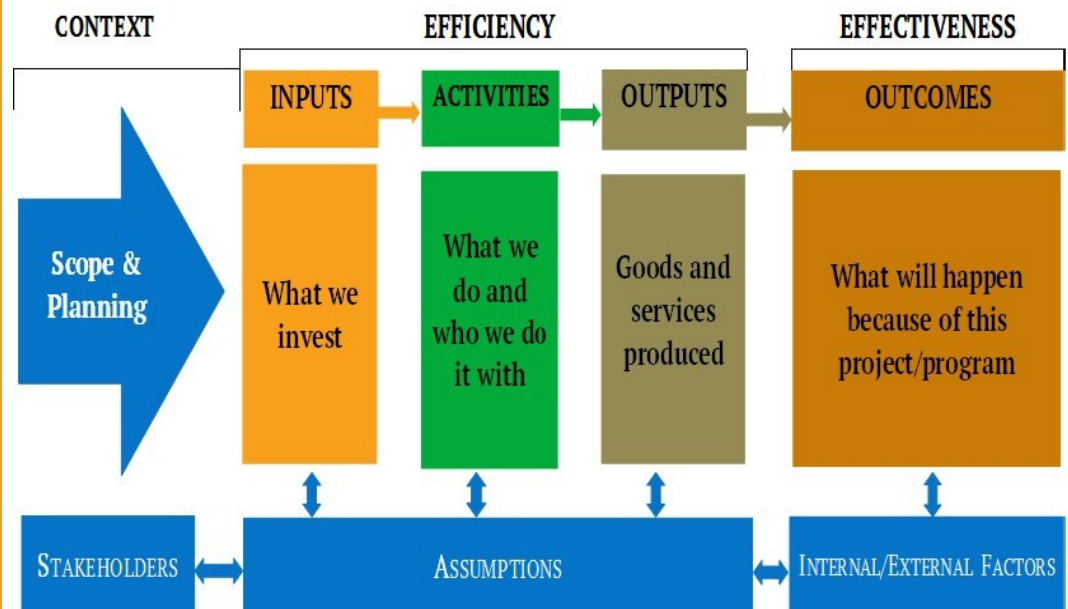# Logic Models for Evaluation
An Introduction for Program Managers

What is a Logic Model?

A logic model provides the basic framework for a program evaluation. It is a visual graphic that describes a program or organization. It illustrates a program's theory of change, showing how invested resources and day-to-day activities connect with the results or outcomes the program is trying to achieve. It outlines program activities and outcomes using boxes. Using arrows to connect the boxes, it shows how the activities and outcomes connect with one another. A logic model is an ideal way to visually depict the workings and functions of a program and help to identify problem areas. Logic models can have many different configurations. See figure 1 for one example.

Figure 1.
Sample Program Logic Model

Source . www.learningforsustainability.net.

