# IMPROVE YOUR ACCOUNTING PROCESSES

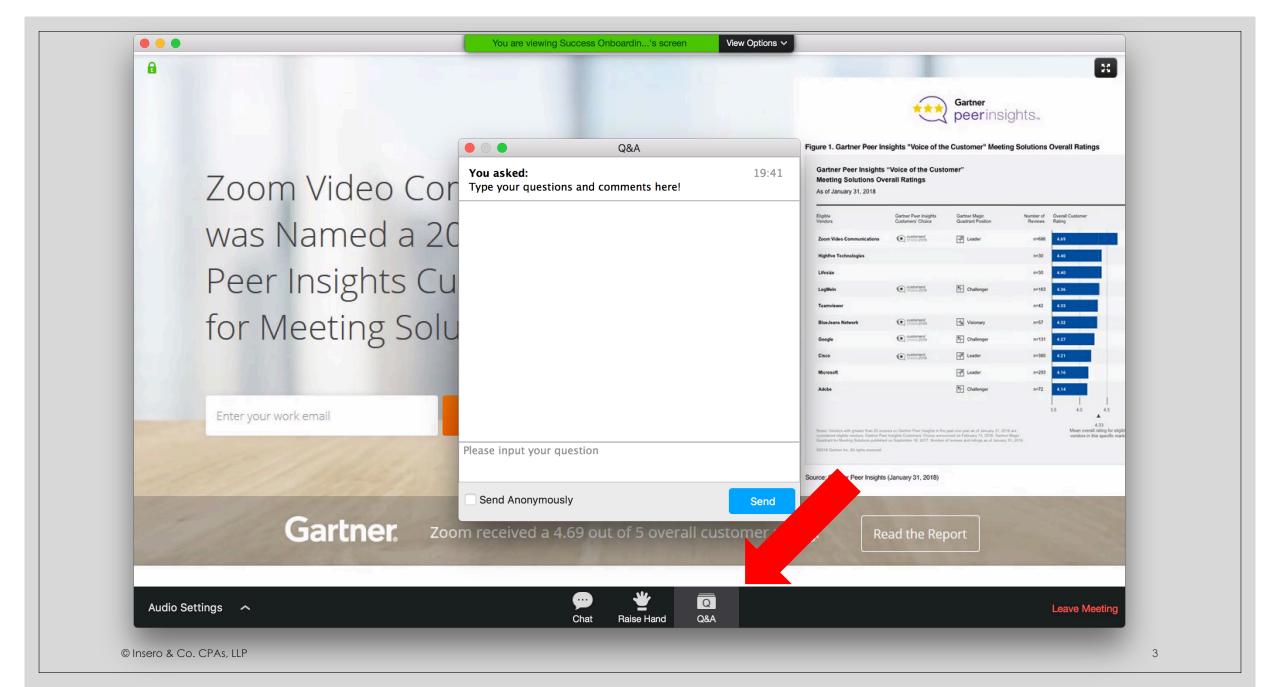
Presented by Trina Lang

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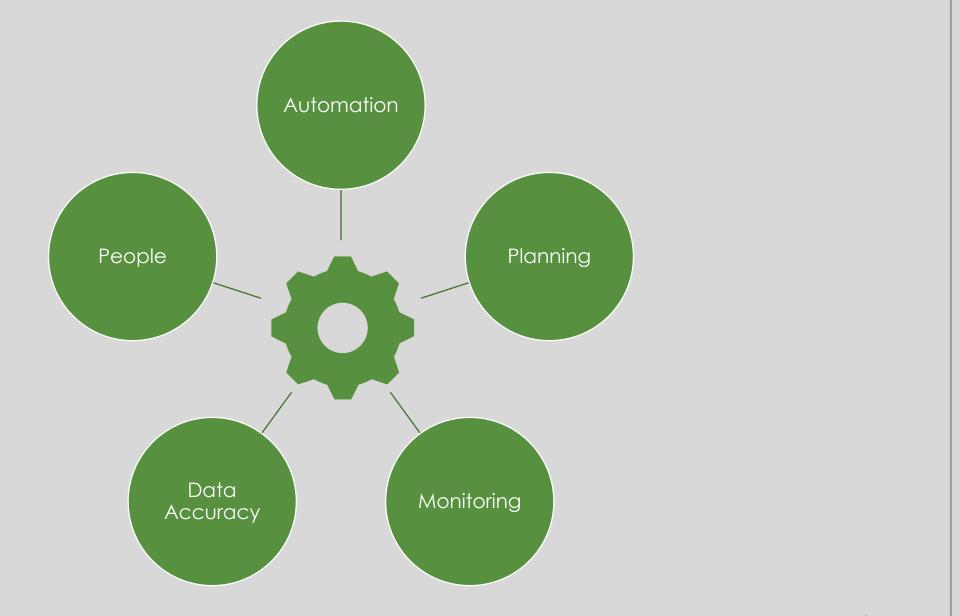
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### Presented By

