

# Theories of Change

## Logic Models

Summer 2026  
SOWK 588  
Week 02

# Week 2 Plan

## What this video will cover

### Agenda

- Assignments for the week
- Follow up on feedback comments
- Theories of change and logic models
- Real-world examples

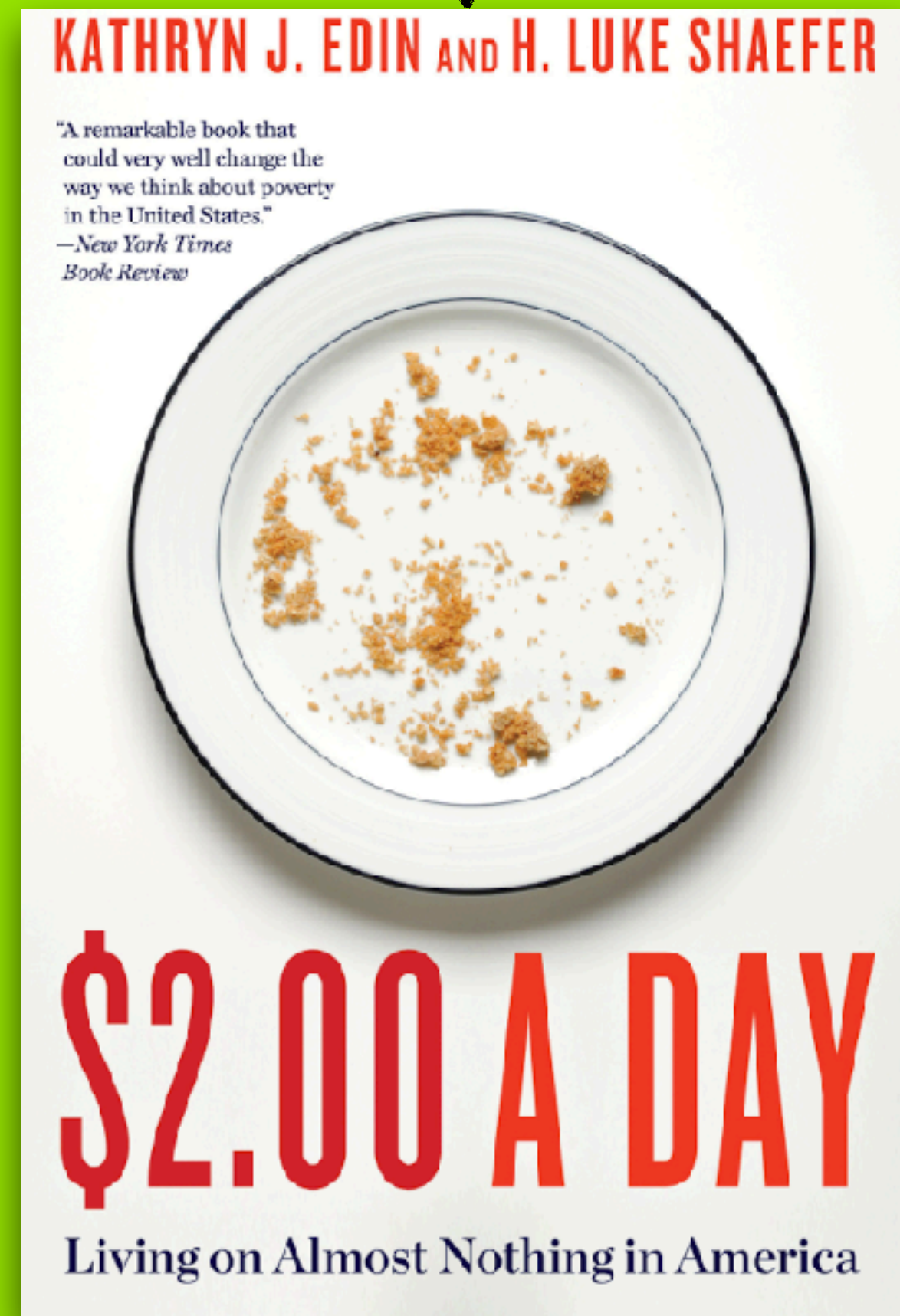
### Learning Objective

- Have context for what logic models might look like in social work practice.

