Fatherhood Research & Practice Network

www.frpn.org

Logic Models

What Is a Logic Model?

A logic model spells out:

- What you plan to do
- How you plan to do it
- What you think it will accomplish

It shows funders and interested parties, such as your community partners, that you have thought through your program and have a clear idea of what you plan to do and a clear idea about why it should produce the outcomes you are proposing. It can be considered a road map or blueprint that outlines how you expect your program will work.

A logic model can also be conceptualized as a sequence of "**If, Then**" statements.

For instance:

If:

This program has two teachers, and
This program uses an evidence-based fathering curriculum that has six sessions, and
This program uses incentives to bring fathers to the program (such as providing food),

Then:

Two sets of classes will be taught, and
24 fathers will be enrolled, and
The fathers will attend a minimum of four classes.

As a result:

The fathers will report spending more time with their children after program completion.
The fathers will report that they visit more regularly.
The fathers will report improvements in the parenting relationship.

A Logic Model will help you with:

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- Project planning, including collecting and allocating the needed resources (such as program funding)
- Project management and performance tracking
- Guiding evaluation activities

What Is Included in a Logic Model?

An effective logic model successfully links activities and effects. A logic model that does not provide sufficient detail may make it difficult for a reader to see the connection between program components. However, a logic model with too much detail may be confusing.

There are a variety of ways that logic models are drawn. Usually, they include **Inputs**, **Outputs**, and **Outcomes** (sometimes broken into short-term and longer-term outlines).

The **Inputs** box lists all resources a program requires for the functioning of the program. This might include staff persons, materials, equipment, volunteers, etc.

The second part of the logic model shows the expected **Outputs**. The *Outputs* section summarizes the direct products of the program: it describes what the program does and who the program reaches. This could include the number of participants served or the number of classes taught.

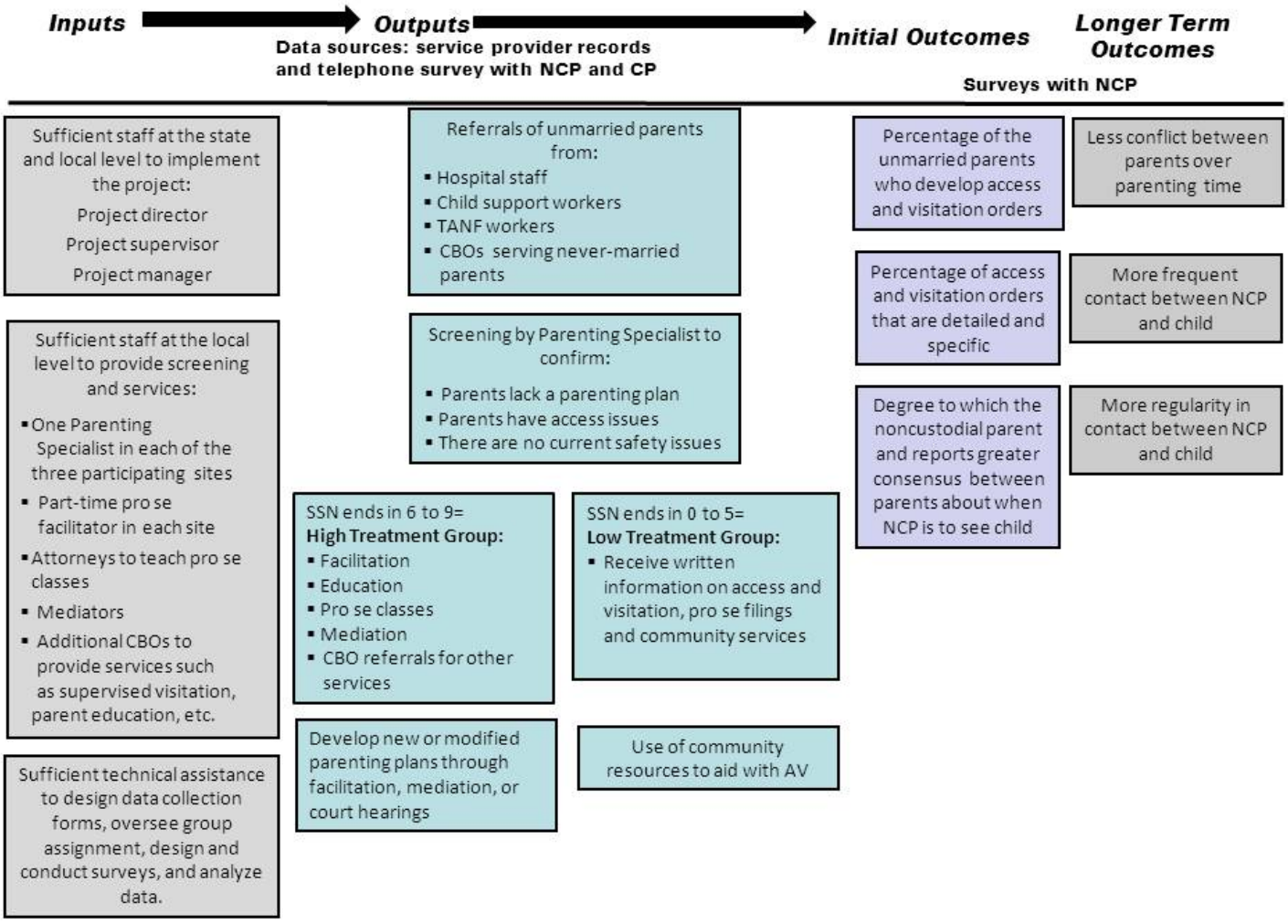
The **Outcomes** section focuses on measuring and accounting for changes in participants' knowledge, behavior, skills, or status. The overarching question programs attempt to answer in the *Outcomes* section is, "What difference will the program make?"