Trina Lang Principal

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# PLANNING



#### Is there a plan?

Do people know what is expected of them?

Is there a calendar of key dates?

Is there a schedule of daily, weekly and monthly processes?

- Document daily, weekly and monthly processes
- > Assign standard completion dates
- > One calendar with external due dates
- > Who's responsible?

### The BIG PICTURE



- Dashboard
- Vendor and customer information
- Standardize the close process
- Don't wait until month end

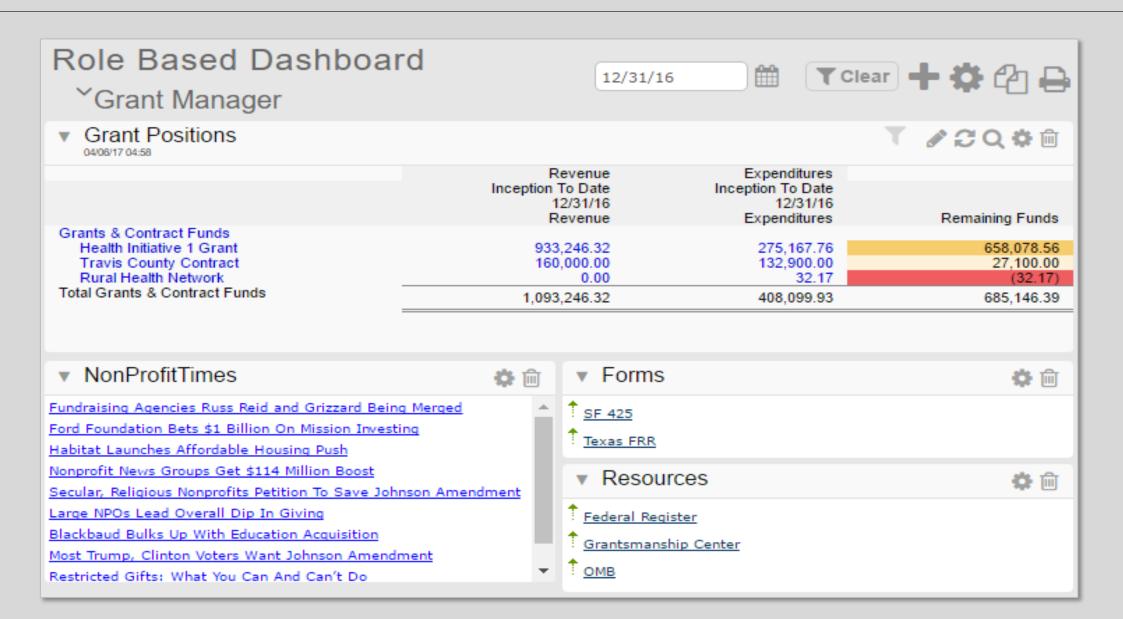




- > Delivery of information
  - > Know your audience
  - > What's key to communicate
  - What's the best platform
  - > What's the occurrence

- > Budget
  - > Always have one
  - > P&L, Balance Sheet and related CF
  - > Breakdown by month
  - > Review at least monthly

- > Grant reporting
  - > Create summary document
  - Identify Employees/payroll coding
  - > Summary of grant highlights



# MONITORING



# Are goals shared?

Does everyone know what's important?

Does everyone know your deadlines?

Does everyone know where you are at?



