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## **STRIVE RECEIVES \$830K GRANT TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES ACCESS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

*Funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supports leading national nonprofit build careers for those with biggest employment obstacles*

**New York, NY—November 18, 2019:** STRIVE, a leading national workforce development nonprofit based in New York City, today announced it received a grant to strengthen a newly enhanced workforce training model and an evidence-building project to further study its premier STRIVE Career Path program. The one-year, \$830,000 grant was awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

STRIVE's unique model provides individuals with the job-readiness skills, positive and engaging attitudes, industry-recognized credentials, and connections needed to begin life-changing careers that allow them to have productive, successful, and responsible lives. With a 70% graduation and 70% job placement rate, STRIVE leverages partnerships with local employers to provide a ready workforce and pipeline of graduates. The grant will help STRIVE to provide deeper services across its national network, leading to new opportunities for jobs with growth potential that lead to meaningful careers.

"We are proud and grateful to be part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's investment in the people most left behind in our economy," said **STRIVE CEO & President Phil Weinberg**. "This grant provides the much-needed support and intensive focus it takes to move someone out of poverty and into a career with upward mobility."

In the first year of a five-year growth plan, STRIVE invested heavily in its proven model, enhancing the curriculum, launching new learning technologies, and studying the industries that match students' skills with career opportunities in the 12 cities where STRIVE programming exists.

"There is talent in every city that goes untapped because someone doesn't have either the training or access to get hired. Our role is to change that narrative and help launch each person, and their family, on a new path," said Mr. Weinberg.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will also support STRIVE's evidence-building project with leading research organization MDRC to further study the STRIVE Career Path model. "STRIVE is a longstanding partner in our efforts to find data-driven solutions to the most difficult problems facing the nation—including how do you help those in poverty climb up the economic ladder. We are thrilled to be part of their project, assessing how their nationally-

regarded program can go to a higher level, ultimately impacting more people,” said **John Martinez** MDRC’s Director of Program Development.

### **About STRIVE**

STRIVE ([www.strive.org](http://www.strive.org)) is a national leading workforce development solution for people who face the biggest obstacles for employment. Their proven model propels students into careers that lead to upward mobility and define the promise of the American Dream. Headquartered in East Harlem, New York and since its founding in 1984, STRIVE has helped more than 75,000 graduates prepare for career success through employment programs geared toward those left behind in the economy, including adults, young adults, and those with a history in the justice system.