



CRG Cost Allocator Helps Envision Quickly & Easily Complete Cost Allocations

Cost Allocator gives us the ability to perform detailed analytics. We can complete projections on the allocated amounts within the system as well as different “what-if” scenarios.”

Ray Janutis, CFO - Envision Unlimited

About Envision

Founded in 1964, Envision, formerly known as Chicago Association for Retarded Children (CARC), provides quality services to persons with developmental disabilities and other special needs that promote choice, independence and community integration. Envision provides a wide-ranging array of home-based and center-based services that benefit families, infants, children, adults and senior citizens.

Program areas include:

early intervention, community living, older adult services, youth & family support services & employment



Overview

Envision Unlimited, a community-based nonprofit organization, needed an easier, faster solution to allocate costs to the various programs. As a nonprofit organization, Envision needed to ensure that its resources were being used efficiently and effectively.

In order to correctly assign costs to the right programs, a single Envision employee used a report writer for its general ledger system and stored the results in a file in the general ledger system. The cost allocation process to calculate and reallocate the allocations was very time consuming; consequently allocations were only completed once per month.

Envision was only able to complete the allocations. It was not able to do “what if” analysis. Additionally, it was not able to do projections on the allocated amounts within the system. It was obvious to the Envision team that the current method of allocating costs was inefficient and did not meet its current or future needs.

A Need for Combiner

Envision had two options available: (1) to develop a customized solution or (2) purchase a cost allocation software solution, Cost Allocator. After an evaluation, Envision chose Cost Allocator. Cost Allocator gives Envision the ability to easily allocate costs to the appropriate area in a timely manner. Cost Allocator is easy to use, provides flexibility and, as a supported solution, offers peace of mind.

About CRGroup

Since 1989, Corporate Renaissance Group has been a global provider of innovative solutions that improve business management and performance. With over 4,000 customers worldwide, CRGroup has established itself with expertise in business management consulting and software development. CRGroup delivers solutions by leveraging their expertise in Microsoft Dynamics, SharePoint, business intelligence, financial and costing principles, shared services and employee performance management.

Envision's Path

After evaluating the two available options, Envision chose to purchase CRG Cost Allocator. There were a number of factors that led to its decision:

- The total cost of ownership for Cost Allocator was significantly lower than developing a customized solution. In addition to the lower cost to acquire the software, Cost Allocator is a supported application and will be easy to upgrade in the future.
- Another large, nonprofit organization recommended Cost Allocator.
- Envision has a very large Chart of Accounts. It needed to be able to calculate and allocate large amounts of information: Cost Allocator can easily handle large amounts of data.
- Cost Allocator allows Envision to allocate costs based on percentage amounts. It is the same methodology used prior to selecting Cost Allocator; Envision did not have to alter its allocation methodology.
- Envision is able to upload the allocation percentages using Excel.
- Cost Allocator is a support software solution.

About Cost Allocator

CRG Cost Allocator™ is a flexible and efficient costing application that performs multi-level step-down cost allocations by percentage, fixed value, cost drivers, or balances in other accounts to determine true costs and profitability. It automatically connects to various General Ledgers and creates journal entries.

Benefits

Flexibility

Cost Allocator gives Envision a great deal of flexibility for performing allocations. Cost Allocator provides Envision with the ability to change allocation rules in the future; which is beneficial as the organization grows, changes and adapts. Additionally, Cost Allocator is also flexible enough to model different allocation assumptions. It is fast and easy to solve allocations with Cost Allocator. This gives Envision the flexibility to complete allocations on an as-needed basis, not just monthly.

Ease of Use

Cost Allocator is an easy software solution for Envision to use.

- Allocation calculations are completed in same manner in Cost Allocator as in the original solution. Envision was not forced to change the method in which it completed allocations
- Envision has the ability to upload allocation percentages using Excel. This feature makes the allocation process much simpler.
- Cost Allocator can be used by many people within the organization. The previous solution, due to its complexity and its time-intensive nature, was used by only one person. Additionally, all employees, present and future, have access to the cost allocation logic.
- Envision can easily perform analytics on the allocated costs. Not only do they complete "what-if" analysis, they can also complete projections on the allocated amounts within the system.

Increased Staff Morale

As Cost Allocator is a supported software solution, Envision does not have to worry about the expense or lost time associated with problems or future upgrades. As a nonprofit with limited funds, knowing what the annual operating costs will be makes Cost Allocator a more attractive solution.

