

Cloud Applications at Wright County, Minnesota



Wright County is a rapidly growing county on the western edge of the Minneapolis suburbs. After years of utilizing an antiquated ERP platform necessitating manual processes, Wright County was in serious need of a technological refresh. In 2022, the County decided to make a change.

The County estimates that \$100,000 of annual “hard dollar” savings occurred as a result of the Oracle Cloud Application implementation along with 15 legacy applications being retired.

Prior to the implementation of Oracle Cloud ERP, the County operated in an environment of manual processing and disparate systems which did not communicate with one another. The main challenges it faced were:



Multiple systems of record resulting in the **duplication of data, complicated reconciliation, inconsistent answers to the same question, and an inability to make data-driven decisions.**

A computing platform that **lacked the characteristics of modern systems.**

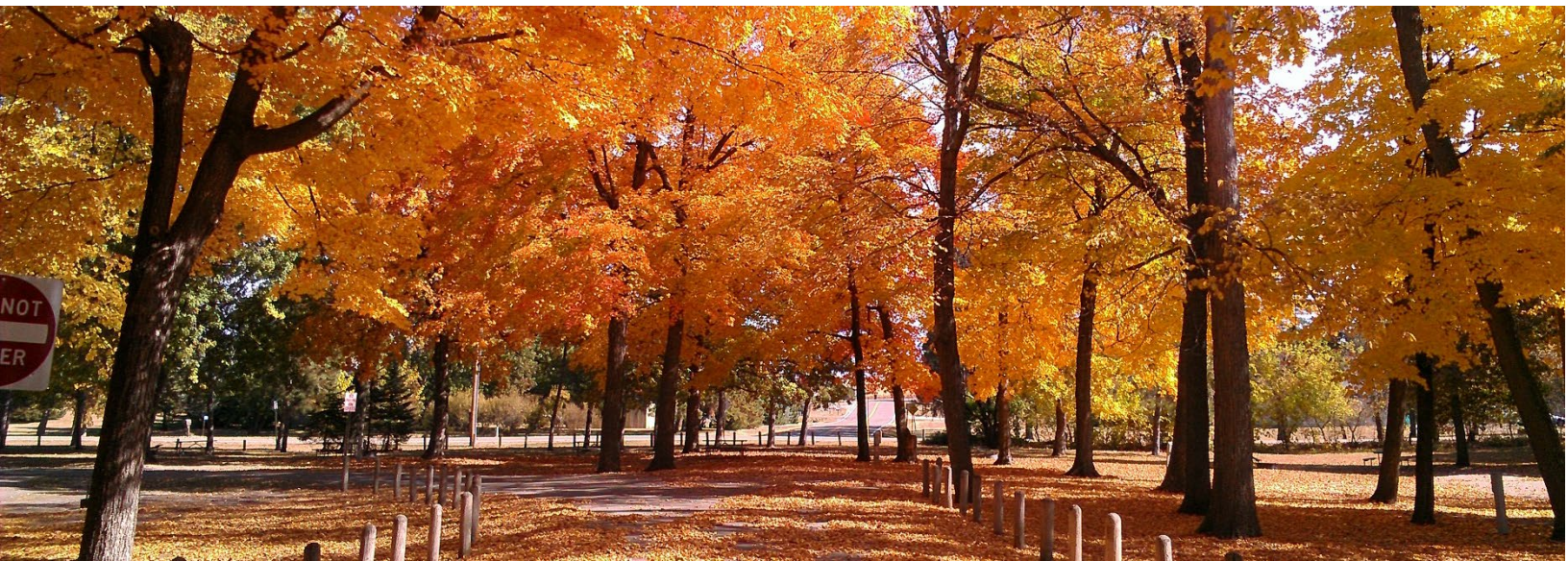
A **proliferation of insecure spreadsheets** in the County to compensate for the deficiencies in the County’s enterprise systems.

An environment rife with **redundant activity, siloed transactions, and bottlenecks.**

Enter in Oracle Cloud ERP and its modern user experience and streamlined processes built for government with efficiency, accuracy, and transparency. With Oracle Cloud Applications, local governments can connect better than ever with their citizens and employees while realizing innovation through comprehensive functionality and enabling technologies such as self-service, automated workflow, business intelligence, mobile computing, and

world-class security. The applications are deployed on a secure, cost-effective, and integrated infrastructure built for government by Oracle.

Sierra-Cedar's methodology closely aligned with the County's objectives of process improvement, improved access to information, and preparing the user community for the new system through communications and education.



