

Abila MIP Fund Accounting Nonprofit

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



Michigan Community Action Takes Action — Moving to Abila MIP and Net at Work

CUSTOMER
Michigan Community Action

INDUSTRY
Nonprofit

LOCATION
Okemos, Michigan

SYSTEM
Abila MIP Fund Accounting

SOLUTIONS PROVIDER
Net at Work
www.netatwork.com

Michigan Community Action (MCA) is a member service network supporting the state’s 29 Community Action Agencies in their quest to change the lives of low-income Michiganders. With a \$22 million budget and \$4.5 million in federal funding, MCA is able to do a lot of good in Michigan, but with a lean staff of just nine, they have to do it smartly and efficiently. Abila MIP, implemented and supported by the professional team at Net at Work, helps MCA focus more resources on its mission, and less on its accounting.



Struggling to Get Needed Data
Like many small and growing nonprofits, MCA was using QuickBooks for its accounting, but increasingly found that financial information was not easily accessible or available in a useful format. “We spent a lot of time pulling full data sets out of the software and manually extracting the needed information,” recalls Heather Badder, Director of Finance and Human Resources for MCA. “We brought the data into spreadsheets to be able to analyze it better. It was time consuming and very inefficient.”

The organization also wanted better data reliability, more internal controls and

integration options, and the ability to review information before posting. “Fund accounting capability is also important to us, and we didn’t have that capability with the old system,” adds Kate White, Executive Director for MCA. “It was time for us to move to software designed for nonprofits, one that gave us the functionality and data accessibility we needed.”

Taking Action
“We knew that many of our member agencies were using Abila MIP and Net at Work, and members of our own board of directors have experience with it and recommended we consider it,” says Badder. “Once we investigated what the software could do, and how Net at Work could help us get there, we stopped looking.”

Net at Work’s consultants worked closely with MCA to review their current processes,



CHALLENGE	SOLUTION	RESULTS
Michigan Community Action had outgrown QuickBooks, and was spending too much time and effort to get the data needed for its operation. Lack of integration with other systems resulted in duplicate data entry and the potential for error.	Abila MIP Fund Accounting was selected for its strong internal controls, robust reporting capabilities, integration options, and fund accounting functionality. Net at Work came highly recommended by colleagues.	Integration with payroll provider saves 6 hours every pay period. A week saved during audit preparation. Dramatically reduced time spent on reporting tasks and the number of GL accounts, shortening reports while delivering more meaningful data.

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~Heather Badder
Director of Finance & HR
Michigan Community Action

About Net at Work Nonprofit Practice

Our Net at Work Nonprofit Practice, NFP at Work, helps nonprofit and government organizations like yours achieve your mission through technology. Think of us as your outsourced CTO, “Chief Technology Officer” team. We work side-by-side with you to help you overcome your biggest hurdles and find the best solutions for your needs. Our team of experts, CPAs, consultants, and developers understand your day-to-day nonprofit work and the technologies you need. We are also software and accounting experts with over 20 years of experience in payroll, HR, audits, grant reporting, and internal control processes.



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understand their goals, and then plan the software configuration. “Our consultant really took the time to understand what our challenges were and how we could efficiently use Abila MIP to solve them,” says Badder. “And they continue to help us learn more about the software and get more out of it through their local user group meetings and training sessions.”

Better Data. Easier Access

The ability to use dimensions to classify transactions in the software enabled MCA to dramatically reduce the number of general ledger accounts needed, and provides a clean, efficient way to access and analyze the organization’s growing data set.

“By using dimensions in the software we’ve found that we’ve reduced the amount of journal entries we need to create because we have greater flexibility and control when the data is initially captured — we’re getting the data where it needs to go,” says White.

White says the software has helped them improve the information provided to the board of directors. “We are now able to provide a customized one-page balance sheet and one-page income statement so our Board can see at a glance the performance of our organization. Previously, those financials were each four pages long because of the numerous general ledger accounts we had to create and no way to group various accounts.

Badder loves the ability to generate reports covering unposted transactions. “We use these to run projections, and to review entries before posting. It has reduced the number of corrections and improved the overall accuracy of our reports,” she says.

Integration Simplifies Routine Tasks

Net at Work worked with MCA to develop integration between Abila MIP and the organization’s payroll provider. By eliminating the need for manual data entry, MCA is saving six hours every pay cycle. “We also import bank data to streamline the reconciliation process,” notes Badder.

“Next we’ll work with Net at Work to help us create an import template to bring in credit card transaction data. It’s so helpful to have a system that allows this level of data exchange.”

Strong Security and Controls

Data security and access control are important to every nonprofit, and Abila MIP adds strong controls, including the ability to customize each user’s access, and creating a complete audit trail of all activity and transactions.

Save a Week of Audit Prep Time

MCA is subject to both federal and state program audits, and Abila MIP helps streamline the extensive work involved prior to an audit. “We’ve reduced audit preparation time by a full week, and we can now pull financials for a specific fund,” says Badder. “Previously, we would have to pull all the information and manually extract the necessary fund data.”

“And our auditors were impressed with the solution and how it was implemented,” notes White.

Right Recommendation

MCA made the move to Abila MIP and Net at Work thanks to recommendations from trusted colleagues. Both White and Badder say that in turn, they recommend the solution and business partner to other nonprofits. “Abila MIP is a great product. It’s scalable, affordable, and very flexible,” says Badder.

“And Net at Work is a great partner. They are easy to work with and very knowledgeable about the product and about nonprofits,” concludes White.