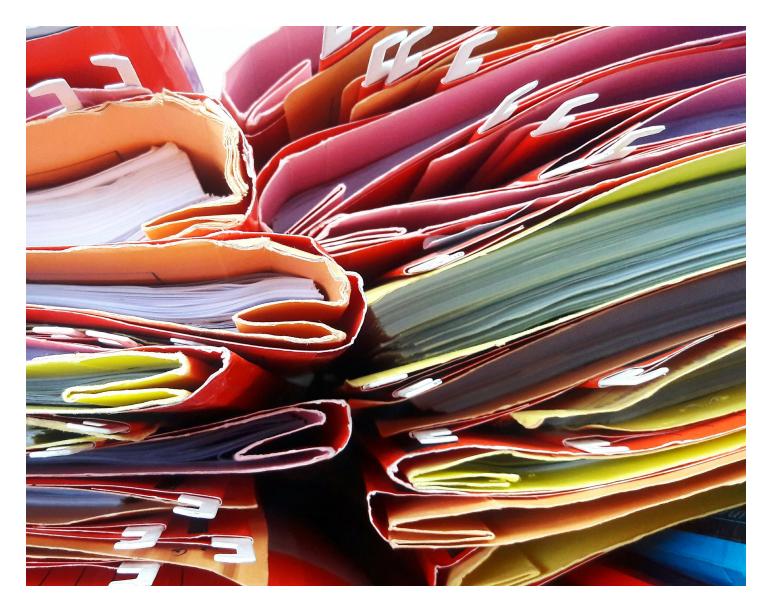
- > Monitor key metrics
- > Payment trends
- Include both financial and operational staff

- > Monitor financial results
- > Are you on budget?
- > Review actual to budget each month
- > Evaluate variances
- > Reforecast

- > Monitor Balance Sheet budgets
  - Compare cash on hand to budgeted cash
  - Weekly cash flow tool to manage short term
  - Are other Balance Sheet accounts in line with budget? If not, why?

- > Monitor grant budgets and activities
- Calendar of reporting deadlines
- > Schedule for completion
- > Assignment of staff
- > Date due
- > Shared drive for all to view

# AUTOMATION



# Are you utilizing technology?

Are you still relying on paper files?

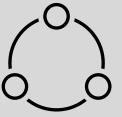
Do you store all your critical information on a secure platform that is accessible by key team members?

Do you know where to find information if it's being stored electronically?

- > Can information easily be shared?
- ➤ Ensure there is an organized method to how you store information.
- ➤ How much of your information is done manually/off-line from accounting?

- Develop and document processes addressing standard procedures
- Don't get hung up on trying to develop a process to account for all the variables

- > Start by creating a process workflow
- > What are the steps
- > Who's responsible for each step
- > Work together



- > Accounting system
  - Does it allow you to automate your processes?
  - ➤ Is it cloud based?
  - > Is it secure?



**Ω** 

- What are the critical functions?
- > What do you do daily?
- What involves multiple layers?
- Where do you waste the most time?



- > 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications
  - > Bill payment
  - > Managing expense reports
  - > Donor management
  - > Payment processing

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- > Link to bank
  - > Reconciliations
  - > Download activity
  - > Remote deposit
  - > Set up auto payments
- > Auto generated payroll journal entry



- > Pick a process improvement
- Collaborate with your back-up and supervisor
- > Map out the transition
- > Pick a date
- > Execute

# DATA ACCURACY



# Do your numbers line up?

How often do you have mis-postings?

Are multiple GL accounts used for the same expenses?

How much clean up is done at month end?

# Data Accuracy

- Establish GL defaults for vendors
- > Inactivate codes
- Provide up-to-date Chart of Accounts (with examples)



# Data Accuracy

- > Minimize using manual processes
- Enter information in the system based on needed output
- > Review A/R and A/P postings weekly
- Review monthly GL postings prior to month end

# Data Accuracy

- > Compare actual to budget
  - > Look for variances
- Reconcile Balance Sheet accounts monthly using standard workpaper



# PEOPLE



#### Are you a team?

Are all team members working toward the same goals?

Do you and your coworkers support each other?

Are you an island?

### Communicate



# People

- > Clarify each role
- > Outline job duties
- > Provide training
- > Process documentation
- > Identify and train back-up



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# What's your role?



### People

- > Hold people accountable
- Set aside time with your co-workers and supervisor on ways to streamline processes
- > Be open to suggestions
- > Embrace change

# THANK YOU

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