



EXPRESS Implementation Approach for the Oracle Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service



Oracle's Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service

“Provide More for Less” has become a universal directive for Public Sector agencies. In response, these agencies frequently make critical decisions about how to best allocate their scarce resources. These decisions require accurate, timely, and clear information presented in an agile, easy-to-use interface. Oracle's Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service (PBCS) empowers users to flexibly and efficiently perform planning, budgeting, forecasting, and narrative reporting in a Cloud-based deployment model. By deploying Hyperion Planning in the Cloud, Oracle has significantly lowered the total cost of ownership for Hyperion—the market leader in planning and budgeting for 20+ years—and has simplified the ownership experience. Since Oracle professionally manages and updates the application via an elastic, user-based subscription service, very little IT support is required, placing the “ownership of the application” in the rightful hands of the user community.

Gone are the days of ineffective budgeting tools, reliant on a myriad of offline spreadsheets and “shadow systems,” causing data to be reentered repeatedly in order to analyze budget proposals, budget versions, and budget books and schedules. Instead, PBCS provides market-leading budgeting, planning, and narrative reporting functionality, supported by integration with financial and human resource systems and driven by flexible workflow to streamline the process. Business intelligence, mobile computing, and robust budget book and reporting integration with the Microsoft Office suite (Excel, Outlook, Word, and PowerPoint) are delivered out of the box, and all of this is secured and managed by Oracle.

Sierra-Cedar did a fantastic job on this project, helping us define the requirements, design the solution, and build the solution for us. The consultants that they brought in were brilliant. They were knowledgeable and had the required Public Sector experience to meet our complex requirements. They went above and beyond to help and patiently address the needs of our users.

Vijay Badal
Oracle Applications Manager
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Sierra-Cedar's EXPRESS Implementation Approach for Public Sector

As an Oracle Platinum Partner committed to delivering high-value solutions for our Public Sector clients, Sierra-Cedar has developed the EXPRESS approach for implementing PBCS to meet the unique requirements of local governments, state governments, school districts, and public transportation agencies. This approach enables us to implement PBCS in a shorter timeframe with higher quality, which results in quicker time-to-benefit at a lower cost. EXPRESS is powered by a toolbox of implementation accelerators, including prebuilt configurations, prebuilt technical objects, prebuilt report packages, and project documentation templates that have been compiled from our experience delivering more than 300 Hyperion planning and budgeting projects over the past 20 years. This catalog of implementation accelerators includes preconfigured dimensions, web forms, calculations, task list items, report doclets, prebuilt integration for financials and human resources, tailorable test scripts and training materials, and prebuilt reports and dashboards.

Since the Cloud subscription provides the PBCS instance to the project team on day one, our seasoned Public Sector Planning and Budgeting consultants are able to immediately hit the ground running. We begin the implementation with a series of familiarization workshops that inform our client's project team about features, functions, and configuration options that exist within PBCS. We then begin designing the application through interactive prototyping, modifying our prebuilt Public Sector PBCS instance to effectively meet our

client's requirements and streamline their budgeting and reporting processes along with the associated workflows. Testing is performed using our library of existing test scripts and supplemented by unique test scripts for each client. Finally, training is delivered to the user community to instruct them about how to operate the new application and how they can use the new application to more effectively perform their roles. The training covers each end-to-end process flow and is tailored for each role (the budget director, budget analysts, the managers who prepare departmental budgets, etc.). The objective upon completion is a powerful, intuitive application that provides the features and functions to develop and control the operating budget and capital budget, produce the budget book, and perform personnel cost planning in a manner that suits each client's unique requirements.

Our EXPRESS implementation approach is powered by a toolkit of implementation accelerators and a preconfigured Public Sector instance that have been developed exclusively for Public Sector clients. As a result, relevant and necessary Public Sector budgeting functionality is woven throughout the solution's DNA. This creates a compelling value proposition—the EXPRESS implementation approach typically reduces the effort, timeline, and cost of implementing PBCS by 20% or more! This is how Sierra-Cedar "Provides More for Less" and enables our clients to do the same for their constituents and communities

Explore EXPRESS!

To learn more about Oracle's Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service and our EXPRESS implementation approach for Public Sector, please sign up for a complimentary two-hour "Explore EXPRESS" workshop. This informative workshop will include a demonstration of the solution, details about the implementation approach, Public Sector case studies, and an implementation cost estimate. Please note that the workshop can be conducted in person or via a web conference. To schedule the Explore EXPRESS workshop, please contact Brian Christenson at 720.838.4260 or Brian.Christenson@Sierra-Cedar.com.