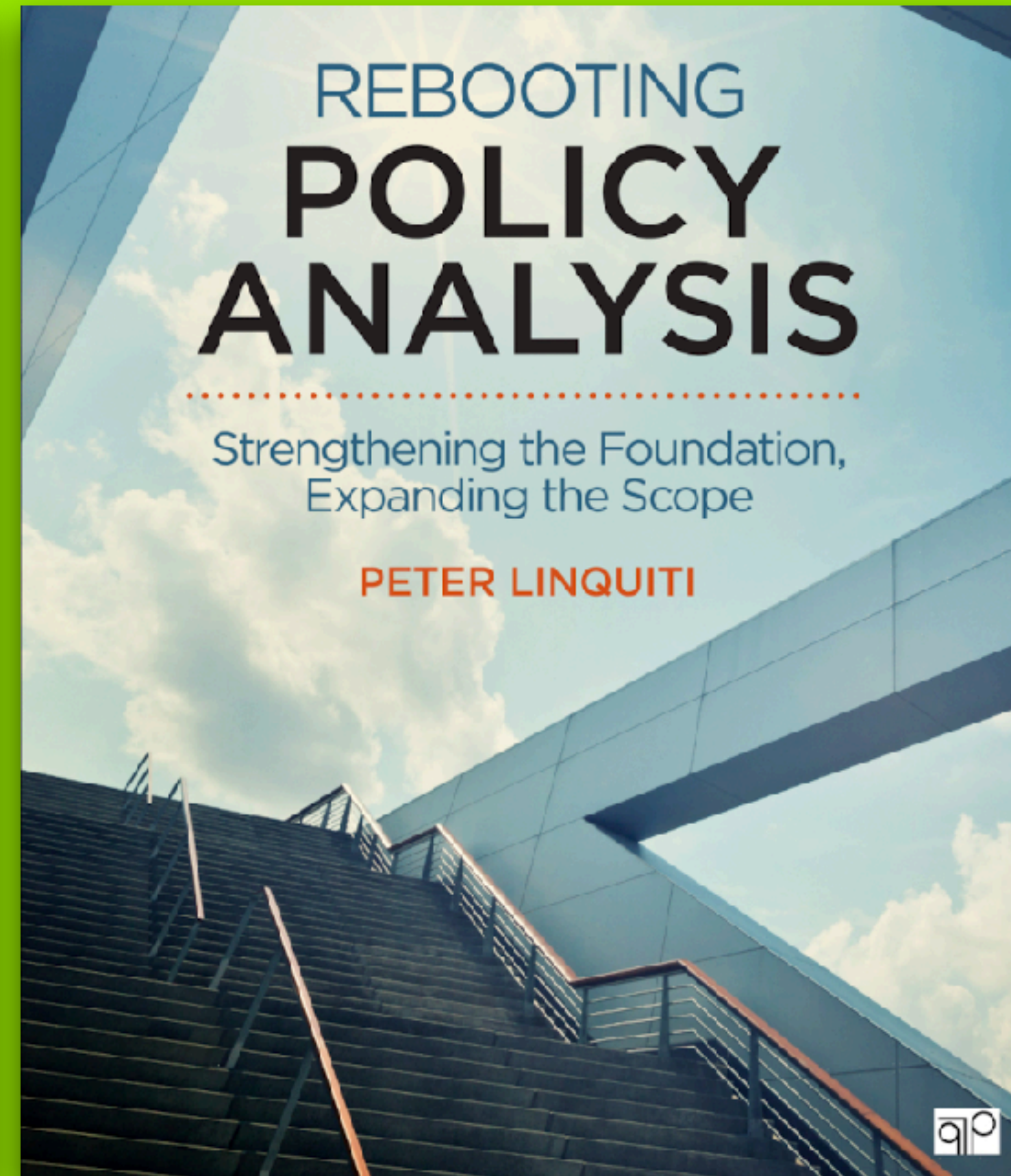
Read

**Complete six replies across any of the six forums:**

1. Known Examples of Welfare Being Dead
2. Considering HU Social Work Policies
3. Program Description, Logic Model, and Theory of Change
4. How To Make Academic Arguments
5. Chapter Two Discussion Questions
6. Chapter Three Discussion Questions



Read Edin and Shafer (2016)  
Chapter 1: *Welfare is Dead*



Read Linquti (2022) Chapter 2: *Thinking about the Past: Retrospective Program and Impact Evaluation* and Chapter 3: *Obstacles to Use Classical Policy Analysis Models in the Real World*

# Week 2 Activities

## Assignment 03a — Policy Analysis Paper (150 points, due 7/6/26)

You'll write a research paper examining a real social issue and the policy connected to it. Your paper needs to cover four main areas:

1. **What's the issue and policy?** Pick a current social problem (like immigration or welfare) that affects a marginalized group. Explain how the policy works at different levels — local, state, tribal, and federal.
2. **Is it ethical?** Compare the policy to two standards: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the NASW Code of Ethics. Where does it hold up? Where does it fall short?
3. **What theory explains it?** Apply a social policy theory (like critical race theory or feminist theory) to analyze why the policy works the way it does and how it affects people at every level.
4. **What should change?** Propose at least two alternative policy options and make a clear recommendation for reform, connecting it to real legislative advocacy.

