



Logic Models

The Logic Model provides an effective method for charting progress from initial and short-term outcomes toward intermediate and long-term outcomes. A Logic Model focuses on identifying the logical links between the outcomes you desire, your program assumptions or theories, and your program strategies or services. As you work through each step, you will build a road map showing how your program works.

Developing a Logic Model will help clarify your thinking about the programs and services in terms of how they are intended to work and what may need fine-tuning to make them more effective in producing positive results for families. This model uses a step by step process:

- Define the outcomes you choose to be accountable for. You will ask yourself: What changes do we believe will occur in participants' lives as a result of our program?
- Help you to identify the specific characteristics and aspiration/needs of the participants you will be targeting. You will examine: Is the reality of participants' lives and hopes reflected in the proposed changes?
- Show the relationship between the outcomes you want and the services and strategies you think will achieve them. You will ask: What must we do to achieve the intended results?
- Help you examine the underlying assumptions about families and human development and change that are the theories your programs have been operating from. You will examine: How do our beliefs or theories affect the choices we make in providing the services that lead to or result in the intended outcomes?
- Help you link your service strategies to research that shows that this program is effective in promoting the expected change. What research exists that can tell us which program approaches and activities are most effective in producing this particular result with this target population?
- Find the appropriate tools to measure the outcomes. How will we know that we have achieved the results that we set out to achieve? What will the results look like? What appropriate standardized measures are available? Are we already collecting information

that will tell us? What are the tools that will measure this outcome that are also appropriate for the target population and our setting?

- Set the stage for implementation of a plan to manage the data collection and analysis process. You will ask: What kind of filing and data entry system do we need? How much change can we expect, and do we need special statistical skills to analyze our data?
- The elements of a Logic Model will become clearer as you go through the logic model building process. Although it is laid out in a step by step fashion, you will find the need to “loop back” to make sure decisions made in later steps still match choices you made earlier in the process.