

Logic Model: Friend or Foe?

1. How are you most likely to respond when you hear the term “logic model?”	a. Yeah! I love being organized and getting it all down on paper!	b. I'm OK with doing logic models to meet funding requirements, but I probably wouldn't do them otherwise.	c. Argggghhhh! Logic models are pointless paperwork that keep me from doing my real work!
2. How long would it take you to find your logic model?	a. 10 seconds—I know exactly where it is!	b. Give me a minute, I think I know where it is.	c. Mmmmm. Logic what? I think there's a copy deep down in a file cabinet somewhere.
3. Could someone outside your organization understand your program based on your logic model?	a. Yes	b. Maybe	c. No way! Too confusing!
4. How often do you use your logic model as a way to “sell” your programs to other stakeholders?	a. Frequently	b. Sometimes	c. Never
5. How often do you use your logic model to check in on how things are going and do “mid-course corrections”?	a. Frequently	b. Sometimes	c. Never
6. Did the staff who implement the activities help develop the logic model?	a. Yes, they helped	b. Some did, some didn't/ Not sure	c. They've never even seen the logic model!
7. What do you see as the relationship between your logic model and your evaluation?	a. Our logic model guides our evaluation. The inputs and outputs in the model link directly to our process evaluation, and the outcomes link directly to our outcome evaluation.	b. They sorta kinda overlap, sometimes.	c. Our logic model and our evaluation are totally separate. Not sure what the connection is?
8. How well does your logic model reflect the current status of your program?	a. It's fairly up-to-date.	b. Not sure. It might be a little out-dated.	c. It's rusty and dusty! Things have totally changed.
9. Does your logic model have a logical “if-then” flow? Is it realistic to expect that the activities and inputs will lead to the outcomes you have listed?	a. Yes, our activities and inputs are logical steps to the outputs and outcomes we have listed.	b. Mostly, but there may be a few gaps or a few unrealistic outcomes.	c. Our logic model is pretty illogical. Our outcomes seem unrealistic or really vague.

If you answered....

- **Mostly As:** Your logic model is your friend! You use your logic model to communicate with others about your program and to guide and monitor your evaluation and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- **Mostly Bs:** You may be somewhat skeptical about the value of logic models or are still learning how to make the best of them. >>>
- **Mostly Cs:** Your logic model may be your foe! Logic models make your skin crawl or have not been at all helpful for planning or improving your program. >>>

How to fix it:

- Ask your funder for help, and/or see if you can simplify the format or content.
- Think about what would make your logic model more useful. What changes could you make to it so that it can be used for “mid-course check-ins”?
- Sharpen up the outputs and outcomes so that they are realistic and align with your evaluation plan and tools.