



FUERZA LABORAL POWER OF WORKERS



THE DIRECT ACTION

Monthly

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Bill to toughen wage theft penalties **ENACTED**

(2023-S 1079Aaa, 2023-H 5902Aaa)

“When the powerless steal, they are punished, but when the powerful steal from hardworking people, they get away with it. I’m so glad we were able to get this done”

Signed by Sen. Meghan Kallman and Rep. Robert E. Craven, Wage theft had previously been a misdemeanor, regardless of the amount stolen, while larceny of more than \$1,500 in Rhode Island is a felony, the EPI estimates that the true cost could be as high as \$50 billion withheld from working class families each year. This is fantastic news for the underrepresented workers and their families in the State of Rhode Island.

- Wage Theft now a Felony!
- Community Meeting with ONA (Labor rights)
- *Solidarity in Motion*, in NYC
- Fuerza guides you with your DPC
- We are Kelly Price Winners!
- Past Direct Action
- CCT and OSHA working Alliance!
- Fuerza Joins the “TeckSpark” Program by Microsoft

Find us in:

- www.fuerza-laboral.org
- 401-725-2700
- 6 Chace’s Lane, Central Falls RI, 02863

Community Meeting with ONA

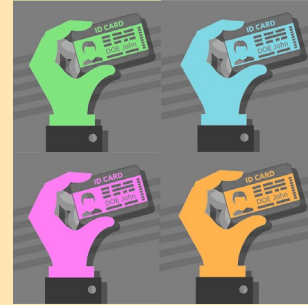
Fuerza Laboral teams up with *Olneyville Neighborhood Association* and *AMOR RI* to educate the community on basic labor rights everyone has if they are a worker on this country, and Immigration rights regarding ICE, deportation, path to legalization and more.

Their July Community Meeting focused on getting to know your rights and counted with a diverse attendance. It was a truly wonderful time to gather with the community, have good Guatemalan food, celebrate a birthday, and learn about each other.

The latinx community in Rhode Island will flourish by working together!



Fuerza Laboral guides you in your path towards a Driver Privilege Card that will allow you to drive despite your immigration status.



There are many bad actors out there, be careful! Only you can do the steps necessary to attain the card, give us a call to find out!

Solidarity in Motion: Overcoming Challenges in Our Union Co-op Work Together

Fuerza and the Construction Co-op Project traveled to NYC for the *Solidarity in Motion* gathering, hosted by the *Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations*. It was great to share the day with some of the most successful and passionate people in cooperative ecosystems from all over the US.

It was an inspiring day full of connections, surprises, great conversations, resource sharing, and, most importantly, an opportunity to learn about other groups' fantastic work in other states.



Kelly Fund Impact Prize 2023 Goes to FUERZA LABORAL

Social Enterprise Greenhouse awards this prize to a business or nonprofit that has participated in a past program of SEG's and is actively involved in SEG's ecosystem, demonstrating significant contributions and potential to make Rhode Island a more just, equitable, and resilient economy.

As a workers' rights center in Central Falls whose mission is to shift the balance of power in our economy towards labor, Fuerza Laboral's support of worker-owned co-ops and commitment to ensuring all workers have access to living-wage employment is strongly aligned with SEG's vision. Fuerza Laboral's existing programs and advocacy have already created positive change in our communities and their new space in Central Falls creates an opportunity to take their work and impact even further.

SEG was proud to announce Fuerza Laboral as the 2023 winner of the Kelly Impact Prize for \$20,000.

CCT and OSHA Working Alliance!

Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (CCT) and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) agreed to an historical working alliance, closing the gap between communities.

CCT, based on New Bedford, MA, shares our concerns about the vulnerability of immigrants in their workplace, so now we are glad that with this collaboration immigrant and low-wage workers will have safe and dignified working conditions.



Fuerza Joins the “TeckSpark” Program by Microsoft

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Selected as Part of Microsoft's National TechSpark Program to Grow Economic Opportunity in RHODE ISLAND

Fuerza and Microsoft working together to bring digital literacy for all



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We will be working with Microsoft TechSpark to foster inclusive economic opportunity and innovation in The Providence County.

Due to the lack of education and opportunities, our community faces low wages and exploitation, Fuerza Laboral is committed to address economic injustice, building skilled workers through education, training and organizing. This effort will be supported by a Microsoft grant to fund a TechSpark Community Engagement Fellow, who will spearhead local efforts, working with local partners to educate in computer science education and, digital access and digital skilling.

This Fellowship represents the first time TechSpark has worked in Rhode Island



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“Many times, digital illiteracy stops our community to expand their networks and move up in the economy, we are glad to be part of this education opportunity for The Providence County”

David Molina-Hernandez - Communications Director from Fuerza Laboral

“Since we launched TechSpark in 2017, we’ve helped communities secure more than \$125 million in funding and helped create thousands of jobs”, “By expanding TechSpark to all 50 states, we hope to continue our hyperlocal, partner-driven work to help communities realize the potential of technology and foster greater economic opportunity.”

Kate Behncken, Corporate VicePresident, Microsoft Philanthropies.



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On June 29th, we met with the Division of *Motors and Vehicles* (DMV) enforcement unit. We worked alongside the Boston consulate of Colombia to present to the DMV the different forms of Colombian identification that Colombian immigrants from the state will bring. A Valid I.D. is a prerequisite to obtaining a Driver Privilege card.

