Resource: **Logic Models**

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What is a Logic Model?

- A program logic model is a description of how the program theoretically works to achieve benefits for participants.

- It is the "If-Then" sequence of changes that the program intends to set in motion through its inputs, activities, and outputs.

- Logic models are a useful framework for examining outcomes.

- They help you think through the steps of participants' progress and develop a realistic picture of what your program can expect to accomplish for participants or members.

- They also help you identify the key program components that must be tracked to assess the program's effectiveness.

Why Develop Logic Models?

Logic models are useful for all parties involved in an initiative—the initiating organization's board members and top administrators, initiative leaders and staff, participating organizations, partners, evaluators, and others seeking to understand the work.

Logic models:

- Convey the fundamental purpose of an initiative.

- Show why the initiative is important.

- Show what will result from an initiative.

- Depict the actions/causes expected to lead to the desired results.

- Become a common language and reference point for everyone involved in the initiative.

- Serve as the basis to determine whether planned actions are likely to lead to the desired results.

How are Logic Models Different from Action Plans?

Logic models are often confused with "action plans." While there are some overlaps, the difference is subtle, but very important.

An action plan is a manager's guide for running the project. It shows, often through a set of program objectives and a timeline or task outline, what staff or others need to do to implement a project (e.g., "hire outreach worker," "launch media campaign," "revise curricula").

A logic model illustrates the presumed effects of hiring an outreach worker, launching a media campaign, or using revised curricula. (For example, "trained outreach workers lead to more information about our mentoring program in a high-risk neighborhood; increased contacts with outreach workers leads to a greater proportion of hard-to-reach families coming in to sign up their young person for the mentoring program").