## Assignment 03b — Policy Advocacy Presentation (100 points, due 7/13/26)

Building on your paper, you'll record a roughly 10-minute video presentation making the case for change. Think of it as pitching your advocacy plan to an audience. It should include:

1. **Introduction** — What's the problem and why does it matter?
2. **Policy analysis** — What's worked or failed so far, and who are the key players?
3. **Advocacy strategy** — What's your goal, who are you targeting, and what's your message?
4. **Implementation plan** — Specific steps, timeline, roles, and how you'll know if it's working.
5. **Conclusion** — Wrap up your key points and inspire your audience to act.

Use slides or another visual to support your video.

Building a Theory of Change for a public policy or program entails an articulation of a *causal theory about how actions taken within the program will lead to changes outside the program*. What's more, practitioners of Theory of Change analysis emphasize the importance of critical reflection on the assumptions (valid or not) made by program designers, on the motives and incentives of *all* relevant stakeholders, and on the broad context into which the program has been introduced.

(Liquiti, 2022, section 2.3 par. 2, *emphasis from author*)

### **Used Throughout the Research Process**

Publications frequently share information about the development of a theory of change.

The theories of change are used to:

- Design public health interventions
- Evaluation of public health interventions
- Provide causal explanations

(Breuer et al., 2016)

# Logic Models as a Tool for Describing a Theory of Change

**Input**

**Activities**

**Outputs**

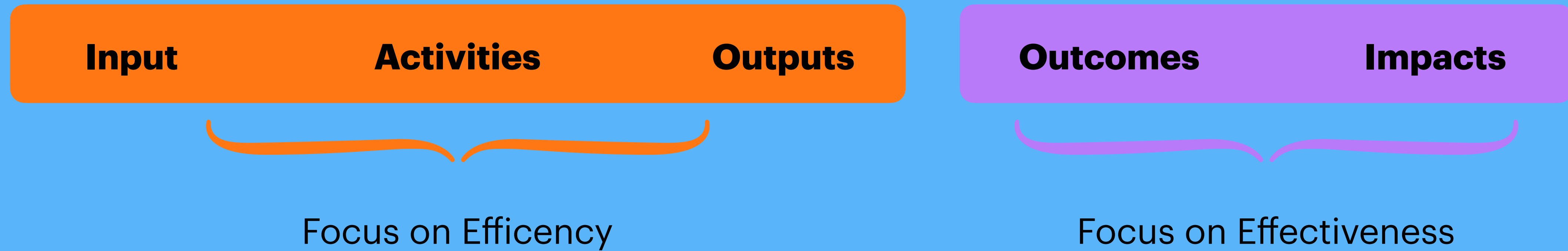
**Outcomes**

**Impacts**

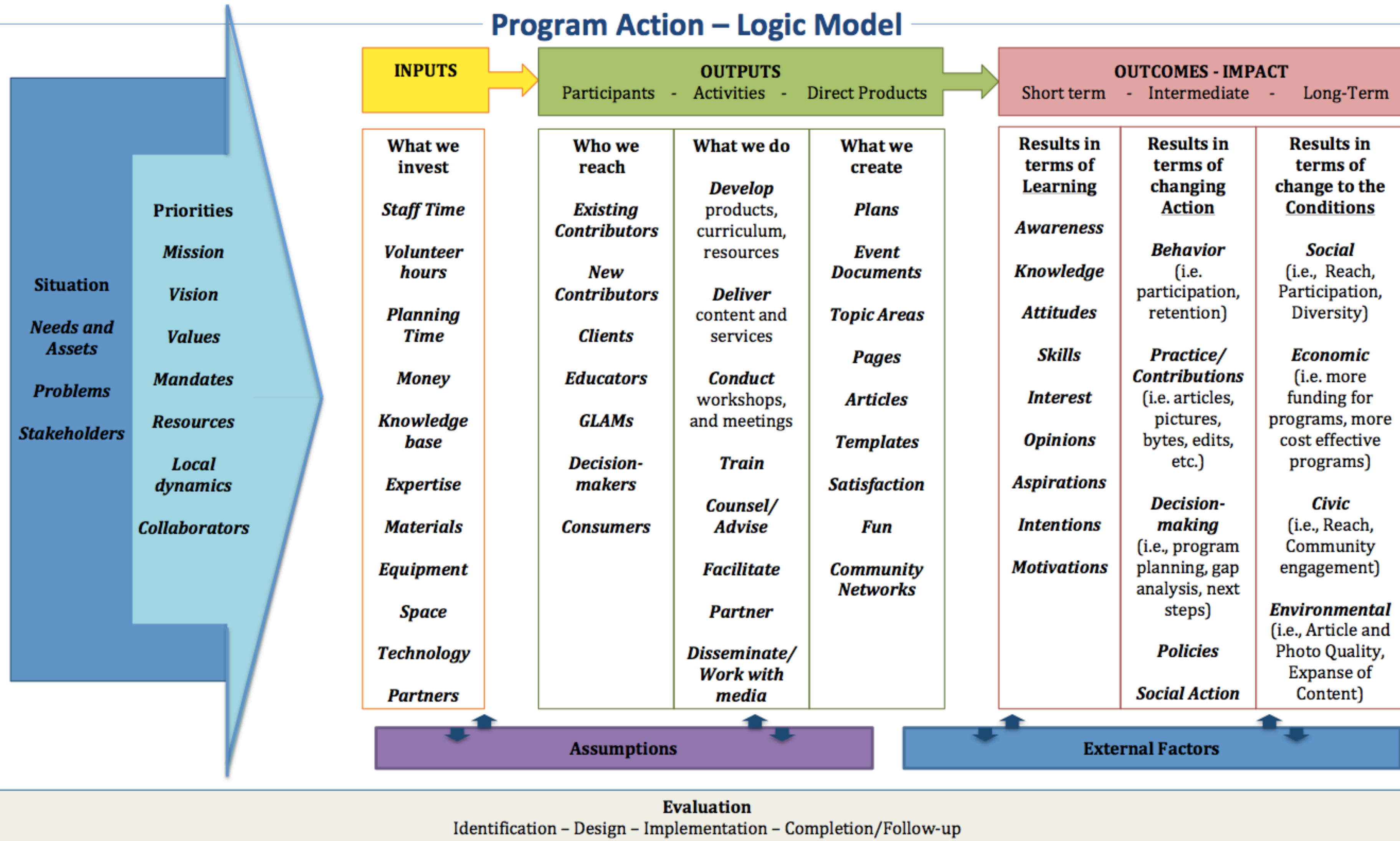
# Logic Models as a Tool for Describing a Theory of Change

