

AmpliFund

Enables Reporting
and Sub-Award Grant
Management in
Freeport, IL



The City of Freeport, IL centralized its grant management with the help of [AmpliFund](#), a grant management software provided by StreamLink Software.

AmpliFund helps municipalities like Freeport organize data in a centralized hub, automate report creation and streamline workflows. It provides the city with the budgeting, project management and reporting capabilities to stay compliant with federal regulations and maintain records across sub-recipients.

Legacy Software Lacks Critical Capabilities

When Nick Jupin took the role of Freeport grant coordinator in July 2015, he inherited the former grant management software contract signed by his predecessor. After entering existing grant information into the system, Jupin soon realized the platform lacked core capabilities.

The previous grant management software did not have the general ledger or budgeting functionality that was critical to track spending across city projects. “You could upload your quarterly reports, but when it came down to tracking the spending, [you] could enter the number that you spent and the number that you drew down, and that was it. There was no tracking deeper than that.”

As a result, Jupin returned to the city’s existing grant management processes—an ad hoc system of files and spreadsheets. This proved equally challenging, as grant information was disorganized and housed in different documents. Jupin often found it difficult to reconcile files or tell how much grant funding was left.

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The city put together a grant procedure handbook for the city department heads. The document outlined new guidelines that gave Jupin the ability to track grant program files and spending across all city grants.

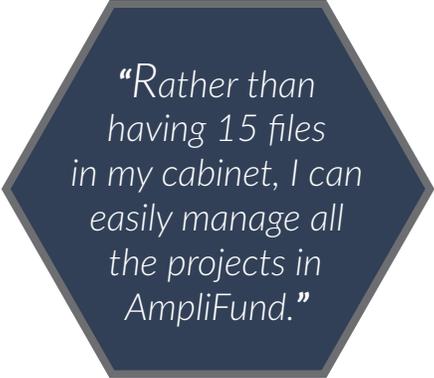
Finances would also be put into the city accounting system. This would give Freeport the ability to compare the two systems quarterly, providing checks and balances in the use of public funds.

“Our city is small, but we have a lot of grant funding,” said Jupin. He knew that in order to make the new policy successful, the city needed a more sophisticated system to track grant funds.

Freeport Evaluates Specialized Software

Unimpressed by the platform's capabilities, Jupin conducted an online search for grant management software. AmpliFund soon stood out from the competition because of its project management, general ledger and budgeting capabilities, and automated reports.

The decision became even clearer after watching a product demo, when he found out about the product's [sub-awards and competitive bidding](#) features. Freeport manages several housing awards with sub-awards, like one for homeowners interested in home repairs, which requires five years of sub-recipient reporting. Previously, grant data would be tracked on paper or across many Excel spreadsheets. Now, interested residents can apply and report directly through the AmpliFund portal, where all sub-award information is centralized and organized. Jupin can track sub-recipient costs against the grant and run reports quickly instead of calculating by hand.



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Similarly, Freeport was recently awarded a large forgivable loan for blight reduction, which will fund 15 separate projects—redeveloping and converting abandoned and foreclosed houses into art spaces, community gardens and more. Jupin must closely track how the lump sum is spent across the projects, and project funds must be tracked individually. “Rather than having 15 files in my cabinet, I can easily manage all the projects in AmpliFund,” said Jupin.

Smooth and Personalized Onboarding

Since purchasing AmpliFund in November 2015, Jupin sat in on several training sessions. Jupin, whose background is in federal government disaster response and local fire and EMS operations and dispatch, has found the product easy to understand and adopt. The AmpliFund team showed him step by step how to use the portal, and he was able to practice with actual grant data. “The onboarding process was smooth; it worked out really well,” said Jupin.

Once all city grant information is entered, Jupin will assign user accounts to each department head so they can keep tabs on grant funds and projects within their department.

“It had more than what I expected. I’m glad to see that it has timesheets; it has program income. This is all stuff the other software seemed to lack, and it’s all really important, especially with some of the bigger federal grants.”

Jupin is optimistic that the platform will improve fund drawdown, facilitate compliance, and make the city more competitive for awards. During a recent visit to Freeport, auditors were impressed by how easily grant funds could be tracked and the city’s checks and balances for grant funds.

The platform will also make reporting to external stakeholders far easier. “A lot of our projects are behind the scenes and aren’t visual,” said Jupin. AmpliFund reports can make it easy to show city council and citizens that work is being done.

Simple report generation may even lead to publishing community development reports online, so residents can see what is being spent and what projects are underway. Spending transparency will create easier buy-in from the public to gain approval for future grants.

With millions in funds managed by a single grant coordinator, AmpliFund provides what Jupin needed most of all: a central repository for granular fund tracking, calculation and report generation. “It had more than what I expected. I’m glad to see that it has timesheets; it has program income. This is all stuff the other software seemed to lack, and it’s all really important, especially with some of the bigger federal grants.”

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.

About StreamLink Software

AmpliFund is the leading enterprise grant management platform designed for federal, state and local governments to manage every phase of the grant management process. Our configurable solution provides a full suite of features needed by grantors and grantees to manage both pre-award and post-award processes in a centralized secure environment.

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