Logic Models: Laying the Groundwork for a Comprehensive Evaluation
Office of Special Education Programs

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Logic Models

They really are important.
What is a Logic Model?

• A road map to describe the sequence of related events connecting the activities of the program with the desired results.
• A simplified picture of a program, initiative, or intervention.
• Shows logical relationships among the resources that are invested, the activities that take place, and the benefits or changes that result. (This is often called program theory or the program’s theory of action)
• It is a “plausible, sensible model of how a program is supposed to work” (Bickman, 1987).
Logic Models: Position Program for Success

• Program Design and Planning
  – Planning tool
  – Examine best practice research

• Program Implementation
  – Core of a focused management plan
  – Monitor and improve programming

• Program Evaluation and Strategic Reporting
  – Inform progress toward goals
  – Advocate for program approach
  – Teach program stakeholders
**Inputs** - the resources invested that allow us to achieve the desired outputs.

**Outputs** - activities conducted or products created that reach targeted participants or populations. Outputs lead to outcomes.

**Outcomes** - changes or benefits for individuals, families, groups, businesses, organizations, and communities.
Logic Model Components

INPUTS

What we invest
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Time
- Money
- Research base
- Material
- Equipment
- Technology
- Partners
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ACTIVITIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>PARTICIPATION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Train, teach</td>
<td>• Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Deliver services</td>
<td>• Clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop products and resources</td>
<td>• Customers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Network with others</td>
<td>• Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Build partnerships</td>
<td>• Decision makers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assess</td>
<td>• Policy makers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Facilitate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Work with the media</td>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
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<td>...</td>
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</table>
## Outcomes

What results for individuals, families, communities...

### Short

**Learning**

- Changes in
  - Awareness
  - Knowledge
  - Attitudes
  - Skills
  - Opinion
  - Aspirations
  - Motivation
  - Behavioral intent

### Medium

**Action**

- Changes in
  - Behavior
  - Decision-making
  - Policies
  - Social action

### Long-Term

**Conditions**

- Changes in
  - Conditions
  - Social (well-being)
  - Health
  - Economic
  - Civic
  - Environmental

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Chain of Outcomes
Development of Logic Model

- Determine purpose of logic model
  - Who will use it? For what?
- Involve others
- Set boundaries for logic model
  - Level of specificity
- Understand situation
- Explore research, knowledge base, what others are doing/have done
Things to consider about your program...

- What IS your program?
- What does your program do?
- Who is served?
- How do they benefit?
- How would you know that your program is a success?
Sample Logic Model
(Parent Centers)

**INPUTS**
- Program Investments
  - Staff
  - Volunteers
  - Money
  - Time
  - Materials
  - Technology
  - Partners

**OUTPUTS**
- Activities
  - Parent training workshops
  - Parenting information disseminated to parents
  - Responsible parenting presentations

- Participation
  - Parent training & Information Centers
  - Community
  - Parent Resource Centers
  - Parent Organizations

**OUTCOMES**
- Short Term
  - Increased parent knowledge
- Long Term
  - Improved results for children with disabilities

**Project Objectives**
- Process Measures
- Outcome Measures
Sample Personnel Development Program - Logic Model

A blueprint to enhance understanding of the Program

**Goal:** To improve results for children with disabilities and their families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INPUTS</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Investments</strong></td>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Staff</td>
<td>Train personnel</td>
<td>Increased supply of fully qualified personnel* with awareness and knowledge of EBP &amp; best practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Build models and networks for collaboration</td>
<td>Increased placement of fully qualified personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence-Based &amp; Best Practices</td>
<td>Develop and disseminate resources</td>
<td>Improved personnel development infrastructures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increased retention of fully qualified personnel in workforce—schools &amp; programs, educational &amp; lead agencies, &amp; IHEs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program &amp; Grants Policy</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
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*Fully Qualified = Highly Qualified for special education teacher; Qualified for paraprofessional/aide; Fully Certified for administrator/coordinator, for related or supportive services in a school setting, or for teacher, related services, or supportive services in early intervention, early childhood.*
Sample Technical Assistance & Dissemination Program Logic Model

Goal: Improved Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and their Families
Logic Model Exercise

Inputs

Program Investments

Outputs

Activities
Participation

Outcomes

Short Term
Intermediate
Long Term

Project Objectives

Process Measures
Outcome Measures
Developing a Logic Model:
(Articulate the desired long-term outcomes and work backwards)
Activity

• Start to sketch out a logic model for your project.