County of Kaua`i, HI Looks to AmpliFund for Grants Efficiency

Case Study

Introduction

County of Kaua`i, Hawaii partnered with StreamLink Software, a software as a service (SaaS) grant management technology provider, to decrease paper usage tied to its grant processes.

Prior to implementing AmpliFund, a comprehensive grant management solution, the county's individual departments relied heavily on paper (PDFs, spreadsheets, applications) throughout the entire grants lifecycle. This made it difficult to keep track of critical documents, and led to unnecessary environmental waste.

Kaua`i knew it was time to take part in the paperless movement sweeping other cities and counties nationwide. With AmpliFund, Kaua`i was able to eliminate wasted resources and time, while providing the county with enhanced insight for its grant and sub-recipient management.

The Move To Paperless

The county was looking for a way to migrate grant-related information to a web-based solution. "One of the initiatives the mayor was pushing was to get all of our heavily paper-based—procurement, grants—into a paperless environment," said Ann Wooton, grants program manager for County of Kaua`i. Grant software would help in this mission.

The county's existing paper-intensive grants management system made it difficult to keep track of documents and limited data accessibility. To alleviate these pain points, Wooton was interested in a grant solution that allowed grantmaking, evaluation and document storage online in a centralized hub versus the county's servers.

The county was currently relying on its accounting system to manage grant awards. As such, it had nowhere to load documents related to awards, budget modifications or no-cost extensions. While numerous grant providers offered document management, AmpliFund was the only to include pre-built sub-recipient capabilities.

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"Most systems I looked at didn't have sub-recipient grantmaking developed," said Wooton. "That was one of the things we needed [in order] to do our paperless initiative."

Another core criterion for County of Kaua`i was a robust grant database that allowed users to quickly search available opportunities from federal agencies, state and local governments, and private foundations. "A lot of the departments were requesting that," Wooton noted.

Finally, County of Kaua`i needed a solution that affordably allowed for unlimited users.

These requirements led the county to AmpliFund.

A Need for Commitment

The switch to a digital grant management solution was a big change for Kaua`i. For the program to be successful, Wooton knew the county's leadership and stakeholders must be committed to the roll out. This stands true for all organizations looking to implement grant software. "If people want to do this, they have to have the leadership and commitment," Wooton stated.

To get the whole team on board, Wooton worked with the AmpliFund customer success team to provide online training. **Each live session was recorded for on-demand watching as needed. The county also hosted an internal two-day grant writing session to help individuals get excited about grantmaking, and thereby, the system.**

The county has more than 50 AmpliFund users within its portal, including grant staff, department accountants and project managers, and partner nonprofits.

In addition to the training, the easy-to-use AmpliFund interface made it a smooth transition. "The system is not difficult to learn," said Wooton.

The county has more than 50 AmpliFund users within its portal, including grant staff, department accountants and project managers, and partner nonprofits. It has input two-years worth of award data in the portal. Grants are paired with the accounting software using a unique identifier, and then assigned out to the appropriate county department.

Although AmpliFund training was helpful, Wooton knows it's her team's responsibility to maintain the system ongoing. "[The AmpliFund team] is great at helping, but it's our system, and we need to own the work," she stated.

The Positive Effects of AmpliFund

With AmpliFund, the county can track approximately 220 grants with ease. The cloud-based portal enables the county to centralize documents online, more readily research and apply for grants, manage sub-recipient activities and reduce paper waste, among other benefits.

Wooton noted that AmpliFund has helped county departments better manage sub-recipient grantmaking by providing an online environment to capture grant applicants. Sub-recipient feedback has been positive. "There were some experienced grant folks that mentioned the system was easy to use, as someone applying for a grant," said Wooton. "The views made it easy for them to understand the next step."

AmpliFund has also proved useful in providing counsel during the budgeting process. "They like to ask a lot of questions about grants," noted Wooton. "They ask questions like 'How many new grants did we receive during this period?' … I have been able to set the parameters, and provide them reports right out of AmpliFund."

Wooton and the county's team have a multi-year plan in place to completely roll out AmpliFund based on prioritized needs. The goal is to utilize more features and push the county outside its comfort zone to further streamline grant processes. "If you are going to get a system like this, you need to be prepared to learn new things and not be afraid of the technology," said Wooton.

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[Learn how AmpliFund can benefit *your* grant management today!](#)

ABOUT AMPLIFUND

[AmpliFund](#) was built to simplify the growing complexities of grant management. It creates a comprehensive, yet intuitive, hub where grant managers can efficiently oversee the entire grant lifecycle. As a result, nonprofit organizations and public entities can drive additional revenue and capacity through more streamlined processes, and easily ensure regulatory compliance with advanced reporting functionality.

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