

## Logic Models

### What is a logic model?

According to the Kellogg Foundation (1998), a logic model is a picture of how a program works. Typically presented on a single sheet of paper, a logic model combines words and graphic devices to show clear connections between **needs, inputs, activities**, and desired **outcomes**.

### How are logic models used?

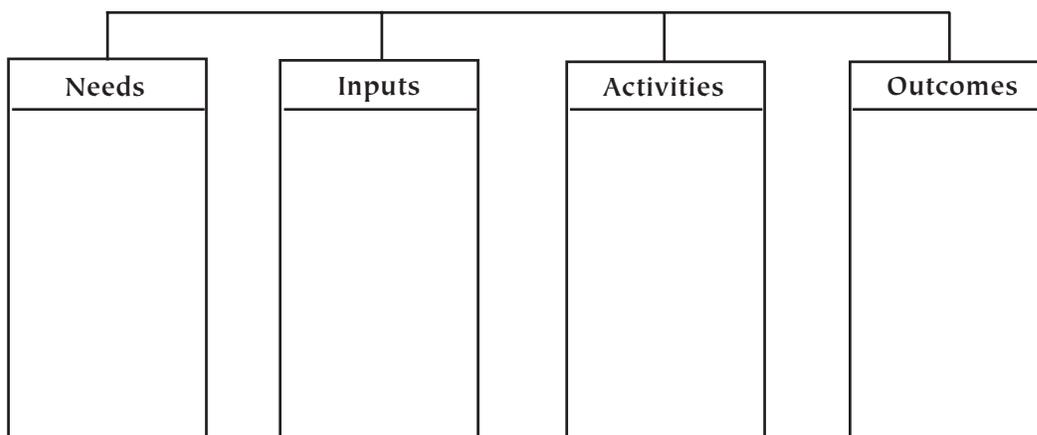
You can use a logic model during the early stages of planning a program to capture ideas and examine thinking. As planning progresses, having a logic model ensures that everyone sees the plan in the same way and that needs and inputs match outcomes and activities.

When you present your plan to internal or external audiences, a program logic model can help ensure that the audience understands the key elements of the plan and clearly sees what you are trying to accomplish.

As the plan is implemented, the program logic model can help in continually evaluating and monitoring the plan. During an evaluation of the program, a logic model will help an external evaluator identify the critical questions that should be asked, as well as communicate evaluation findings.

### What does a logic model look like?

The template below is a basic structure for a logic model. Items in each column should link clearly and logically to the contents of the columns that precede and follow. In other words, a logic should be interpreted as: "If we are to address these needs, then we should provide the following inputs. If those inputs are present, then we will be able to complete the following activities. If those activities are completed, then we will achieve the following short-term outcomes. If we achieve those short-term outcomes, then we will be closer to achieving the following intermediate and long-term outcomes."



**What are the basic components of a program logic model?**

Most program logic models include needs, inputs, activities, and outcomes:

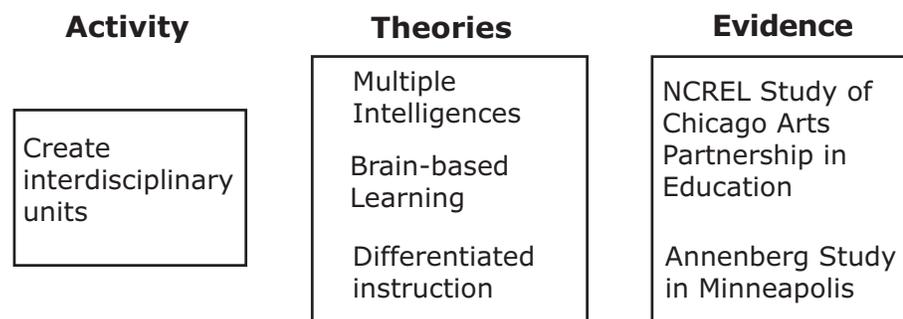
- ▶ **Needs** are gaps in services, obstacles to success, or areas of poor performance.
- ▶ **Inputs** are the most important resources that will be available to the program. Inputs can be funding sources, individuals, work groups, or organizations.
- ▶ **Activities** are the processes, strategies, interventions, or services to be performed through the program.
- ▶ **Outcomes** are results that the program activities are expected to produce. Some logic models include short- and long-term outcomes.

The needs, inputs, activities, and outcomes in a logic model must be logically connected. In other words, the activities match the available inputs, respond to the needs, and can produce the outcomes shown in the logic model.

**What are some additional logic model components and configurations?**

You can expand your logic model in a variety of ways by adding components that enhance the understanding of your plan or program. You may want to show columns of short-term, intermediate and long-term outcomes to convey the expected results over time. You may want to add spaces for public value statements that reveal how your work addresses citizens' interests and concerns. The Ohio Arts Council's basic logic model has spaces for public value statements running along the bottom of the logic model framework.

Another variation of the program logic model might show the program activities and outcomes with connections to their underlying theories or evidence from studies that suggests the outcomes will be achieved. For example:



**Resources**

Cicchinelli, L.F. and Barley, Z. (1999). *Evaluating for success*. Aurora, CO: Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory.

Frechtling, J. (2002). *The 2002 user friendly handbook for project evaluation*. National Science Foundation.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (2001). *Logic model development guide*. Battle Creek, MI: W.K. Kellogg Foundation.