Why would I make a logic model when I already have other guidance documents?
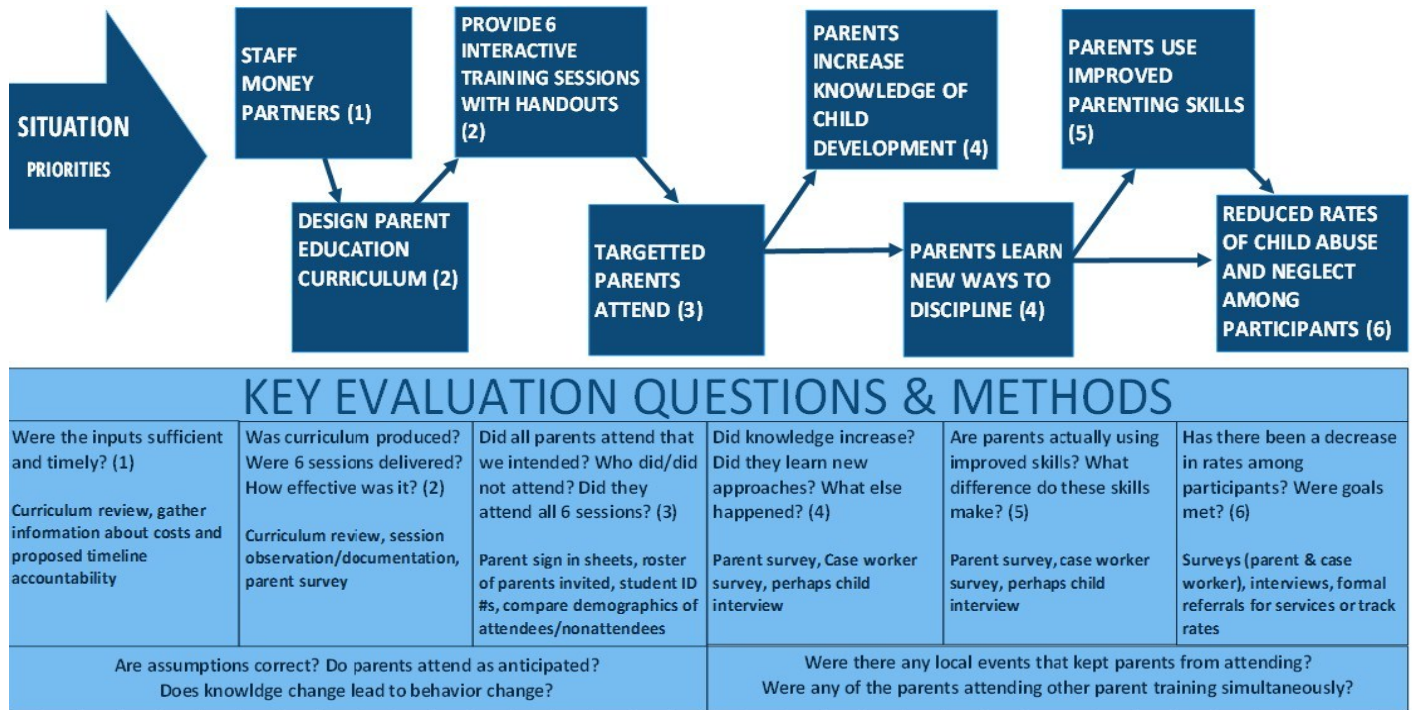
- A logic model builds an integrated vision of the program across all other planning and monitoring documents and expectations for resources, consumers reached, and results.

- A logic model is helpful for program design or improvement and for identifying project components that are critical to goal attainment, redundant, or have inconsistent or implausible linkages between program elements.

- A logic model points to a balanced set of key performance measurement points and evaluation issues, thus improving data collection and usefulness, and meeting requirements of Government Performance Reporting Act for federal funding accountability.

Why does AISD's Department of Research and Evaluation start with a program logic model when planning my evaluation?

Developing a logic model should be one of the first steps in an evaluation. After the model is completed, the evaluation can be designed to determine whether the program is working as intended. Ideally, evaluators are brought in during the initial planning stages of the program or project. Including evaluators in the planning process allows identification of the types of data that will need to be collected and the appropriate timeframe for data collection. In that way, program staff can be assured that all key components include logical linkages and that the program activities are likely to lead to the desired outcome. Adequate measurability enables staff to determine the success of the program. By providing a clear picture of the elements in a program and how they are connected and intertwined, a logic model can provide a framework to guide the entire evaluation process in a more efficient, effective, and focused way. It also provides the foundation for a comprehensive evaluation report by producing a mechanism that documents that all the relevant pieces of the assessment are covered. Figure 2 illustrates how a logic model guides evaluation questions and methods or types of data to measure program efficacy.

Figure 2
Sample Program Logic Model with Integrated Evaluation Questions.

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS & METHODS					
Were the inputs sufficient and timely? (1) Curriculum review, gather information about costs and proposed timeline accountability	Was curriculum produced? Were 6 sessions delivered? How effective was it? (2) Curriculum review, session observation/documentation, parent survey	Did all parents attend that we intended? Who did/did not attend? Did they attend all 6 sessions? (3) Parent sign in sheets, roster of parents invited, student ID #s, compare demographics of attendees/nonattendees	Did knowledge increase? Did they learn new approaches? What else happened? (4) Parent survey, Case worker survey, perhaps child interview	Are parents actually using improved skills? What difference do these skills make? (5) Parent survey, case worker survey, perhaps child interview	Has there been a decrease in rates among participants? Were goals met? (6) Surveys (parent & case worker), interviews, formal referrals for services or track rates
Are assumptions correct? Do parents attend as anticipated? Does knowldge change lead to behavior change?			Were there any local events that kept parents from attending? Were any of the parents attending other parent training simultaneously?		

Source. Adapted from www.uwex.edu