

Success Story

Powering community impact with Sage Intacct

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin gains efficiencies and visibility that fuel its vital mission

“With Sage Intacct, we have the power to handle new programs, like our USDA partnership, without adding additional staff.”

Tim Prodel

Finance Director, Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin



The challenge

The organization's previous system required extensive manual processes, lacked real-time visibility, and created inefficiencies in grant tracking, reporting, and purchasing workflows.



The solution

By moving to Sage Intacct, CACSCW streamlined its financial operations, eliminating redundant tasks and improving data accessibility. The solution provides automation, enhanced reporting, and stronger financial controls, empowering staff to focus more resources on the mission.



The result

CACSCW has transformed its financial operations, reducing manual processes and improving transparency, freeing more resources to focus on its mission.

- Eliminated redundant data entry and manual processes, saving time and reducing errors.
- Streamlined purchasing workflow gives staff real-time visibility into approvals and payments.
- Improved financial controls include role-based security and automated reconciliation processes.
- Elevated efficiency allows the team to take on new programs and scale without adding finance staff.



Organization

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CACSCW)

Location

Wisconsin, US

Industry

Nonprofit

Sage Products

Sage Intacct

Sage Partner

Wipfli

communityactioncoalition

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About CACSCW

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CACSCW) is dedicated to fighting poverty and strengthening communities through programs that promote housing stability, food security, and economic empowerment. Serving individuals and families for over 50 years, CACSCW works closely with local organizations, government agencies, and businesses to provide essential resources and create lasting change and help people build stronger, more self-sufficient futures.



Strengthening communities through smart financial management

For more than half a century, Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CACSCW) has been a lifeline for families struggling with poverty, ensuring access to safe housing, nutritious food, mental health services, and economic opportunity. Through vital programs focused on housing stability, food security, and economic empowerment, CACSCW plays an essential role in supporting underserved communities. With an unwavering commitment to improving lives, the organization has expanded its services and impact—most recently partnering with the USDA to connect local farmers with food pantries, ensuring fresh, nutritious produce reaches those in need.

For CACSCW, every dollar saved on administrative work is a dollar reinvested into programs that help families in need. As the organization continues to expand, its financial system must keep pace, keeping funding flowing seamlessly to the programs that need it most. With a growing operating budget of over \$7 million and new programs on the horizon, the organization needed a financial management system to support its expanding mission. By moving to Sage Intacct, implemented with the help of their Sage business partner, Wipfli, CACSCW has streamlined its financial operations, saving valuable time and money that they can now reinvest into the community.

Growing impact without growing overhead

Just three finance team members overseeing a complex nonprofit operation, so efficiency is non-negotiable. Before Sage Intacct, CACSCW relied on an outdated accounting system that required extensive manual processes, lacked real-time visibility, and limited financial reporting capabilities. The organization struggled with duplicate data entry, clunky reporting tools, and an over-reliance on spreadsheets to track expenses and grants.

“Before, we were spending too much time on redundant tasks instead of focusing on strategy and efficiency,” says Tim Prodehl, Finance Director at CACSCW. “With Sage Intacct, we have the power to handle new programs, like our USDA partnership, without adding additional staff.”

The move to Sage Intacct also aligned with CACSCW’s long-term sustainability goals. Transitioning to a cloud-based platform eliminated the need for on-premise servers, reducing IT maintenance costs while improving system reliability and security. “With our previous system, we had a staff member dedicated to maintaining the server, and he is retiring. Now, we don’t have to worry about that,” says Dave Schwarz, Accountant. “It’s a huge cost and time savings and better supports our team members who work remotely.”



By streamlining financial operations with Sage Intacct, CACSCW's finance team spends less time on manual tasks and more time on strategic tasks and long-term planning that benefit the organization and the communities it serves.

More visibility, more empowerment

Using Sage Intacct, financial visibility is no longer a bottleneck—it's a strategic advantage. Program leaders can now access real-time insights instead of waiting weeks for reports, allowing them to allocate funds where they're needed most—when they're needed most. Previously, finance staff spent valuable time answering routine budget and purchasing questions. Now, employees can access real-time financial data on their own through Sage Intacct dashboards and reporting tools.

"Staff now have direct access to GL reports and financial statements for their programs, which is a major shift in our culture," Tim explains. "They can see what's been spent, what's left, and even track purchase requests from approval to payment. That level of transparency empowers them to make informed decisions and stay accountable to our mission."

The organization has also enhanced its purchasing processes. Previously, staff initiated purchase requests in Salesforce, but the finance team then had to manually duplicate them in the accounting system. Now, with Sage Intacct, the entire workflow—from request to payment—is centralized in one place. Employees can submit purchase requests, track approvals, and monitor payments seamlessly, reducing unnecessary back-and-forth communication.

"It's a game changer," Dave notes. "Staff can see the full process in real-time instead of constantly asking where things stand."

Building trust with improved financial oversight

As CACSCW continues to expand, maintaining strong financial controls is crucial. Sage Intacct role-based security and customizable workflows ensure proper oversight while maintaining efficiency. The finance team reinforces a clear separation of duties, with defined access levels for different roles.

"Sage Intacct has given us the flexibility to create security settings that align with best practices," says Tim. "Our AP specialist has more limited access, while the rest of our finance team can manage approvals and reporting. It keeps everything structured while allowing us to be agile."

Another major improvement is in bank reconciliations. Before Sage Intacct, reconciliations were done manually at the end of the month, taking an entire day to complete. Now, with an active bank feed, transactions are reconciled daily, reducing workload and minimizing errors. "Bank reconciliations used to be a huge burden," Dave recalls. "Now, I stay on top of them every day. It's 1,000 times better."

Maximizing grant impact

Grant funding is the lifeblood of many nonprofit organizations, and for CACSCW, effectively managing these funds is crucial to sustaining and expanding their programs. With Sage Intacct, the organization now has the tools to track grants with precision, ensuring compliance with funding requirements while maximizing every dollar to better serve the community.



“Sage Intacct helps us focus on the mission instead of getting bogged down in manual processes. It’s a win for our team and the people we serve.”

Tim Prodell

Finance Director
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin

Previously, managing grant allocations was a time-consuming process, often requiring manual tracking and reconciliation across spreadsheets. Now, CACSCW can easily allocate revenue and expenses by funding source, monitor grant utilization in real time, and generate accurate reports for funders with just a few clicks.

“With Sage Intacct, we’re able to keep a much closer eye on grant budgets and spending,” says Tim. “That means we can stretch our resources further and demonstrate accountability to funders, making us even more competitive when applying for new grants.”

Preparing for tomorrow

Beyond improving day-to-day efficiencies, Sage Intacct is positioning CACSCW for long-term success. The organization is now better equipped to manage additional grants, track donor funding, and scale its operations without overburdening its finance team. Shortly, CACSCW plans to integrate Sage Intacct with Salesforce to further streamline donor communications and grant management.

“Sage Intacct isn’t just helping us today—it’s setting us up for the future,” Dave says. “We have ambitious goals, and with the right technology and partners in place, we can continue growing without compromising efficiency.”



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