

The Bridge Between Inputs and Outcomes

Logic Models Simplified

Learning Objectives

- Align activities with inputs, outputs, and outcomes within a logic model
- Define and describe program activities in a clear, measurable, and funder-friendly way
- Differentiate between different types of nonprofit activities and their roles in program implementation
- Strengthen grant applications by demonstrating a well-structured and realistic activity plan

Understanding Activities in Logic Models

- Activities: **actions** your organization takes to **convert inputs (resources) into measurable results (outputs & outcomes)**
- They are the “**how**” of program implementation
 - What the organization will do to achieve its intended outcomes
- A well-structured **activity description** ensures transparency, **accountability**, and alignment with funder expectations



Types of Program Activities

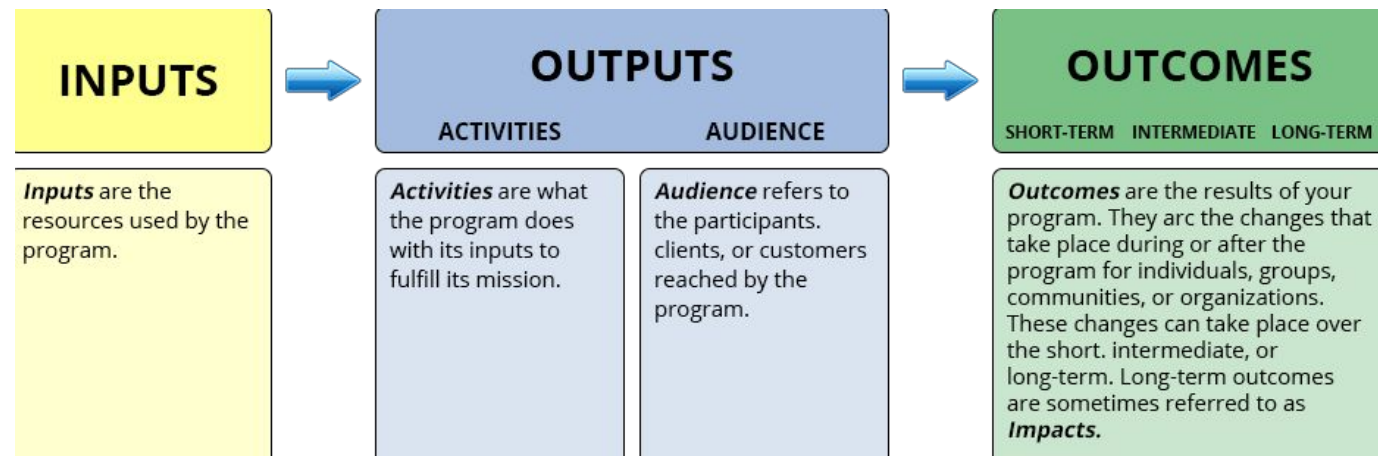
- Direct Service Activities
 - Delivering workshops, providing counseling, distributing materials
- Community Outreach & Engagement
 - Hosting community forums, building relationships, recruitment
- Capacity Building
 - Staff training, partner development, infrastructure improvements
- Data Collection & Evaluation
 - Surveys, focus groups, outcome tracking, impact analysis



Components of Well-Defined Activities

To ensure clarity and funder-readiness, each activity should describe:

- What will be done
 - The specific action
- Who is involved
 - Staff, partners, volunteers
- For whom it will be done
 - Target population or beneficiary
- Where the activity occurs
 - Location or platform
- When & how often
 - Timeline and frequency
- Why it will be done
 - Connect the activity back to the desired outcome



Aligning Activities with Other Logic Model Components

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Staff & Volunteers		11 volunteers trained	Increased efficiency in food distribution
Nutrition Curriculum		8 families trained in healthy meal prep	Improved nutritional choices among participants
Registered Dieticians & Community Health Workers		94 families attend workshops quarterly	Increased culinary skill in healthy meals

Avoid Common Pitfalls in Describing Activities

- Ensure activities are detailed and actionable
- Define clear benchmarks
- Make sure activities have clear linkages between inputs, outputs, and outcomes



Reflection

Consider how your organization currently defines and communicates program activities.

Reflect on the following questions:

- Are your current activity descriptions clear and detailed?
- Do they specify the who, what, when, where, and why?
- Can you connect each activity to a specific outcome?
- Are you using language that's compelling and credible to funders?



Key Takeaways & Next Steps

- Every activity should be clearly linked to available resources (inputs) and measurable program outcomes
- The way you describe activities can make or break a grant application.
- Funders want to see a logical connection between your actions and their impact
- Specific, data-driven activity descriptions strengthen credibility and increase the chances of securing funding