

# GRAVITY



## CASE STUDY

# City of Claremont Cuts Budget Development Time in Half

How Gravity helped a 35-year GFOA award winner modernize their process and pursue the Triple Crown

### THE CHALLENGE

The City of Claremont’s finance team faced a grueling annual ritual. Building their 300-page budget book meant months of tedious manual assembly, with Excel and Word files that never quite stayed in sync.

- **Laborious production cycle.** Converting spreadsheets and documents into a comprehensive PDF demanded intensive effort across multiple months
- **Constant revision headaches.** Each adjustment required combing through the entire document again, multiplying the chances for mistakes
- **Stretched timeline.** Budget development consumed December through May – nearly half the year lost to production mechanics
- **Data synchronization breakdown.** Staff had to manually replicate every update across separate files



“Unless you have specialized technical skills, you’re doing all of the updating manually by copying and pasting. It was becoming overwhelming.”

Jeremy Starkey, Finance Director, City of Claremont

### THE SOLUTION

The City adopted Gravity to transform their scattered spreadsheet workflow into an integrated, automated platform. The system provided:

KEY IMPACT AREA	SOLUTION
Unified data management	Changes propagate throughout the budget book automatically
Department-specific permissions	Role-based access lets teams concentrate on their assigned work
Simultaneous editing	Staff collaborate in real-time without file locking issues
Instant review capability	Check revisions immediately without generating full drafts

## THE RESULTS

The City of Claremont shortened budget development from five months to three months – cutting their cycle time in half during their inaugural year with Gravity.

Drawing on extensive municipal finance experience, Starkey recognized the opportunity to accelerate their schedule. The Gravity platform provided the assurance needed to execute that vision. This newfound efficiency created capacity for higher-priority initiatives, helping the City continue their remarkable 30–35 year run of GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards – and apply for the GFOA Triple Crown for the first time.

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE



### 50% cycle reduction

Three-month timeline vs. five-month process



### No more version confusion

Eliminated tracking 30 separate document iterations



### Live data availability

Immediate file exports for budgeting discussions



### Enhanced team capabilities

Accounting personnel assumed expanded responsibilities



### Triple Crown application

Efficiency unlocked pursuit of all three GFOA recognitions



### Stress reduction

Contemporary technology decreased team pressure

## WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

### • User-friendly interface

“The software from a user perspective is straightforward, not overly complicated,” Starkey explains. Staff could leverage the system effectively without advanced technical backgrounds.

### • Continuous improvement

When Claremont shared candid feedback about enhancement opportunities, they observed their recommendations implemented within months – including improved video resources aligned with how team members prefer learning.

### • Dedicated assistance

Rapid issue resolution through premium support kept the team progressing smoothly throughout budget season.

### • Stable relationships

Interacting with familiar customer success representatives year after year provided confidence and continuity – eliminating repeated explanations of context and needs.

*“Gravity takes away the anxiety and pressure of using a lesser tool. By allowing our team to simultaneously work together, it made us more collaborative.”*

– Jeremy Starkey, Finance Director, City of Claremont