

## The State of the Art of Logic Modeling: Expanding Usefulness<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

This paper describes the expanding usefulness of the logic modeling process over the past 30 years, thereby defining the "state of the art" in 1999. A logic model presents a plausible and sensible model of how a program will work under certain conditions to solve identified problems. Logic modeling is the process of developing, using, and revising logic models. Uses for the logic model have evolved over the years to include all aspects of managing a program. These expanding uses are demonstrated with examples from the U.S., Canada, Malaysia, and Australia. Logic modeling has always been viewed as a tool to improve communication with external and internal customers and stakeholders. Initial uses were to make explicit a hierarchy of program objectives and the expected outcomes of each level for evaluability assessment and evaluation planning. Use expanded to include improving program design before implementation and after the logic had been tested with implementation. The expanded use in the past five years is primarily because of the usefulness of logical performance frameworks for performance measurement and strategic and operational planning, responding to the increase in requirements for accountability, demonstrating results, and measuring performance for government and non profit programs.

### Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of the paper is to describe the expanding uses and usefulness of the logic modeling process over the past 30 years, thereby defining the "state of the art" of logic modeling. Logic models are simple descriptions that illustrate the linkages and causality of resources and activities to outputs and outcomes within a context. The process of developing, revising and using logic models is the logic modeling process. Logic modeling can be applied to any program, where the word "program" is used broadly to include projects, systems, and organizations. There has been an increased interest in logic modeling in the past five years, primarily because of its usefulness in responding to the increase in requirements for accountability, demonstrating results, and measuring performance for government and non profit programs. But there are other reasons program managers and evaluation practitioners find the process useful, and these uses have evolved over time.

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<sup>1</sup> The paper was originally prepared for a panel "Logic Models and Theory Driven Evaluations: Toward a Future Link", at the 1999 Conference of the American Evaluation Association