Finally, a logic model is considered a "living document" that one adapts to sometimes changing strategy of a program. As a program's strategy or format changes, so should the model.

Using the "If, Then" statements above, a simple logic model might look like this:

Inputs	Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Longer-Term Outcomes
Two trained teachers **An evidence-based curriculum** **Incentives for program participation** **(Spell out what will be provided)**	24 fathers enrolled over a six-month period Two cohorts created of 12 fathers each Each cohort provided six sessions Each participant completes a minimum of four sessions	At the end of the program, at least 80 percent of the fathers rate the program as helpful At least 80 percent say they learned new skills At least 80 percent feel that the program will help them do a better job of	Six months after the last class fathers will report • They are seeing their children more often • They are in contact with their children more regularly • They are doing a better job of co-parenting

The example below is an example of a more detailed logic model. It was created for a fatherhood program that was funded by a federal grant to the state child support agency. The state selected three counties to participate in the program. Rather than creating a control group, the child support agency compared two approaches to offering fathering services.



The High Treatment Group:

- Received classes on how to establish a parenting plan with the court without an attorney
- Facilitation and/or mediation to work out a parenting plan
- Referrals to other services as needed

The Low Treatment Group received written materials about resources in the community that might help with access and visitation problems. Fathers were free to use these resources but were given no assistance in accessing them, and service providers were unaware that the fathers were part of a fatherhood study.

What Are the Benefits to Developing and Using a Logic Model?

A logic model helps position programs for success. Programs that design and utilize logic models help define a common language and vision for the program while preventing mismatches between a program's activities and its effects. This helps ensure quality of programming and potentially improve program outcomes.

How do You Create a Logic Model?

There are different ways to develop a logic model. Some programs build a logic model by beginning with the program's inputs and sequentially moving onto outputs, and finally to outcomes. Other programs might take the reverse approach, starting with desired outcomes. Both approaches can yield an effective and organized logic model.

Logic Model Resources

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
Developing a Logic Model: A Road Map for Navigating the Future
https://www.fatherhood.gov/sites/default/files/files-for-pages/nrfc_logic_model.pdf

W. K. Kellogg Foundation
"Using Logic Models to Bring Together Planning, Evaluation, and Action"
Logic Model Development Guide
Updated January 2004
http://www.smartgivers.org/uploads/logicmodelguidepdf.pdf

The Logic Model Builder and Information Gateway Resources for Exploring the Research on Evidence-Based Practices
https://toolkit.childwelfare.gov/toolkit/ https://toolkit.childwelfare.gov/toolkit/

Logic Model Tip Sheet from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/prep-logic-model-ts.pdf

OFA Evaluation Resource Guide for Responsible Fatherhood Programs
http://www.jbassoc.com/reports/documents/rf_evaluation_final_v2-small.pdf