

JobSource Goes to the Cloud - Leaves Legacy Systems Behind with the Help of Financial Technologies & Management

Every payroll run was cause for holding one's breath, crossing fingers, hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

"At any point, if one thing had gone wrong," explains Director of Program Implementation Jennifer Davisson of JobSource, "it very likely would shut the entire system down and we would be left generating payroll by hand and writing checks."

The problem resided in the two accounting systems (Blackbaud Fundware and Blackbaud FinancialEdge) that JobSource relied on. The software that handled the payroll and accounts payable had been highly customized, the second accounting system had not been implemented. As a result, the JobSource controller was burdened with copious manual steps (redoing cost allocations, journal entries, and financial reporting in Excel) that ate up the bulk of his time so he could execute bi-weekly payroll runs.

Davisson began researching a new solution and called several other Workforce Development and Community Action organizations to see what they were using and their level of satisfaction with their systems. One solution was the unanimous favorite: Abila MIP Fund Accounting.

What proved more difficult was selecting an implementation expert. "As the project manager, I needed to know everything about the system – beginning to end," says Davisson. "We weren't getting all the information we needed and we wanted to explore what consulting options were available." This is when James Simpson, CPA, of Financial Technologies & Management (FTM) entered the picture.

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Challenge

Highly customized, destabilized old system required manual, time-consuming work on the part of the controller in order to execute payroll.

Solution

FTM implemented Abila MIP Fund Accounting, automating payroll and updating JobSource's core financials and reporting.

Benefit

Cloud-based deployment gives JobSource anytime, anywhere access to the system and automated backups in addition to a full suite of accounting applications and reporting capabilities. Eliminating the excessive manual steps previously required with the old systems, JobSource is saving a minimum of 25 hours a month and enjoys working with a more reliable system.

“Early in the conversation with Jim we knew his level of knowledge about the products and our industry made him the consultant we wanted to work with,” recalls Davisson. “We all said ‘This guy knows what he’s talking about.’”

FTM’s Jim Simpson implemented Abila MIP Fund Accounting delivering the solution to JobSource via the cloud. He began with the core financial solution which was comprised of general ledger, accounts payable, payroll and other modules. The next phase of the implementation would be integrating Microix budget, requisition, inventory, and timesheet solutions with MIP Fund Accounting.

Because of the reliability and rich features of Abila MIP Fund Accounting, manual data work has been eliminated. Davisson estimates that this is saving the controller a minimum of 25 hours a month. “Now our controller can focus on preparing for state audits, period-end and year-end closing, as well as funder monitoring visits from WIOA, IHCD, and others.”

About Financial Technologies & Management:

Financial Technologies & Management (FTM) offers financial management for nonprofits. FTM offers the resources to improve nonprofits with nonprofit accounting services, nonprofit accounting software, and financial management training classes. FTM works exclusively with nonprofit organizations and government agencies. They have helped more than 350 nonprofit organizations by providing solutions to help their internal, community and regulatory needs.

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About JobSource

For over 40 years, JobSource has been supporting people as they pursue a better life and brighter future for their families. As a partner with WorkOne, JobSource provides critical employment services and training to people of all ages. Beyond this well-regarded work, JobSource has grown in its commitment to empowering the people of Madison and Grant counties through a variety of other programs and projects.

As a designated WorkOne and Community Action Program agency and through its 501(c)3 nonprofit, JobSource Inc., the organization is now providing access to homes, cars, talent development and family support to individuals and families who are striving to build better lives.

