

Using Logical Models for Project Planning and Evaluation

Dr. Jenny Bergeron, Harvard University

A logic model is a visual representation of a theory of action or map guiding the design and implementation of a program or intervention. It is a valuable tool for building a relevant evaluation design. This workshop provides a primer on logic modeling and demonstrates how to use logic models as a tool for planning and evaluation. The overarching goals of the workshop are to: 1) Introduce logic models as an effective tool for planning design, implementation, and evaluation; 2) Practice the elements of a logic model; 3) Provide guidance in appropriate steps for building a logic model for an intervention, program or initiative and 4) Practice using logic models to develop evaluation questions and indicators of success. This will be a hands-on workshop. We encourage participants to bring their own ideas or examples for projects that they are currently working on.

Pre-Assignment:

Consider a project/intervention that you are actively involved in designing, implementing, or evaluating. Come to the session with the following materials and information:

- For whom is the project/intervention designed?
- What are the main goals or objectives of the project/intervention?
- What is the timeline and duration of the project/intervention?
- What are the major activities associated with the intervention?

Come to class prepared to work with the two case studies below.

College Readiness high school program

College Ready is a school-based college access program for students in grades 9-12. Students are identified for the program based on eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, recommendations from school guidance counselors, and recommendations from grade 8 English and Math teachers. Students participate in monthly meetings as a group with the College Ready staff and are provided with one-on-one counseling with College Ready staff, are assigned an adult mentor and a peer mentor and participate in a series of evening and summer workshops. In addition, families make a commitment to the program and attend a series of workshops specifically designed to prepare the whole family for the college application process. The goal of the program is to significantly increase college attendance among low-income students.

Blended learning Schools

An urban district is going to convert a few of its schools into blended learning schools (in which students learn both online and face-to-face with a teacher to personalize their instruction). The schools will be using the individual rotation model, which allows students within a given course or subject to rotate on an individually customized, fixed schedule between online courses and a variety of classroom environments with face to face teachers. Individual students have their own netbook and a unique schedule. The model also includes site coordinators and a principal who is involved in daily classroom observation. The goal of the model is to improve student's achievement and individualize instruction

Materials and case studies from this presentation come from the Logic Model Workshop Toolkit designed by the Institute of Sciences U.S. Department of Education as well as the Regional Education Laboratory at the Education Development Center