



## Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Definition of a Logic Model

A logic model is a systemic and visual way to present and share your understanding of the relationships among the resources you have to operate your program, the activities you plan, and the changes or results you hope to achieve. It shows the connection of interdependent parts that together make up the whole.

The most basic logic model is a picture of how you believe your program will work. It uses words and/or pictures to describe the sequence of activities thought to bring about change and how these activities are linked to the results the program is expected to achieve.

### Logic Model Components

1. **Inputs** include the human, financial, organizational, and community resources a program has available to direct toward doing the work. For example, inputs for a dental clinic may include the hours of staff time spent designing and delivering the program.

Inputs also include constraints on the program, such as laws, regulations, and requirements for receipt of funding.

2. **Activities** are what the program does with the inputs. Activities include the processes, tools, events, technology, and types of treatment that comprise the program's service methodology that are an intentional part of the program implementation. For instance, sheltering and feeding homeless families are program activities, as are training and counseling homeless adults to help them prepare for food and find jobs.
3. **Outputs** are the direct products of program activities and may include types, levels and targets of services to be delivered by the program. They are typically measured in terms of the volume of work accomplished—for example, the number of sealants applied, exams provided, educational materials distributed, and participants served. They are important because they are intended to lead to a desired benefit or change for the participants or target populations.
4. **Outcomes** are benefits or changes for individuals or populations during or after participating in program activities. They are influenced by a program's outputs. They are the specific changes in program participants' behavior, knowledge, skills, status and level of functioning. Short-term outcomes should be attainable within 1 to 3 years, while longer-term outcomes should be achievable within a 4 to 6 year timeframe.

## Logic Model Purpose and Practical Application

The purpose of a logic model is to provide stakeholders with a road map describing the sequence of related events connecting the need for the planned program with the program's desired results. Mapping a proposed program helps you visualize and understand how human and financial investments can contribute to achieving your intended program goals and can lead to program improvements.

A logic model brings concepts and dreams to life. It lets stakeholders explore an idea and apply theories to a model or picture of how the program would function.

### Questions Regarding Proposed Program Logic Model and Outcomes

Does the logic model:

- Include the activities and outcomes that are important?
- Make the appropriate connections between inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes?

Are the outcomes:

- Relevant to the mission/objectives of the program?
- Outcomes for which the program should be accountable?
  - Are they important to achieve if the program is to fulfill its mission or objectives?
  - Do they represent meaningful benefits or changes for participants?
  - Is it reasonable to believe the program can influence them in a non-trivial way, even though it can not control them?
- Clear in defining the intended scope of the program's influence?
- Useful to program managers in efforts to identify both points of success and problems the program can correct?
- Likely to be effective on communicating the benefits of what you do to your program's various publics?

### Indicators/Data Worksheet

A critical challenge in outcome measurement is deciding how specifically what information will indicate how well the program is doing regarding an outcome. This information is called the outcome indicator. The purpose of an indicator is to help you know whether an outcome has been achieved. Data source is where the data for the indicators will come from and data collection method is how the data will be obtained from the data source.

There is no single logic model that we require for the grant application. You may use whichever model you are most comfortable with that enables you to most fully describe your initial plans for the development of your community's mental health system of care for children. These are 2 resources that you might want to look at for background:

- There is a comprehensive list of logic model resources at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/eval/resources.htm#logic%20model>
- W. K. Kellogg Foundation offers a development guide in the use of logic models in bring together planning, evaluation, & action at:  
<http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/Tools/Evaluation/Pub3669.pdf>