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Root Cause doles out \$450k in awards

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Root Cause, a Cambridge, Mass.-based nonprofit that supports social innovators, has honored six Boston-area organizations with \$450,000 in cash and services for addressing some of the region's more pressing social issues.

The organizations were selected out of a pool of more than 145 applicants.

The designation entitles each organization to \$75,000 in cash and services that include strategy consulting, business planning, executive coaching and introductions to potential philanthropic investors. The goal is to help them gain visibility and provide resources to expand.

The finalists were selected by leaders in the local business and nonprofit sectors. The award recipients included:

- Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance's *Home & Healthy for Good*, a statewide program that finds permanent housing for the homeless.
- Generations Inc.'s Experience Corps Program, which recruits older adults and retirees to provide reading support to children.
- Medicine Wheel Productions, a program that engages at-risk youth in the production of public arts projects.
- My Life My Choice Project of the Justice Resource Institute, which provides prevention, victim identification and related services to women forced into prostitution.
- Playworks, a program that sends trained, fulltime coaches into low-income urban schools to support children's health and well-being through organized play time and physical activities.
- Project Hope's Employer Partnerships, which partners with hospitals and trains low-income single mothers for entry to mid-level jobs in the health care industry.

On May 4, the six organizations will participate in the annual Social Innovation Forum's Showcase event, which is modeled after a venture capital forum for early-stage organizations to present their ideas directly to investors.