<b>Input</b>	The resources (people, money, materials, knowledge) a program draws on to function.
<b>Activities</b>	The day-to-day tasks and operations staff carry out using those inputs.
<b>Outputs</b>	The direct, tangible products or services that result from those activities.
<b>Outcomes</b>	Changes experienced by the target audience as an indirect result of the outputs, maybe be causal links and things we are less certain about are less certain here.
<b>Impacts</b>	Longer-term effects measured against what would have happened without the program at all.

# Logic Models as a Tool for Describing a Theory of Change

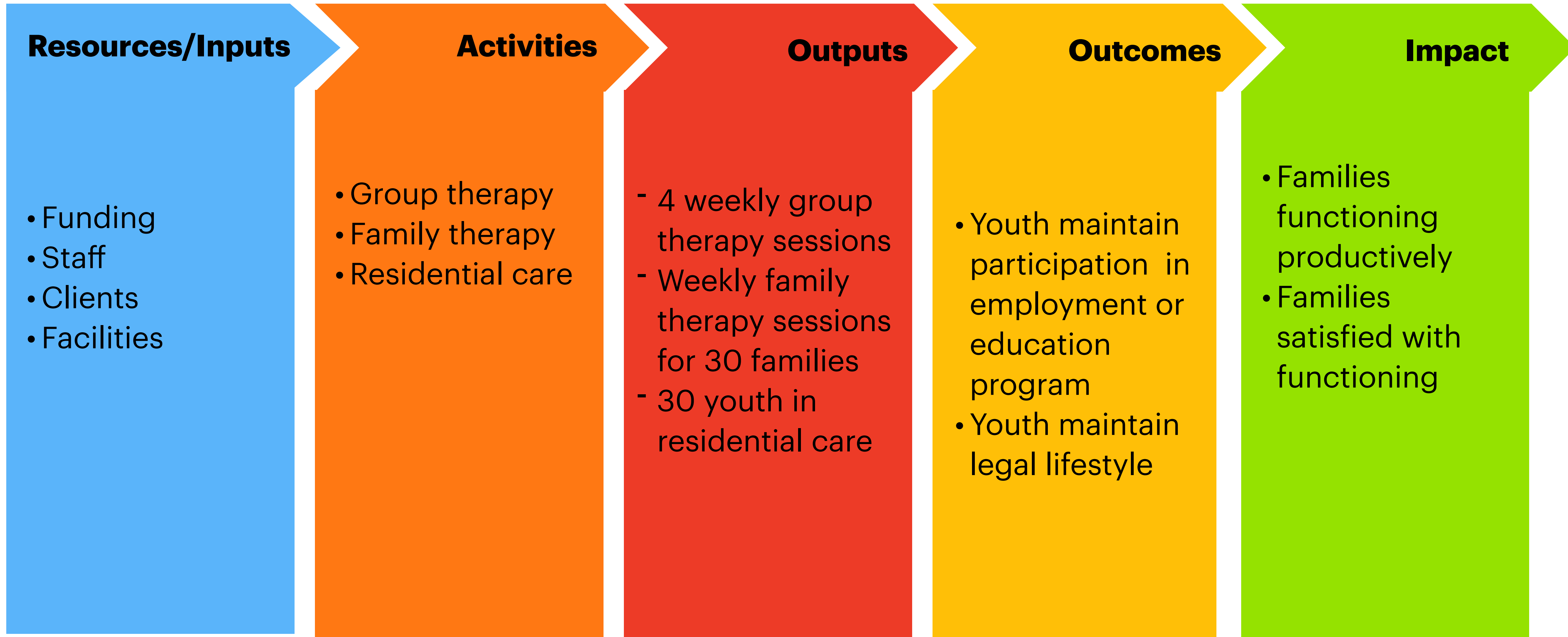


## Program Action – Logic Model



Logic Model adapted and modified from UW Extension (2003). Program Development and Evaluation Logic Model. Available at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/evaluation/pdf/LMfront.pdf> (Retrieved 6/22/2013)

# Example Residential Treatment Program



(Shared with SOWK 460w, adapted from Kapp & Anderson, 2010)

NEED	ANTECEDENT CONDITIONS	RESOURCES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Cardiovascular Health	Lack of sidewalks & walking paths	Senior Citizen Center, civic organizations	Pop-up blood pressure screenings	300 persons screened in year 1	Local government funds a walking path in park
	Sedentary lifestyle	Church groups	Walk/run-a-thon for public awareness	80 runners and 150 walkers participate	Survey of high school students reveals 24% say a parent is now regularly exercising
	Unhealthy eating practices	Libraries (public and schools), civic organizations	Provision of speakers on heart-healthy nutritional eating	500 pamphlets distributed; 300 people hear speakers on healthy eating	Ambulance squad reports a 15% decrease in emergencies due to heart attacks/strokes
