In 2022, Root Cause completed 17 projects with 34 partners.

17 Projects

34 Partners

Partnerships

As a testament to the close relationships we develop and the value we provide, 53% of our projects were with repeat Partners and 47% with new Partners.

53% Repeat Partners

47% New Partners

Breakdown of Project Focus Areas

6% Collective Action Projects

5% Continuous Learning & Improvement Projects

6% Strategy, Design & Implementation Projects

35% Improving Health & Well-Being

29% Education & Youth Development

18% Economic Mobility

35% Multiple Social Issues

18%
COLLECTIVE ACTION

BUILDING COMMUNITY WEALTH IN SPRINGFIELD, MA  In 2021, the MassMutual Foundation asked Root Cause to assess the effectiveness of the LiveMutual Project pilot in the North End neighborhood of Springfield, MA that brought together nine grantees, five partner organizations, and a local resident Action Tank to build strengthen economic mobility and build community wealth. From 2021 into 2022, the Root Cause team facilitated a strategic planning process to help LMP members design a collective action model for how members can better work together. In 2022, Root Cause also provided capacity-building services to New North Citizens’ Council (NNCC) and shifted management of the collective action work from Root Cause to NNCC.

BUILDING COLLECTIVE ACTION IN RHODE ISLAND  Over 60 members of the Newport, RI community gathered in November 2022 to begin a conversation about Collective Action. This group, assembled by the van Beuren Charitable Foundation, included people young and grown working in education, the arts, health care, and more. They represented public institutions, government, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and their own families – the main thread tying them together was the energy to build a better, more equitable Newport for its residents. Root Cause consultants worked with this group to introduce Root Cause’s model for Collective Action and discuss how different stakeholder groups can come together to tackle social problems and strive for systemic change.

MassMutual Foundation

NNCC

van beuren CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
**CONTINUOUS LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT**

**STRENGTHENING PROGRAM QUALITY AND CAPACITY FOR GREATER BOSTON NONPROFITS**

Following the success of the Customized Capacity Building program in 2020-21, the State Street Foundation and Root Cause partnered to support a new cohort of State Street Foundation grantees in 2021-22. Through Root Cause’s design, facilitation and coaching, this cohort received 1:1 capacity-building coaching and virtual workshops that included peer-to-peer learning opportunities and experiential learning applications of new tools and resources. This cohort worked on 1) improving program quality, 2) increasing peer-to-peer learning and support and 3) building capacity through continuous quality improvement cycles.

**EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

The HOPE (Health Outcomes from Positive Experiences) National Resource Center, an initiative of the Center for Community-Engaged Medicine at Tufts Medical Center, has developed a unique research-based framework for building family strengths and resiliency for training service providers to integrate the four HOPE Building Blocks into their work. Root Cause was asked to evaluate HOPE’s recently-created cohort-based training and technical assistance program to determine whether and how participating in this program led to positive practice changes among direct service providers. We are concluding the first year of evaluation and will continue to explore the impact of this model in 2023.

6 participating grantees

100% Felt prepared to use CQI tools

Others give a point-in-time report. Root Cause gave us recommendations for moving forward.
INCREASING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS & ACCESS IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
From 2015-2021, Root Cause served as the backbone coordinator of Boston WINs (Workforce Investment Network), which brought public, private, and nonprofit partners together to help more Boston Public School (BPS) students access college, career, and life readiness services. In 2022-23, Root Cause continues to work with Boston Public Schools to determine how high schools with varying capacity and resource levels can continue to offer college and career readiness services for their students.

UNDERSTANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION NEEDS FOR GREATER BOSTON ADULTS
Root Cause helped The Adult Education and Training Branch of the YMCA of Greater Boston assess its current services in education and workforce development to understand what was working well, what could be improved, and what gaps exist. Root Cause conducted interviews, analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, and developed analysis and recommendations regarding how YMCA of Greater Boston could better meet the education and workforce development needs of the adults it serves.
**ROOT CAUSE'S** Partners from 2022 include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofits</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools/School Districts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Agencies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Center</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUR PARTNERS**

- [Lesley University](#)
- [Biogen Foundation](#)
- [STAR A Biogen Foundation Initiative](#)
- [Break Through Greater Boston](#)
- [Vanguard Charitable](#)
- [van beuren CHARITABLE FOUNDATION](#)
- [CJP Make a bigger difference](#)
- [u-aspire](#)
- [NEWPORT PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILIES](#)
- [College Advising Corps](#)
- [enroot](#)
- [every baby guford](#)
- [IRVING HARRIS FOUNDATION](#)
- [CITIZEN SCHOOLS](#)
- [The Boston Foundation](#)
- [tB1](#)
- [SkillWorks](#)
- [BOSTON Public Schools](#)
- [FACING HISTORY & OURSELVES](#)
- [MassMutual Foundation](#)
- [STATE STREET FOUNDATION](#)
- [NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION](#)
- [THE JB FOUNDATION](#)
- [Inspirica](#)
- [yearup](#)
- [SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#)
- [CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#)
- [Bunker Hill Community College](#)
- [THOMAS HOUSE FAMILY SHELTER](#)
- [HOPE HEALTHY OUTCOMES FROM POSITIVE EXPERIENCES](#)
- [Stingray UP](#)
- [NNCC](#)
- [PROJECT HOPE ALLIANCE](#)
- [st Aine's](#)
- [Bunker Hill Community College](#)
ROOT CAUSE was founded in Greater Boston in 2004. We are committed to, and have a deep understanding of, the communities, institutions, and social issues affecting Massachusetts and its various regions.

In 2022, 52% of our projects were based in Massachusetts, 24% were national in scope, and the remaining 24% came from other U.S. states.

Our society siloes systems. Root Cause understands how systems connect. They help clients see it, as well.
The Root Cause team and model are sophisticated AND grounded AND influenced by those closest to the work… this approach offers a chance for sustainable change.

The Root Cause Team is in the snow globe with us. They help us figure out where to start, and how to move forward.

How Root Cause operates is VERY different from traditional consultants. There’s a sense of partnership, of shared values and culture.