

A Streamlined Process

Today's business must be lean. Systems and processes must be as efficient and effective as possible while maintaining compliance with strict regulations. The CPA has always served as a trusted advisor to the business marketplace, but as business processes become even more dependent on information technology, companies rely on financial professionals to bridge the gap between business and technology.

That's Where CPA/CITPs Come In.

IT experience and an astute understanding of financial transaction work flows and the financial reporting supply chain make the CPA/CITP ideally suited to streamline business processes, maximize productivity and manage risk.

“Consider the value of consulting with a CPA/CITP to ensure your business is taking advantage of the true benefits. IT promises, but often can't deliver without appropriate guidance, current knowledge and experience.”

CPA/CITPs help organizations:

- Implement and use work-flow applications and process alerts to streamline operations, automate controls and improve managerial oversight

In addition, the knowledge and experience CITPs gain as part of their CPA training promotes their ability to:

- Evaluate risk and manage the security of digital assets and information systems
- Mitigate threats originating within or outside an organization's security perimeter



Upgrade Your Business

Hire a CPA/CITP



Case Study: Financial Process Improvement & Work-flow Optimization

Problem

While nonprofit and association executives have the same financial management and accounting imperatives as for-profit managers and executives, and perhaps an even stricter regulatory and compliance landscape, the primary focus of any social service organization is to serve others and provide charitable programs that enrich lives.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) was established in 1947 to help children and families struggling with the devastating impact of World War II. In addition to providing statewide programs and services to empower individuals to become more self-reliant and active in improving their lives, the agency serves as a powerful voice on a number of issues, including child abuse and neglect, homelessness, domestic violence, maintaining seniors' independence and acculturation for immigrants. The organization had limited resources for many time demands, and needed an accounting solution to free up time for mission fulfillment.

Solution

After a long proposal process, CCH selected a CPA/CITP for a business process improvement project involving the charity's financial management cycles. The consultant was chosen from several respondents specifically because of his CITP Credential, a value-add that differentiated him from the other accounting consultants.

"We took the time to learn more about [the CITP Credential] before making a selection, but ultimately determined the skills a CITP brought to the table were just what we needed."

Outcome

The CPA/CITP helped the organization establish a five-year vision and identify the technologies that would support the efficient deployment of those processes. He oversaw the development of a request for proposal (RFP), and the selection of an accounting system vendor capable of supporting the finance department's operations and integrating cleanly into the charity's overall financial management architecture.

During the implementation, the CPA/CITP served in a quality assurance role to ensure that Catholic Charities' business and technical risks were adequately managed, and that data was properly structured to support the organization's long-term operational and financial reporting requirements.

Resources and Solutions

CPAs who hold the Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP) Credential are recognized for their technology expertise and ability to bridge the gap between business and technology. Unlike other certifications, the CITP Credential recognizes technical expertise across a wide range of business technology practice areas.

This unique, multi-disciplinary perspective enables the CPA/CITP to help employers or clients better navigate IT-related risk and the opportunities that technology affords.

Why Partner with a CPA/CITP?

- CPA/CITPs have a strong background in understanding and implementing internal controls, and are in tune with regulatory and compliance standards critical in today's business environment.
- CPA/CITPs understand information is a valuable business asset that can help organizations make informed decisions while mitigating loss.
- CPA/CITPs are knowledgeable about information systems architecture, financial information flows and how to pull together important data from disparate IT systems to create valuable business intelligence.
- CPA/CITPs understand business process improvement and can help organizations implement and support efficient and compliant business processes and reporting procedures.

"CPA/CITPs deal with key business initiatives that require deep business process knowledge and strong IT expertise. They help ensure the technology supports the organization's strategy and its technical architecture and integration framework. Other professionals lack the experience in both areas necessary to bring a balanced perspective and optimized solution to the table."

"Working with CPAs who understand and help design core systems and processes will ensure proper controls are in place, and systems and processes are designed with business value in mind. You don't implement systems just to 'keep up with the Joneses' – you do it because it adds value to the business."

