



Financial Reporting Solution

Eastern West Virginia Community Action Agency (EWVCAA) is an alliance of Community Action Agencies that supports and strengthens their members, advocates for low-income individuals and families, and promotes partnerships to help West Virginians move out of poverty.

The EWVCAA specializes in supporting low-income residents to meet the costs of home heating and cooling. Their weatherization assistance program provides West Virginians with safe, energy-efficient products to reduce energy bills. They also work closely with the public installing insulation, reducing air-infiltration, performing heating and cooling tune-ups and modifications, and when appropriate, replacing older units with newer ones for energy efficiency and safety. Their clients are educated about the proper use and maintenance of the installed weatherization measures to achieve maximum results by keeping consumption costs down.

Additionally, the EWVCAA provides emergency relief financial assistance to low-income residents and offers support to aid those who want to get back into the workforce. They dedicate their time and resources to help combat poverty in their counties.

Ready for a Change

Matt Hinkle, Chief Financial Officer, quickly realized that their existing accounting software program did not satisfy the needs of their agency. Faced with limited reporting capabilities and the restricted chart of accounts structure, Hinkle knew a change had to be made. EWVCAA reached out to Applied Business Services (ABS), a local software developer, to install and implement MIP accounting software designed specifically for nonprofit organizations. Working together, ABS and the MIP software quickly put the agency back on track. Hinkle points out that ABS “understands the nonprofit world and how the software should be used.”

ABS, founded in 1981, specializes in providing nonprofit organizations with accounting and fundraising solutions developed for their unique needs. The company is an Authorized Abila Business Partner and operates a Certified Training Center for Abila MIP Fund Accounting™ and Fundraising 50™ product lines.

Challenge

Eastern West Virginia Community Action Agency needed a financial system that could record and track their unique grants and report on fiscal years.

Solution

Abila MIP Fund Accounting™- A configurable solution that allows you to report and track information most important to you, your board, and your funders.

Results

Eastern West Virginia Community Action Agency and Applied Business Services were able to easily implement Abila MIP. The software’s flexibility handles all of EWVCAA’s reporting requirements to satisfy their board, program manager and auditors with ease.



Unique Financial Reporting Needs

The agency provides a variety of programs to help low-income individuals and families, and as such, the programs have unique fiscal years. Some are calendar-based, some follow the federal fiscal year, and some are mandated by the state of West Virginia. As a result, they must be able to track information on any fiscal year at any given time. The MIP™ software handles this need with ease. Hinkle states, “MIP made it cleaner to run a report on any one of these fiscal years.” He is particularly pleased with MIP’s ability to query reports and date-to-date reporting. He asserts, “You can run a report for whatever program...it doesn’t matter if it matches our fiscal year or not.”

Furthermore, since EWVCAA relies on funding from a multitude of grants, the organization must be able to record and track a variety of grants that fund any particular project. Hinkle affirms that the MIP software’s flexibility handles all of their reporting requirements to satisfy their program managers and auditors.

Ease of Use Makes All the Difference

Hinkle marvels how the MIP software is “easy for people to learn. It’s good for users who understand accounting, even if you are not computer-savvy.” He attests that the learning curve for his accounting staff was “a lot shorter than we anticipated.” Their accounting clerk also likes the Payroll module and the features it offers.

The Budgeting module is an essential component to their financial data tracking needs. Their program managers quickly grasped how to use the data reports to their optimum level and find it easy to compare budget-to-actual data at any given time.

With MIP, preparing for an audit has also become simpler. The software has helped reduce the time needed for preparation by approximately 4-5 months. Hinkle states, “As a CFO, MIP has made my life easier. It has made us more organized and everything is up to date.”

Maximized Results with ABS’ Professional Training and Support Services

Hinkle says he “can’t say enough good things about ABS!” Their agency was delighted to switch to ABS as their accounting software service provider when they transferred their data to MIP. He finds ABS is always helpful and very responsive any time EWVCAA calls for assistance. “If someone is stumbling around, ABS can answer that question. They have the training experience.”

Hinkle commends the unique qualities and expertise of Sharon Crowley, lead MIP trainer at ABS. Crowley’s combined accounting background and extensive experience with nonprofit organizations creates the ideal situation. “Sharon has such a gift as a teacher, along with her accounting knowledge as well. She helped us design everything the way we need it to be.”

Long-term Commitment

Hinkle is extraordinarily pleased with the MIP software and the services they receive from ABS. Even though he feels he is comfortable with his knowledge of the software, he still finds it important to continue training and calls on ABS. “There are features in the software that I realize I don’t know and I will email Sharon,” Hinkle admits. He recommends doing some training periodically in order to maximize the efficiency of their nonprofit organization.

Hinkle wholeheartedly recommends ABS to any nonprofit organization: “The service is great! The training is great! And...the lunches they provide are great too!”

Applied Business Services, Inc.

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