

Do You Really Know Where Your Workforce Region Stands Financially?

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Brenda Chrisman
Vice President of One-Stop Services
Workforce Central Florida



Workforce Central Florida is one of the largest workforce regions in Florida, representing five counties in the center of the state. They serve approximately 4,700 employers annually, connecting them with more than 54,000 job seekers each year.

Until recently, Workforce Central Florida faced the same challenge as many WIBs across the nation – while they were tracking individual training account (ITA) support services, they weren’t accounting for them. Information was tracked manually by case managers, so reports weren’t as accurate as they wanted and needed them to be. There was never a real connect between what was authorized and what was actually charged, or what was left if a participant dropped out.

Staff members were required to track the number of enrollments for ITA’s manually, which meant that they established a number of enrollment slots every year for a program. Every month they tracked them by the dollar amount of each enrollment to make sure they didn’t go over budget. While the system worked, it was a manual, tedious process.

Workforce Central Florida no longer wanted case managers dealing with the accounting process. According to Alice Cobb, Chief Operating Officer, “Tracking scholarships, as we call them, has been a problem for years. We were asking counselors to do accounting functions when we really needed them to do case management. While we were tracking the information, it was difficult to track it by

fund source. It was difficult to track it as accurately as we wanted. Our counselors didn’t know when a cost was more than they might have put on the training scholarship, so there was never a real connect between what they were assuming was the charge and what they had authorized, or with what was really billed and what was left if somebody dropped out.”

Gazelle has solved that problem very effectively. Gazelle is a real-time, online application that is integrated with Workforce Central Florida’s accounting system, MIP, and automatically keeps tabs on every dollar flowing through participant accounts. Gazelle instantly feeds all of the information directly into MIP in real time without Case Managers and Administrators having to lift a finger or move a single piece of paper.

“Implementing Gazelle streamlined our processes and made them much more efficient;” said Brenda Chrisman, Vice President of One-Stop Services. “It allows us to see the number of enrollments that we have authorized at any given time.”

The Gazelle application allows Workforce Central Florida to know in real time exactly how much they have spent, how much they have obligated, and therefore how much they have remaining, for each individual participant. Because the system tells them exactly where they stand at any given point, they don’t have to worry about spending more money than they have available, but they also don’t have to worry about spending less money than they have available.

“Thanks to Gazelle, our transactions are recorded automatically and in real time. We now know exactly where we stand financially at all times.”

Barry Neece
CFO/CIO
Workforce Central Florida

Gazelle continuously tracks the availability, allocation and use of funds at both the fund source and the participant account level. Gazelle manages the entire life cycle of every voucher issued, from creation (obligation) through invoicing and payment. Gazelle prevents Workforce Central Florida from spending over or under budget by monitoring all unused and partially used vouchers and allowing for batch voiding and recovery of unspent allocated dollars into the appropriate accounts.

When new participant accounts are created, Gazelle determines the amount of funds that can be obligated, verifies that the selected fund source has sufficient budget available, allocates the money from the fund source, and reserves it to the correct accounts. Authorized staff may increase or decrease the budget for any account and the software will simultaneously adjust all related entries in the accounting system accordingly. Reports show fund source and participant account spending trends, and calculate the total amount of outstanding voucher obligations.

All that's required to use Gazelle is a workstation with Internet access. Nothing needed to be installed or maintained on Workforce Central Florida's system, and the bandwidth requirements are very low. The software can be upgraded remotely and without interrupting any work.

With Gazelle, Workforce Central Florida can now rest easier. According to Barry Neece, CFO/CIO, “Thanks to Gazelle, our transactions are recorded automatically and in real time. We now know exactly where we stand financially at all times.”

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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.



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