

Flexible, Responsive Software Allows for New Opportunities

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Barri Homer
Part-time Accounting Manager
SWWDC



Located just across the river from metropolitan Portland, Oregon, the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) serves the workforce development needs of Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties in Washington State.

Nonprofit organizations must comply with special internal controls, rules, reporting, and regulations. Their budget constraints are often tighter than other businesses, and detailed accountability is required. Ever-changing regulations result in ongoing modifications to practices and reports and demand constant scrutiny.

Like many other nonprofit organizations, SWWDC was using a well-known off-the-shelf accounting software program, and had to maintain external spreadsheets and otherwise manhandle the software to keep track of programs and funding, and to generate required reporting. The software was working, but many workarounds were necessary. With only one and a half finance/accounting staff, it quickly became cumbersome.

There were three main issues with the software SWWDC was using: 1) in the account structure, segments were hardwired, and one could not move from one grant to another without copying and creating an entirely new general ledger; 2) allocations were unwieldy; they had to be calculated in a spreadsheet and input as a huge journal entry; and 3) grant reporting over multiple years was not possible within the system.

As fate would have it, Marie Andrus, SWWDC’s Finance Manager, attended the NAWB Annual Forum and met Kevin Massey, President of NonProfit Technologies, Inc. (NPT). Their discussion turned to the inflexibility of accounting software, and Kevin told Marie about Sage MIP Fund Accounting software, one of the solutions NPT offers.

Sage MIP Fund Accounting helps nonprofit organizations easily track, manage, and report on funds from multiple sources, across multiple budget periods. The system features an intuitive user interface, a flexible, table-driven chart of accounts, and a comprehensive, built-in report writer with FASB-compliant report formats.

When Marie returned from the conference, she started doing her homework. She compared Sage MIP with another close competitor that had a local vendor. There wasn’t a local vendor for Sage, and NPT was located in Florida. Marie felt that Sage MIP Fund Accounting was far superior, and NPT’s price was far less than the local vendor. SWWDC made the decision to purchase Sage MIP’s GL, cash, AP/AR, payroll, allocations, and bank reconciliation modules.

Implementation went smoothly. Barri Horner, SWWDC’s part-time accounting consultant, has been through several off-the-shelf software conversions and implementations with other organizations.

"I am so pleased with this software that I have already recommended it to companies similar to ours!"

Marie Andrus
Finance Manager
SWWDC

"Because the software is more complex, there was a lot more to learn with Sage, but it wasn't impossible. It is a powerful program!" The NPT consultant was very helpful.

SWWDC is pleased with the program, and particularly likes that it is a flexible, responsive system. Although 90% of the funds they must account for and administer are WIA funds, recently they have been getting more community attention and community gifts. The flexibility of the system and ability to use the chart of accounts across different funds allows for ease of accounting and reporting, and gives them room to grow and explore other funding options. In addition, because of their proximity to Portland, they are beginning to become involved in initiatives such as a WIRED grant, and a STEM grant with regional organizations that cross traditional geographic boundaries. With their Sage MIP software, accounting is simply not an issue.

When asked if they would recommend the software to other similar organizations, Marie responded "I already have, and they are looking at the same system." SWWDC is also considering adding the budget module to their system. The software's scalability is one of its best features, allowing organizations of any size to start with what they require and add modules as necessity and/or budget arises, providing them with flexibility and functionality for many years.

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NonProfit Technologies, Inc. (NPT)

NPT understands the unique needs of the public sector and has dedicated its entire business to addressing those needs since 1996. We are a business and technology solutions provider with over 40 locations and nearly 700 public sector clients nationwide. We help federal, state, and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations, including schools, human and social service agencies, religious organizations, museums, and libraries achieve their missions.

NPT provides expert, certified implementation, customization, and integration of industry leading nonprofit accounting software - Sage MIP Fund Accounting and Sage Fundraising 50. Our expertise has been acknowledged through our selection to the Sage Chairman's Club, President's Circle, Million Dollar Club, and as a Sage Select Authorized Partner. NPT is also a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner as well as being the publisher of Gazelle, a complimentary product to Sage MIP fund accounting software specifically designed for Workforce Development Boards and Economic Development organizations.

We also offer a number of training and support services designed to maximize your knowledge of your software and empower you throughout the implementation of our solutions. At NPT, we strive to provide business solutions that exceed your expectations on-time, on budget, and with the functionality we've promised. If you are interested in learning more about NPT's solutions please contact Tammy Massey at 800.404.9758 ext. 8123, at tammy@cpaz.com, or visit us on the web at www.cpaz.com.



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