

Benefiting from Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

- **Set goals.** Know what you're trying to accomplish before you develop a plan for your consumers.
- **Evaluate CRM solutions.** Consider past CRM solution successes and consult with people in your industry to see if one is better than another.
- Keep your current applications in mind. Determine if the CRM system you are considering will integrate with your accounting and e-mail applications.
- Consult a trusted advisor. They will help you match CRM technology with your goals and budget.
- Only select features that you need. Keep your CRM system functional and simple.
- Find a customizable system. This will allow the system to line up with your needs and be altered down the road if needed.
- Champion your program. As a program leader you need to be involved from start to finish, maintaining buy-in from everyone who uses CRM.
- Clean up all of your data. Doing this prior to inputting into your CRM solution will keep it organized and working as intended.
- Map out how you will measure success. Use benchmarks to help you use and adapt your system.
- 10 Review the value and benefits of the system. Consider whether the system is successful or unfulfilled. Make improvements to the program and keep it valuable to your business and customers.

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