

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**More Than Bootstraps Awarded \$31,600 Operating Support Grant
from the New Jersey Center for Hispanic Policy, Research, and Development**

The grant will support stipends for students in the MTB College Access and Success Program

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – September 20, 2022. More Than Bootstraps (MTB) announced it has received a \$31,600 operating support grant from the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development (CHPRD), a Division of Programs in the Department of State. This is the organization's second grant from CHPRD.



More Than Bootstraps was selected to receive the grant based on its three successful years of working to address the challenges first-generation, low-income students face in getting to and succeeding in higher education. MTB's partner district, the Passaic Public Schools, serves students underrepresented in higher education: low-income, Latinx, and first-generation.

MTB builds on students' strengths and the power of near-peer mentoring to create a sustainable pathway to and through college. The organization trains first-generation college students attending institutions ranging from Passaic County Community College and Kean University to Vassar College and Dartmouth to serve as mentors to high school juniors and seniors in the Passaic Public Schools. College student mentors meet weekly with their high school mentees and follow a curriculum of activities focused on personal and professional development, college and financial aid awareness, and communication with families. Once a month, the full group convenes for workshops and guest presentations.

Grants and donations to More Than Bootstraps fund monthly and summer stipends that allow the high school and college students in the program some time and space to devote to their professional development and college-going activities while still meeting their financial responsibilities.

CHPRD provides financial support and technical assistance to primarily Hispanic community-based organizations throughout New Jersey. CHPRD promotes a new model of community

development that is “focused on making REAL impacts in people’s lives while helping community based organizations achieve greater self-sufficiency.”

“As we conclude our fourth year of College Student Leader training, we are enormously grateful for this significant grant support from the CHPRD and the recognition of our program’s contribution to improving access and success in higher-education for underrepresented first-generation students, the majority of whom are students of color,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. “This year, our 14 Leaders include 4 former MTB High School Fellows. They and their peers will be mentoring 12 seniors and 17 juniors in the Passaic Public Schools on the road to success in higher education.”

Interested donors are invited to visit the MTB website: www.morethanbootstraps.org/donate.

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About MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS

[More Than Bootstraps](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org) builds a community of first-generation, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education. *More Than Bootstraps is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID 83-2245008.* For more information, visit www.morethanbootstraps.org or call (908) 397-0893.

MTB DIGITAL PRESS KIT: www.morethanbootstraps.org/mtb-digital-press-kit

About CHPRD

The Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development (CHPRD) was established in 1975 to address the needs of the Hispanic community, recognizing that it was imperative to pay particular attention to this segment of the population, which may have been historically neglected. The Office was mandated to provide funding for Hispanic initiatives in New Jersey. The CHPRD has a director and an advisory committee, all appointed with Governor approval. The Secretary of State serves as an ex-officio member of the advisory committee.

CHPRD administers an annual appropriation from the State of New Jersey. The CHPRD seeks to empower, provide financial support and technical assistance to primarily Hispanic community-based organizations throughout New Jersey and also ensures the executive and legislative branches are informed of legislative initiatives with potential impact on the Hispanic community.



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