

One line, two dimensions

Rebuilding MDHI's grant accounting when QuickBooks Online allows one

Metro Denver Homeless Initiative tagged transaction lines in Sage Intacct with both a grant and a functional-expense department. QuickBooks Online Advanced allows one line-level dimension on regular transactions. Here is how SaaS Direct made one dimension carry both, and moved MDHI off Intacct on a fixed renewal date.

37 days

from first call to final data load

2 in 1

grant and department carried by one line-level class

2,808

source files linked to their transactions in QBO

3 days

early: final load July 3 against a July 6 plan

THE CHALLENGE

MDHI leads the Continuum of Care for seven Metro Denver counties, and it runs on grants. The finance team tracks each grant individually: money received, money spent and balance remaining. The client's own brief was short: they suspected Intacct had too many dimensions set up, and they needed to budget and report by grant.

In Intacct, transaction lines carried two tags: the grant, and a functional-expense department (Management & General, Programs or Fundraising) that feeds the nonprofit's Form 990 reporting. The Intacct renewal date was July 1.

The specific problem

QuickBooks Online allows one line-level dimension on bills and invoices: Class. Location, the obvious home for departments and the original plan, is set once for the whole transaction. It can be set per line only on journal entries. Two line-level tags had to become one, without losing the grant report or the functional-expense report.

STARTING POSITION

FROM

Sage Intacct

- Single entity; GL, AR and AP
- Grant and department tagged at line level
- 214 grants across 7 grant types
- 996 vendors, 395 customers
- Fixed renewal date: July 1, 2026

TO

QuickBooks Online Advanced

- Hierarchical classes: department > grant
- Budget and report by grant through Class
- Functional-expense view preserved
- Source documents attached to transactions
- Vendor ACH details on vendor records

THE SOLUTION

Departments became parent classes and every grant was nested beneath its department: unrestricted grants under Management & General, all other grants under Programs, and Fundraising kept as a parent class. Each grant's class code joins grant ID and grant name, so the same grant in different years stays distinct.

Management & General

Unrestricted grants

Programs

Grant ID + grant name

Grant ID + grant name

One class per grant

Fundraising

Parent class, no transactions mapped

One line-level Class now answers both questions: which grant, and which functional-expense bucket.

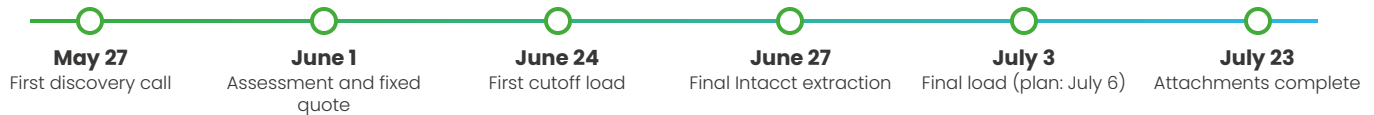
VALIDATION

Each load was validated source to target: opening trial balance, balance sheet and income statement at each fiscal year-end, and AR and AP agings. The final load added agings at the June 26, 2026 cutoff and a Statement of Activity by Class. Transactions with no class in Intacct were assigned their department's parent class and listed in an exceptions file for the client. MDHI's accounting firm ran its own report-to-report comparison in parallel.

RESULT

MDHI's last working day in Intacct was June 26, and the final extraction ran June 27, ahead of the July 1 renewal date. The final load arrived July 3, three days ahead of plan. Attachment linking, scheduled to run past go-live, finished July 23. By mid-July the team was working day to day in QuickBooks Online.

TIMELINE



WHAT WENT WRONG, AND HOW WE HANDLED IT

The department gap surfaced late.

The client's reviewers found it, comparing Intacct and QBO reports after the first cutoff load. We traced it to the line-level limit and put two options in writing on June 29; the client chose one the same day. The delivery date held.

A mapping error in the first load.

Grant classes pulled Intacct record numbers instead of grant IDs. Root cause found June 26 and fixed during the freeze week, before the final load.

Vendor ACH details did not come across.

The client had bills to pay. We populated 77 vendor records four days after the report, and the client confirmed the data was in place.

A verbal requirement was missed.

A scoping instruction given on a June call never reached the written specification. It caused rework and confusion on both sides.

ENGAGEMENT MODEL

Paid complexity assessment, then a fixed-fee quote. Milestone billing tied to client approval of the extraction package and of the QBO test environment. A scope addition after the quote was invoiced separately rather than folded in.

Running grants and functional expenses in Sage Intacct?

Talk to us before your renewal date, and bring your list of dimensions. That is where this kind of migration is won or lost.

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