

Logic Models

What is a logic model?

In simple terms, a **logic model provides a one-page, visual map to depict the activities of a program and ensure that they are logically connected to the desired outcomes.** In addition to showing the program components, a well-constructed logic model also illustrates the relationships between them. Depending on size and complexity, a logic model may depict an entire organization or just one program or program component.

Why and when should I use a logic model?

Logic models are useful for a number of reasons:

(1) They serve as a format for clarifying what the program hopes to achieve, and help new staff and partners understand the big picture of the program; (2) They can help set priorities among program activities, identifying which activities, and outcomes, should receive the most resources; (3) They are an effective way to monitor program activities; (4) They can be used for either performance measurement or evaluation; and (5) They help programs stay on track and plan for the future.

A logic model can be developed at any point in time: before a program begins, once implementation is underway, or after the program has been completed. It is especially useful to create a logic model in the program planning phase.

How should I develop a logic model?

One practical way to develop a logic model is to use a series of if-then questions. For example: *If we invest these resources, then what activities can we do? If we do these activities, then what outputs will we create? If we achieve these outputs, what will the outcome be?* Although many logic models are created from left-to-right (i.e., from inputs to outcomes), using reverse logic (i.e., creating the model from outcomes to inputs) can foster creative thinking. The most common format for logic models is a chart with rectangles, but the format can vary, such as a circular model or a flow chart. It is important to use a format that makes sense for the specific program and to the stakeholders involved. Logic models are not static documents, and they should be revised from time to time to adapt to new information and programmatic changes.

Generally, the process of developing a logic models involves multiple stakeholders (e.g., staff, funders, researchers, or community representatives). In this way, the logic model development process includes the perspectives of multiple stakeholders in creating a model that makes sense to all who will use it.

What is included in a logic model?

While logic model formats vary, common components of a logic model include these elements:

- **Problem Statement:** What problem does the program aim to address?

The 2016 Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) resource, [*Achieving Excellence: Model Standards for Serving Victims & Survivors of Crime \(Model Standards\)*](#), encourages programs to develop a logic model. "The logic model should serve as a basis for annual and long-range plans for fulfilling the program's objectives. It also provides a foundation for ongoing performance measurement and evaluation." Program standard 1.1 commentary.

- Goal Statement: What is the program hoping to achieve?
- Processes:
 - Inputs: What staffing, financial, collaboration, equipment, and other resources do we need to implement this program?
 - Activities: What actions are needed to achieve the goals or objectives?
 - Outputs: What are the concrete deliverables of the activities, such as the number of people served or trainings held?
- Outcomes:
 - Short-term outcomes: what are the immediate results, such as changes in knowledge or practice?
 - Intermediate-term outcomes: what should occur after achieving the short-term outcomes, such as changes in behavior or implementation of a new system?
 - Long-Term outcomes: what is the expected the ultimate change in a population or system? (Note: Some logic models also include an "Impacts" section, which reflect the aspirational, long-term aims of the program. In other logic models, Impacts are included in the Long-Term Outcomes instead.)
- Some logic models also include **Contextual or external factors** (e.g., laws or policies, socioeconomic influences) that impact a program's success; or **Assumptions**, which are what the developers assume to be true in order for a logic model to be realistic.

Additional Resources



The Community Tool Box from the University of Kansas offers a [detailed chapter on creating logic models](#), including [multiple examples](#).



The Innovation Network shares a [25-page workbook on developing logic models](#). Although it is a lengthy detail, it uses very easy-to-understand language and provides a step-by-step process for logic model creation, as well as offers both online (requiring free registration) and paper tools that organizations can use to build a logic model.



CYFAR, the Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk initiative offers an [online module to learn about logic models](#). This includes a brief (approximately 7-minute) overview video that may be especially useful for visual learners.

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Template

Additional templates and examples can be found in the CVR instrument collection, which can be searched from our Data Collection tools page.

Logic Model for _____

Problem the project seeks to address: _____

Project Goal(s): _____

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes
[List the key resources you need for program success, such as funding, staff, partnerships, etc.]	[List what you plan to DO, such as provide training, offer counseling, make referrals, provide safety planning.]	[The measures of your activities: products developed, trainings delivered, victims served, services provided, etc.]	[The immediate results of an activity, such as a change in knowledge or an action taken. These are often achievable within a year or two after the activity.]	[Outcomes that take a little longer to be achieved or become measurable, such as a change in behavior or implementation of a new system. These are often outcomes that take place two to three years after an activity.]	[The ultimate change in a population or system, such as a reduction in violence. These changes can take place three to five years after an activity, or even longer.]

Sample

Logic Model for: Supportive Assistance and Recovery Program for Victims of Armed Robbery
 Problem the project seeks to address: Victims of armed robbery do not have access to specialized supportive services, despite the risk of longterm harm from such offense.
 Project Goal(s): Provide responsive services that reduce the physical, mental, emotional and social harms of armed robbery and promote victim recovery through community-based program.

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term Outcomes	Intermediate Outcomes	Long-term Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for a victim assistant position • Victim assistant with training in trauma-informed response • Partnerships with law enforcement, prosecutor's office, victim compensation program, and the business community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop outreach materials and strategies • Identify area counselors who can address PTSD and related mental trauma from a violent offense • Create peer support system • Assist victims with victim compensation claims • Provide job and insurance advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of outreach materials distributed and outreach activities conducted • # & % victims receiving peer support • # & % victims connected to counseling • # & % victims receiving job advocacy • # & % victims receiving insurance advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim reports feeling supported • Victim aware of other sources of help • Victim's emergency financial needs are met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim better understands their trauma • Victim reports feeling empowered in their recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim prevails over the losses, injuries, and trauma of victimization