		American Heart Association	1 hour radio call-in program on cardiovascular health	Scheduled for October, December, February	Library has expanded its holdings on Mediterranean Diets, etc.

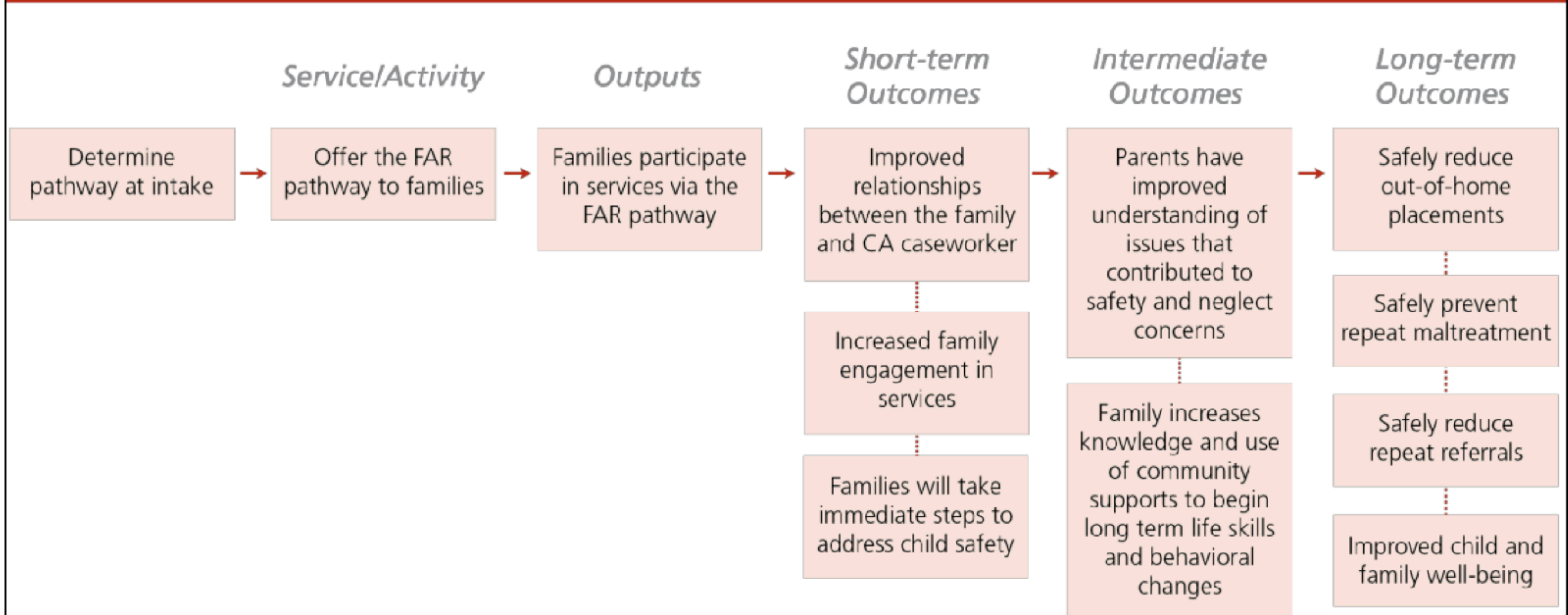
<i>Conditions (needs or problems)</i>	→	<i>Resources/ Inputs (collaboration and planning)</i>	→	<i>Strategies</i>	→	<b>A C T I V I T I E S</b>	→	<i>Short-Term Outcomes (system-level change)</i>	→	<i>Long-Term Impacts (client-level change)</i>
Lack of a coordinated system to address the needs of families in which child maltreatment (CM) and domestic violence (DV) intersect (co-occur).	→	--Federal technical assistance --Needs assessment/self-study by system partners --Results of national evaluation data collection --Federal Expectations of funding agencies --Review of best practices in cross-system protocols including screening and assessment, confidentiality, client satisfaction, and reasonable efforts	→	(1) Coordinate systems including service coordination, monitoring service effectiveness, safety plans, model service plans, policies, and procedures	→		→	See Table 2	→	--Higher rates of victim satisfaction with system experience
				(2) Promote skill building and cross-training	→		→	See Table 2	→	--Increased victim safety
				(3) Strengthen collaboration between courts and batterer intervention programs	→		→	See Table 2	→	--Increased family stability
				(4) Create information linkages to permit greater access to court and criminal justice information and to victim resources and services	→		→	See Table 2		--Improved access to DV and related community services for victims and batterers
										--Increased compliance on the part of batterers with court-ordered treatment and other court orders
				(5) Community outreach regarding DV/CM co-occurrence	→		→	See Table 2		--Decreased batterer recidivism
<b><i>Contextual Factors</i></b>										

