Creating a Logic Model to Know How the Program Works

Creating a logic model (or a theory of change) is an important first step to building an evidence base. A logic model is a map or flow chart that details how activities help the program achieve its short-term and long-term goals. A logic model answers the question, "How does the program work?" Logic models can vary in their level of detail and complexity, but they all share the benefit of serving as a powerful image that conveys the importance of the program for the target population and the community. Below is an example of a basic logic model.

LOGIC MODEL EXAMPLE: PARENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Inputs
(Resources Needed):

- Group facilitator, instructor, curriculum, parent handbook, meeting space, childcare staff, transportation for families, food, supplies, and equipment

Activities
(Services, What You Do):

- Targeted parents attend
- Deliver series of interactive skill building sessions and support groups
- Provide childcare

Outputs
(Products, Participants):

- 25 families will receive 10 two-hour parent education classes

Outcomes
(Benefits):

- Parents increase knowledge of child development
- Parents gain skills in effective parenting practices
- Improved child-parent relations

A logic model can also provide opportunities for identifying issues and engaging in quality improvement. By explicitly stating the relationship between the activities and outcomes, a logic model allows agencies to test assumptions (such as the number, type, and duration of activities) and determine the overall effectiveness of the program. To learn more about evaluating program effectiveness, read *Conducting Program Evaluations* below. A logic model is needed prior to evaluating the program in order to determine if the program is actually true to the original plan and if the outcomes can be measured.

RESOURCES ON LOGIC MODELS:

1. **What is a Logic Model?** (FRIENDS National Center) - resources to guide you in preparing your own logic model, including templates, examples, and searchable databases of outcomes, indicators, and measurement tools (www.friendsnrc.org/evaluation/logic-models/)
2. **W. K. Kellogg Foundation Logic Model Development Guide** -focuses on the development and use of the program logic model (https://wkkf.issuelab.org/resource/logic-model-development-guide.html)
3. **Developing a Logic Model** (James Bell Associates) – outlines the components of a logic model and data collection plan and provides examples (https://www.jbassoc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Developing-Logic-Model.pdf)

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