

LOGIC MODEL COMPONENTS: DEFINITIONS

Even though programs are diverse, they all share common elements. Programs are developed in response to a situation. Programs have INPUTS, OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES. A logic model displays the relationships among these core elements and brings attention to underlying assumptions set within the program's environment of external factors.

SITUATION

The originating problem, or issue, set within a complex of sociopolitical, environmental and economic circumstances. The situation is the beginning point of logic model development.

INPUTS

What goes into the program: resources and contributions that are invested. Inputs include such elements as staff, money, time, equipment, partnerships, and the research base

OUTPUTS

What we do and whom we reach: activities, services, events, products and the people reached. Outputs include such elements as workshops, conferences, counseling, products produced *and* the individuals, clients, groups, families, and organizations targeted to be reached by the activities.

OUTCOMES

What results: the value or changes for individuals, families, groups, agencies, businesses, communities, and/or systems. Outcomes include short-term benefits such as changes in awareness, knowledge, skills, attitudes, opinions and intent. Outcomes include medium-term benefits such as changes in behaviors, decision-making and actions. Outcomes include long-term benefits (often called impact) such as changes in social, economic, civic, and environmental conditions.

ASSUMPTIONS

The beliefs we have about: the program, the people involved, and how we think the program will work. Assumptions include our ideas about the problem or situation; the way the program will operate; what the program expects to achieve; how the participants learn and behave, their motivations, etc.; the resources and staff; the external environment; the knowledge base; and the internal environment. Faulty assumptions are often the reason for poor results.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

Aspects external to the program that influence the way the program operates, and are influenced by the program. Dynamic systems interactions include the cultural milieu, biophysical environment, economic structure, housing patterns, demographic make-up, family circumstances, values, political environment, background and experiences of participants, media, policies and priorities, etc. Elements that effect the program over which there is little control.