

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

County of Kaua`i, Hawaii partnered with AmpliFund, 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 and received enhanced insights 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 Wooten, Director of the Office of Economic Development for County of Kauaʻi. Grant software would help in this mission.

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

The County was 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.

“Most systems looked at didn’t have sub-recipient grant making developed,” said Wooten. “That was one of the things we needed [in order] to do our paperless initiative.”

Another core criterion for County of Kauaʻi 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,” Wooten noted.

Finally, County of Kauaʻi 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 Kauaʻi. For the program to be successful, the County's leadership and stakeholders had to be committed to the rollout. 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," Wooten stated.

To get the whole team on board, the County 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 grant making, and thereby, the system.

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

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, Wooten knows it's her team's responsibility to maintain the system.

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.

Wooten noted that AmpliFund has helped County departments better manage sub-recipient grant making 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 Wooten. “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 Wooten. “They ask questions like ‘How many new grants did we receive during this period?’ ... We have been able to set the parameters, and provide them reports right out of AmpliFund.”

Wooten 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.

Learn how AmpliFund can benefit your grant management today!

Schedule a Demo



AmpliFund

AmpliFund is the leading purpose-built grant management platform designed for federal, state, local, and tribal governments to manage every phase of the grant management process. Our configurable solution provides a full suite of features needed by grant funders and recipients to maximize grant outcomes, meet performance standards, and increase compliance so they can achieve their missions.

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