**Fig. 1.** St. Louis County Greenbook Initiative Logic Model.

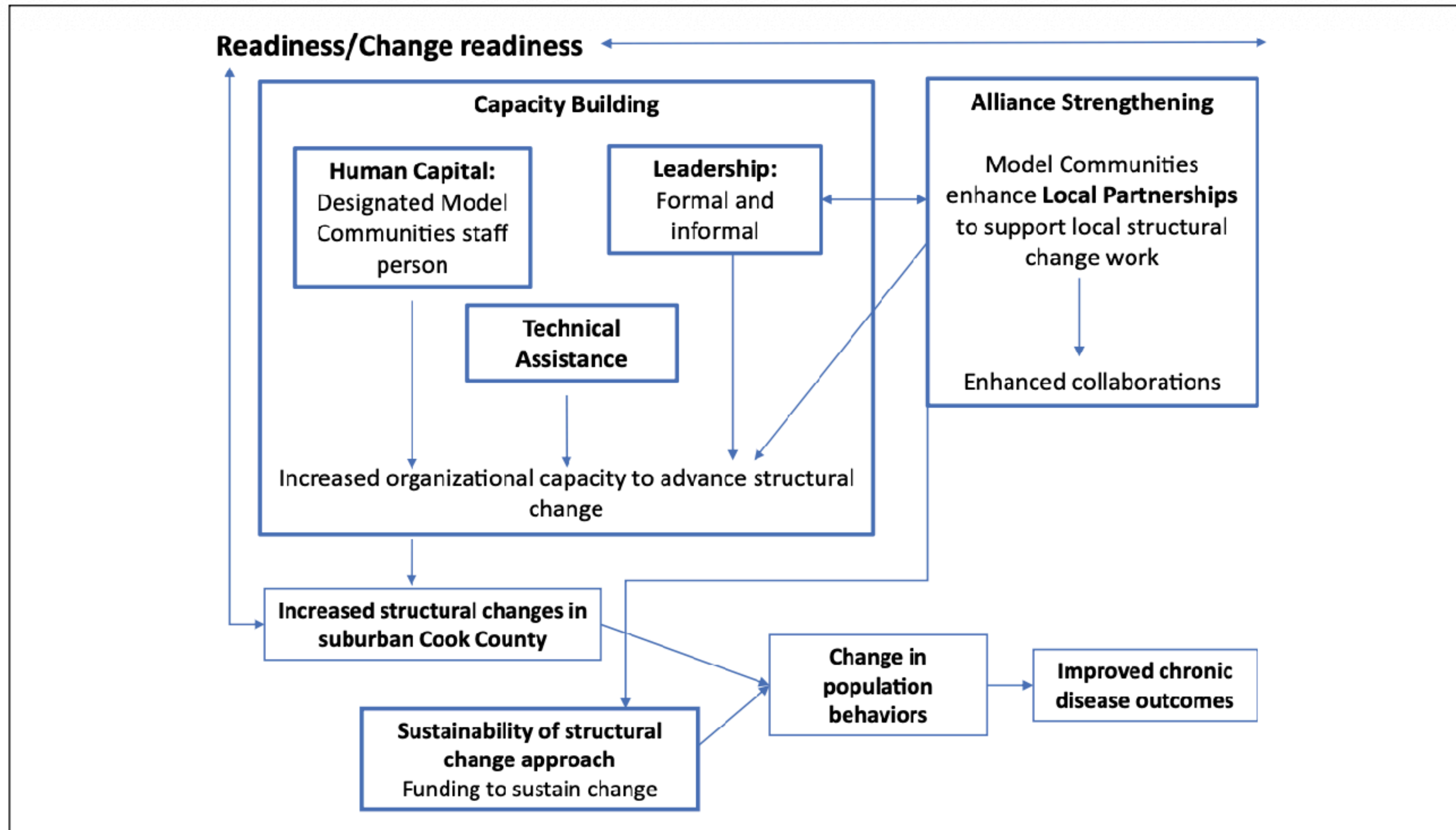
**Table 2**  
Strategies, Activities, Short-Term Outcomes, and Process Evaluation Measures for the St. Louis County Greenbook Initiative.