Wright County selected Sierra-Cedar to be its implementation partner because of our Public Sector know-how and track record of successful outcomes with many other county governments.

The automation and process improvements delivered by Oracle Cloud Applications enable Wright County to meet current demands for its employees and its citizens while positioning the County for future growth and new initiatives.

The project scope included the deployment of General Ledger, Budgetary Control, Fixed Assets, Accounts Payable, Expenses, Projects & Grants, Billing, Receivables, Cash Management, and Procurement. The implementation launched in March 2022 and concluded in November 2022.

As a result of the implementation project, significant gains have been realized by the County.

Process Automation

- The User Experience has improved with an intuitive and modern look-and-feel. County employees are also able to transact anywhere, anytime, on any device. The powerful and interactive Business Intelligence platform provides decision makers with accurate, real-time information.
- The County replaced paper-based Purchasing transactions with a streamlined, online transaction flow supported by electronic workflow routing and approvals which saves time and provides a better audit trail.
- The paper-based processing for Procurement Cards has been replaced with automated accounting and workflow approvals which improves accuracy.
- Prior to Oracle Cloud ERP, the County monitored its budgets manually and reactively through paper reports. Now, the County has automated budgetary control that intervenes on transactions that go over the available funds, eliminating overspending and providing real-time guidance on County finances.
- The County previously administered separate ledgers to provide accrual basis and cash basis accounting. With Oracle Cloud ERP, the system automatically and concurrently maintains ledgers for both using Subledger Accounting functionality.
- Reconciliation of bank accounts was performed manually with bank statements but is now done automatically with data files received directly from the bank.

Increased Revenues and Better Controls

- The powerful and interactive Business Intelligence platform provides decision makers with accurate, real-time information.
- The County had multiple billing systems with varying departmental procedures to manage collections. Oracle Cloud ERP promotes standardized billing and collections across the County, resulting in increased revenues and better custody of public funds. In addition, there is now more professional correspondence with customers.
- Accounting for grants was previously done in spreadsheets with manual billing for reimbursements. Accounting for grant awards is now done in a purpose-built module with useful reporting with the ability to bill the grant awards up to their limit and achieve compliance with the conditions of the grant award. This increases revenue, saves time, and enables the County to link grant funding to outcomes.
- Application security privileges were previously hardcoded to individuals. With Oracle Cloud ERP, application security privileges and data privileges (by department chart of accounts segment) are assigned to roles, which reduces effort and provides better controls.

As a follow-up to the implementation, Sierra-Cedar provides the County with its “Optimization” services by helping the County adopt new functionality that is included in the quarterly software updates, providing additional training, and providing the County with any needed support.

Additionally, in January 2023, the County began the implementation of Oracle Cloud HCM and Budgeting with Sierra-Cedar, including the following scope: Personnel Administration, Health and Safety Incidents, Benefits Administration, Time Management, Absence Management, Payroll, Budgeting, Labor Planning, and Narrative Reporting.



“It’s been a privilege to work with Wright County on the Oracle Cloud ERP project, and I look forward to continuing our success on the Cloud HCM project. The County’s project team was so dedicated to the success of the implementation and embraced ‘best business practices’ all along the way. It’s great to see that all of the County’s objectives for the project have been met. The County should take great pride in what has been accomplished.”

Vinay Jathanna,
Sierra-Cedar’s Project Manager
at Wright County

About Wright County, Minnesota



Just a short drive to the Twin Cities and characterized by rolling landscapes, rivers, and lakes; Wright County provides an ideal location for its growing population of 140,000 residents. Wright County government aligns their service to the community with this vision, “The pursuit of an optimal quality of life. Education, opportunity, relaxation, and prosperity at your doorstep.” One way it acts on that vision is through a long history of setting aside the most scenic public spaces for year-round fun including parks, playgrounds, lake access, swimming beaches, campgrounds, and trails.

About Sierra-Cedar



Sierra-Cedar is an Oracle Partner specializing in the delivery of Oracle Cloud Application implementations. It is one of the largest consultancies focused on delivering implementation services to public sector clients, including states, cities, counties, school districts, public retirement agencies, and public transportation authorities. Over the past 27 years, Sierra-Cedar has delivered more than 2,500 Oracle ERP projects.

Please contact Sierra-Cedar to learn more about our service offerings at Contact@Sierra-Cedar.com or find us online at www.Sierra-Cedar.com.