

The Flex Program Logic Model Project

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Goals of Flex Program Logic Modeling project

- Develop a set of core, state-level performance measures for the Flex Program.
- Provide information regarding overall program activities, accomplishments, and impact.
 - Provide measures of the effects of Flex Program operations that are relevant, valid, objective, and reliable.
 - Systematically measure state-level activities and accomplishment in the context of national and state Flex Program goals.
- Provide states with a framework for managing and improving the performance of their Flex Programs.

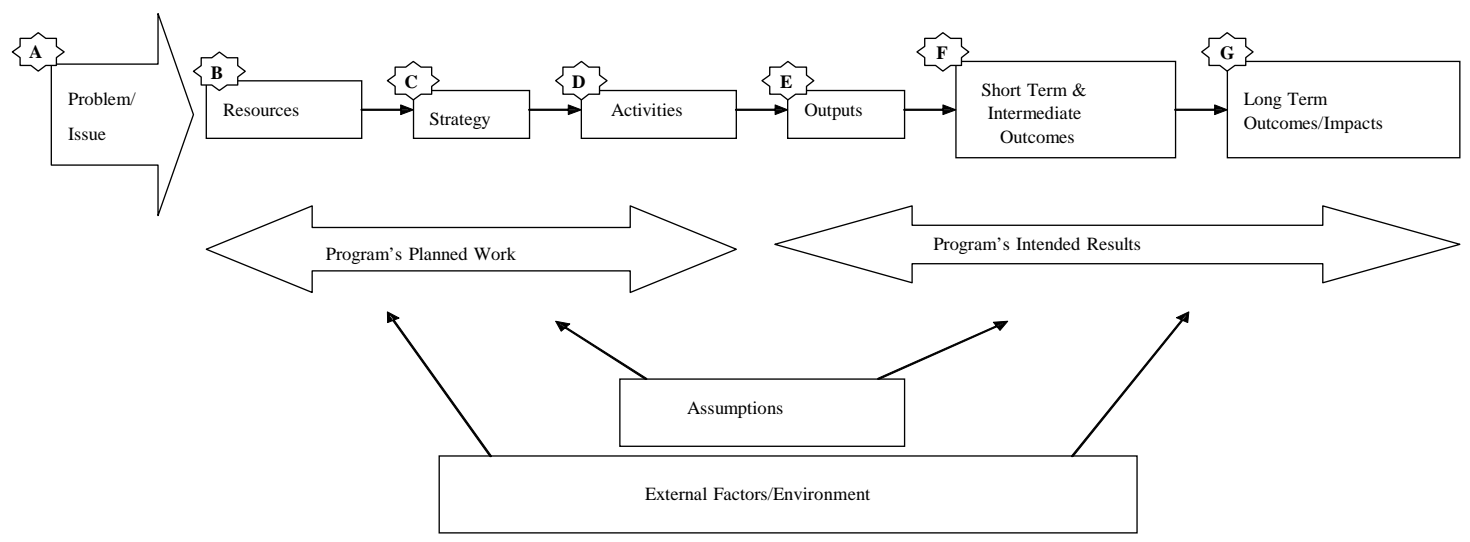
Participating states

- Pennsylvania
- Wisconsin
- Arkansas
- Washington

What are program logic models (PLMs)?

- PLMs are used in program planning, management and evaluation to:
 - Understand how program resources are used to implement key strategies and activities, and
 - How their implementation contributes to expected outputs and short and long term outcomes.

Core components of a PLM:



Assumptions

- Theory of action on which program is based
 - The participants
 - The way the program will operate
 - How resources, staff will be engaged
- Connects what is planned with why the approach will succeed
 - Should be based on an “evidence-based” rationale.

External/environmental factors

- Larger social, economic, political, and market-related context in which the program exists and influences success or failure.
 - Includes community conditions, politics and other programs.
 - Are rarely static.
 - May require program revisions as they evolve.

Problem/issue (A)

- The problem/issue statement describes:
 - The problem/issue that the program targets.
 - Why the problem/issues exists.
 - Who is affected by the problem/issue.
- The identification of baseline data helps to:
 - Define and delineate the scope and severity of the problem.
 - Identify appropriate measures and indicators.
 - Inform data collection and reporting strategies.

Resources (B)

- The broad range of resources available to a state Flex Program to undertake its work:
 - Financial
 - Human
 - Political
 - Organizational
 - Community

Strategies (C)

- Strategies:
 - Are the plans of action that make up a state Flex program.
 - Define how the program intends to achieve its intended outcomes.
 - Are based on a set of assumptions about how the world works (if A is undertaken, then B is the result)

Activities (D)

- Program activities:
 - Are the necessary steps that make up strategies (e.g., process, events, projects, and actions)
 - Operationalize the assumptions upon which the strategies have been developed to bring about intended program changes or results

Outputs (E)

- Outputs are:
 - The products of program activities (e.g., number of meetings held or amount of TA provided to CAHs).
 - What a program does and who it reaches.
 - Described in terms of the size and/or scope of services and products delivered or produced by the program.

Outcomes (F & G)

- Outcomes are:
 - The changes in circumstances that result as a consequence of a program producing outputs
 - Outcome statements should include:
 - Who and what the program hopes to change
 - What change is expected to occur
 - When the change is expected to occur
 - What the expected results are

Time frame of outcomes

- Short-term outcomes
 - 1 to 2 years
- Intermediate outcomes
 - 3 to 5 years
- Long-term outcomes/impacts
 - 6 to 10 years

Indicators/Measures

- Information used to determine if and when desired outcomes are accomplished.
 - May be either quantitative or qualitative.
 - Should be framed in terms of the time line of the specific outcomes.

Goals for today:

- Develop a PLM for the core goals of AR's Flex Program by:
 - Specifying intended outcomes of the Program and appropriate indicators and measures;
 - Documenting Program strategies, activities, and resources;
 - Clarifying the problems/issues on which Program components are based; and
 - Clarifying underlying Program assumptions and external environmental factors.

Next steps:

- Site visit team will:
 - Summarize information collected for all major goals of the AR Flex Program;
 - Prepare a draft PLM for AR Flex Program and circulate for review and comment;
 - Revise draft AR PLM based on feedback;
 - Develop “generic” PLM for Flex Program based on AR and other state PLMs.