Rights, as well as fighting for Medicaid for all regardless of immigration status.

Transformative Leadership

MRCT organizes in communities with the purpose of training community members as leaders. Through our programs, leaders learn about reforms that are underway in other places to help frame their campaigns and think big and create lasting change in their communities that will benefit generations to come. We invest in developing organizing and critical analysis skills in our leaders.

Coalition Work

- We supported the Husky for immigrants Coalition to advocate for health coverage for all, regardless of immigration status. Husky 4 Immigrants is a coalition of immigrant rights groups, advocacy organizations, community leaders, healthcare providers, allies, and unions fighting for access to healthcare for CT's immigrant population.
- The ELL Parents Bill of Rights (HB 6762) was inspired by an idea from the ELL Parents and Students Success Coalition, to improve ELL Education and parents' role in their child's education. The Bill was voted in support by the Senate and will be signed by the governor.
- Bill HB6859 ensures that all Connecticut workers have a job with a stable schedule they can rely on. Under the bill, workers will receive their work schedule two weeks in advance, receiving compensation if there are any last-minute changes.
- Cap the Rent Connecticut introduced Bill HB 65888, an act concerning Rent Stabilization, to prohibit a landlord from increasing rent during the first year of a tenancy and during a public health emergency or by more than a certain calculated amount on an annual basis.



 **Read our
Annual Report 2022**



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ABOUT US

Since MRCT began in early 2015, the organization has grown substantially, operating committees that meet weekly in our Bridgeport and Hartford community centers to fight for immigrant and workers' rights. MRCT believes that the path to change is to build the power of communities to organize themselves and fight back against inequality. MRCT members lead our rallies, create strategies to win our campaigns, and educate community members about their rights.

MRCT has been a leader in organizing parents and youth in Bridgeport and Hartford in the fight for educational equity, healthcare access, and housing justice, and supports community members who are undocumented and currently in deportation proceedings, have had family members deported, or are children of parents who have been separated by deportation by creating an invaluable space where the community is able to come together to speak openly about their fears and begin to process their collective trauma.

OUR IMPACT IN A SINGLE YEAR

- Over 60 members joined us to celebrate our victories in our MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY 2022, discuss plans, and set expectations for our work in 2023.
- We once again increased ACCESS TO HUSKY HEALTH CARE insurance by raising the age of children that qualify from age 9 to age 15.
- For 6 weeks during the summer, 8 young people participated in our SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY PROGRAM in activities and learnings focused on organizing and leadership development.
- We welcomed our new cohort of Leaders Council members in October of 2022. 13 were elected to be part of the LEADERS COUNCIL for a two-year term.
- At the state level, our leaders launched an ELL Coalition campaign for a Bilingual Parent and Student Bill of Rights, which has been passed and is now going to be implemented as a law in Connecticut.
- We bought a HOUSE (The People's Mansion). Named in recognition of its purpose of bringing people together and breaking down walls that separate us. This house is a central cultural hub for newly arrived individuals, families, or long-standing residents to call this their home in our beloved city of Bridgeport.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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