

CITY OF HOUSTON / PUBLIC SECTOR

CITY OF HOUSTON NEEDED VISIBILITY INTO THEIR DATA AND BUSINESS PROCESSES FOR ALL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



The City of Houston had an immediate need to provide stimulus fund reporting. They needed visibility into their data and business processes for all projects and initiatives that were to receive stimulus funding and fulfill reporting requirements. They realized that using Excel spreadsheets would leave them with a significant headache of large files, many versions of the truth and real difficulty in getting true and easy visibility in a trusted way that would fulfill the regulated requirements.

The City of Houston chose Fusion for ARRA because we were the preferred partner recommended by SAP and SAP labs. Fusion deployed the SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise ARRA solution for the City of Houston to mitigate risk and ensure compliance with federal requirements. The ARRA solution included a metric framework, extensible data model and connectors that intelligently aggregate, summarize and present core measures in pre-defined dashboards. This allowed City of Houston to effectively manage ARRA programs to meet program, public, and economic objectives and outcomes; deliver full accountability and transparency; make timely awards and contracts with maximum performance and connect policy to outcomes.

The solution covered all in scope business areas including Grants Management, Purchasing, Projects, Contracts and Jobs data sources. The solution was delivered and fully enabled and live within two months. The City is now able to better plan, manage and budget their business revenue stream that is grants to more efficiently use the funds awarded.

RESULTS

They now have complete visibility into the full lifecycle of their stimulus funding. That is from the initial grant to PO to contract to what's received to what's invoiced, to what's paid. They are able to understand their A/P more effectively and reduce A/P by 3% based on early payment rewards. The solution covered all in scope business areas including Grants Management, Purchasing, Projects, Contracts and Jobs data sources. The solution was delivered and fully enabled and live within two months. The City is now able to better plan, manage and budget their business revenue stream that is grants to more efficiently use the funds awarded.

Help achieve mayor's vision to become the most efficient and responsive local Government in the nation.

- Ability to report and relate and analyze requisitions
- Analyze everything finance related from grants initiation to period close or month close
- RMs provide a jump start instead of starting from ground up
- Provides not just reporting but also analysis and dashboards for exec
- Ability to increase organizational efficiencies in processing grants and efficiencies in reporting back to federal agencies or state re grants allocated
- Cost savings by better utilizing limited personnel power to deliver info/reporting/analysis

BACKGROUND

2 Million citizens, 22 departments, 22,000 employees. They experienced difficulty reporting out of their grants management and funds management systems. They were also experiencing issues with bottlenecks in the purchasing cycle. They used the information from the DW to find ways to reduce bottlenecks and ultimately become eligible to receive 3% discounts on early vendor payments.

APPROACH:

We implemented a data model specific to their unique requirements. The data mart incorporates all the necessary data for the full lifecycle of their grants reporting. This includes:

- Initial Funding?
- What's on PO?
- What's on Contract?
- What's been received?
- What's been Invoiced?
- What's been Paid?

Fusion delivered an entire analytical framework which made it possible for them to write reports on the fly. From project kick off to go-live was only two months.

