

WorkForce Central Gains Autonomy, Time with New Fund Accounting System

“The system has taken us away from spreadsheet accounting and the database ability and real-time results have made the system more than pay for itself.”

Lance Mertz
CPA, CFP
WorkForce Central



Tacoma, Wash.-based WorkForce Central – also known as the Tacoma-Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium – is a unique partnership of government, business, education, and community organizations that has been providing Pierce County with quality workforce development services since 1982.

For years, the organization’s accounting was managed through the city’s accounting system.

“We took in the data, but they did all the processing,” explains Lance Mertz, CPA, WorkForce Central’s CFO. “We had very limited access to the SAP system, which doesn’t adapt well to fund accounting. There were all sorts of issues. Financial reporting was especially problematic.”

In early 2009, WorkForce Central’s CEO and interim CFO (at the time) decided to find a new system. They considered multiple products, but ultimately decided on a remotely hosted version of Sage MIP Fund Accounting from Sage North America, which they purchased from NonProfit Technologies, Inc.

Hosted System Works ‘Anywhere’

Mertz joined WorkForce Central as CFO in June 2009 – a few months after the new system had been implemented.

“We now have a fully integrated, hosted accounting system,” he says. “As long as the internet connection is adequate, the

system works anywhere. Plus, we don’t have to worry about installing updates, performing back-ups, or caring for the server. Everything is done for one price per year.”

The organization has no in-house IT staff, so “the payback is immediate with hosting,” says Mertz.

A Different World

With the previous system, WorkForce Central was unable to produce good revenue and expenditure reports, trial balances, and other information. Now, its accountants are self-sufficient.

The organization is in the middle of its first audit under the new system, and its outside accountant is “very happy “with the results.

“The system has taken us away from spreadsheet accounting,” explains Mertz. “We previously had a very difficult time showing an adequate audit trail.”

With the new accounting system, Mertz can run a report in multiple ways, spanning different time periods and breaking out activities as needed. “The database ability and real-time results have made the system more than pay for itself,” he says.

One favorite feature of WorkForce Central’s new accounting system: it

“Before, we were very limited in our access to data. With this new system, we have complete control and visibility. It’s a different world.”

Lance Mertz
CPA, CFP
WorkForce Central

provides functionality beyond traditional “reports-only” viewing, extending “read only” access to data for select staff.

“Executives like this feature a lot, because they can pull up reports when they need them, without having to call accounting staff,” says Mertz. “Our offices are spread across five sites, so it’s very beneficial for executives to be able to get what they need, no matter where they are physically located.”

The payroll process has also been improved by the new accounting system, because it quickly and easily allocates labor to all of WorkForce Central’s various grants and activities. The allocation process used to be more labor-intensive.

Mertz concludes, “Before, we were very limited in our access to data. With this new system, we have complete control and visibility. It’s a different world.”

**First published in American City and County Magazine, 2010.*

We Focus On Your Success.



**Financial Accounting Systems
Installation & Integration
Custom Programming
Training & Support**

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. 123, at tammy@cpaz.com, or visit us on the web at www.cpaz.com.



Authorized Partner