Strategies	→	Activities	→	Short-Term Outcomes	→	Process Evaluation Measures
(1) Coordinate systems including service coordination, monitoring service effectiveness, safety plans, model service plans, policies and procedures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement co-located specialized positions at the Court and DSS-CD:</li> <li>• Develop and distribute <i>Domestic Violence/Child Maltreatment Resource Manual</i></li> <li>• Develop and implement Child Order of Protection (COP) Project</li> <li>• Develop and distribute <i>DSS-CD Manual for Domestic Violence Advocates</i></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement best practices in cross-system protocols including screening and assessment, confidentiality, client satisfaction, and reasonable efforts.</li> <li>• Pilot CM protocols in DV agencies</li> <li>• Pilot DV screening and assessment protocols at court and DSS-CD</li> <li>• Implement co-located specialized positions at the Court and DSS-CD               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness and understanding of co-occurrence</li> <li>• Improve screening and assessment procedures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of co-located specialized positions at the Court and DSS-CD, including ability of these positions to effect change in staff practice and engage in protocol development and policy implementation</li> <li>• Implementation of best practices assessed through (1) file and policy review and (2) understanding and use of protocols by line staff assessed through focus groups</li> <li>• Increase in number of identified DV/CM cases in samples of DSS-CD case files over time</li> <li>• Feedback from training events and follow-up surveys</li> </ul>
(2) Promote skill building and cross-training		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop case-centered DV/CM cross-training curriculum</li> <li>• Hire a DV/CM specialist to consult with Family Court staff on co-occurrence cases</li> <li>• Pilot Multidisciplinary Consultation Case (MCC) Review Process</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire a DV/CM specialist to consult with DSS-CD and Family Court staff on co-occurrence cases regarding best practices:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Court staff knowledge of appropriate responses to cases involving domestic violence</li> <li>• Improve screening and assessment procedures, so that DV is identified at the earliest possible juncture</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement case-centered cross-training curriculum</li> <li>• Implement MCC Review Process:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on resources/services available and on best practices</li> <li>• Provide a forum for developing comprehensive and collaborative responses to families experiencing DV/CM</li> <li>• Offer support to staff handling complex multi-problem cases and facing difficult decisions</li> <li>• Increase "institutional empathy" across partner agencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of identified DV/CM cases in samples of DSS-CD case files over time</li> <li>• Perceptions of line staff and stakeholders regarding co-located positions (surveys, interviews, focus groups)</li> <li>• Feedback from training events and follow-up surveys</li> <li>• Assess development and implementation of cross-training curriculum</li> <li>• MCC Review Process:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff perceptions of support and ability to implement MCC recommendations</li> <li>• Facilitator's perception of collaborative nature of conference</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Staff perceptions of changed attitudes and development of institutional empathy</li> </ul>
(3) Strengthen collaboration between courts and batterer intervention programs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Batterer Accountability Referral and Monitoring Program between the Court and BIPs</li> <li>• Implement Criminal Court Batterer Accountability Compliance Project</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of protocol for approving batterer intervention programs for Court referrals</li> <li>• Implementation of standardized referral and compliance tools for reporting batterer compliance to the Court</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rates of program enrollment and completion</li> <li>• Increase in Court action for noncompliance</li> <li>• Feedback from program staff regarding quality and timeliness of information from BIPs</li> </ul>
(4) Create information linkages to permit greater access to court and criminal justice information and to victim resources and services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct feasibility study for developing a database to improve information-sharing.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This objective was tabled due to a pending statewide judicial database effort.</li> </ul>		—
(5) Community outreach regarding DV/CM co-occurrence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific activities were developed to address this objective.</li> </ul>		Referred to county family violence coordinating council		—

## FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE PATHWAY



(State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services, 2013)



**Figure 2.** Adapted theory of change (ToC).

Note. This figure outlines the adapted ToC framework informed by this longitudinal multiple case study. The framework outlines how the key constructs of capacity building and alliance strengthening lead to increased structural changes, sustainability of structural changes, and in the long term, improved population behaviors and chronic disease outcomes.

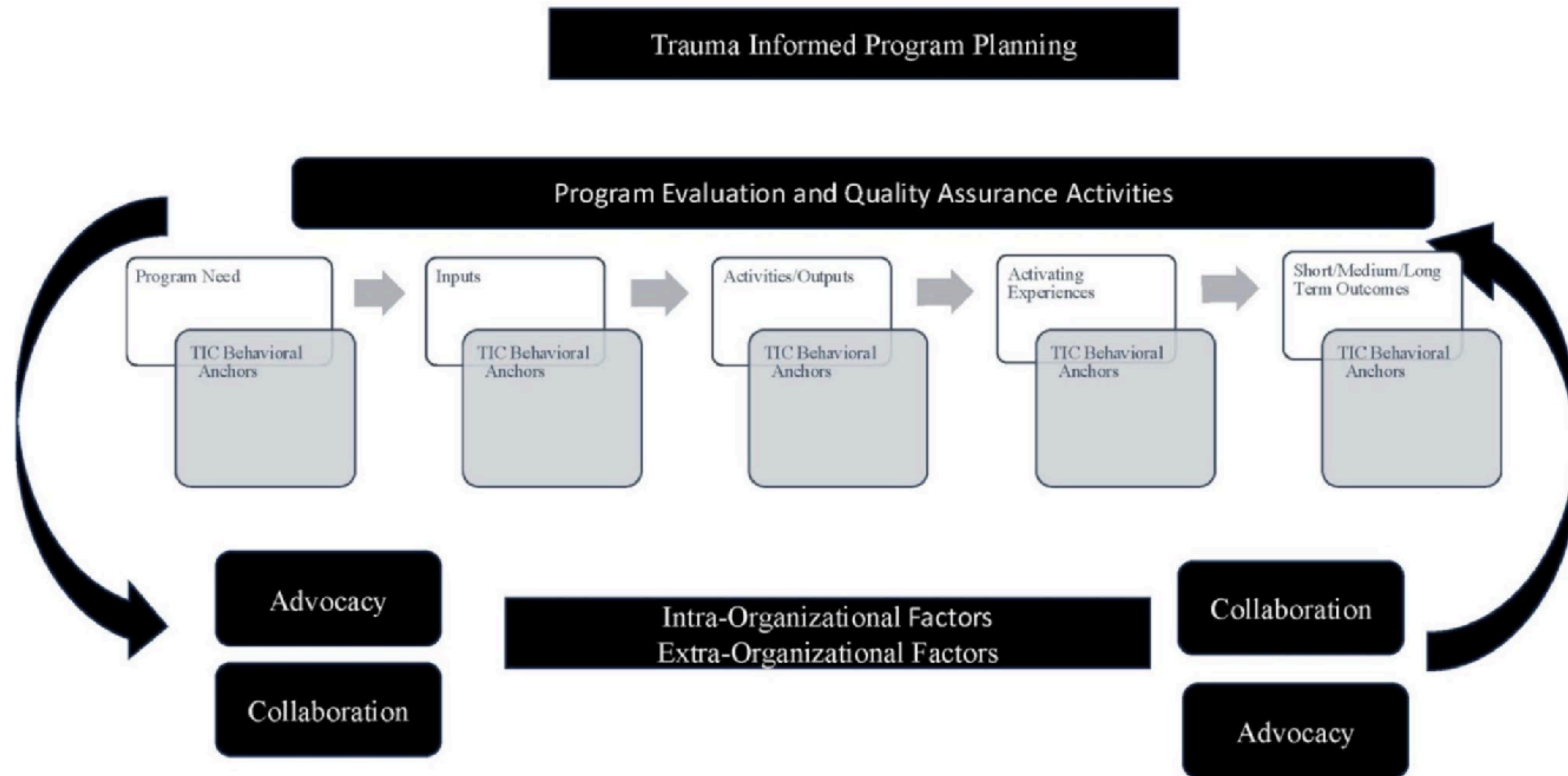
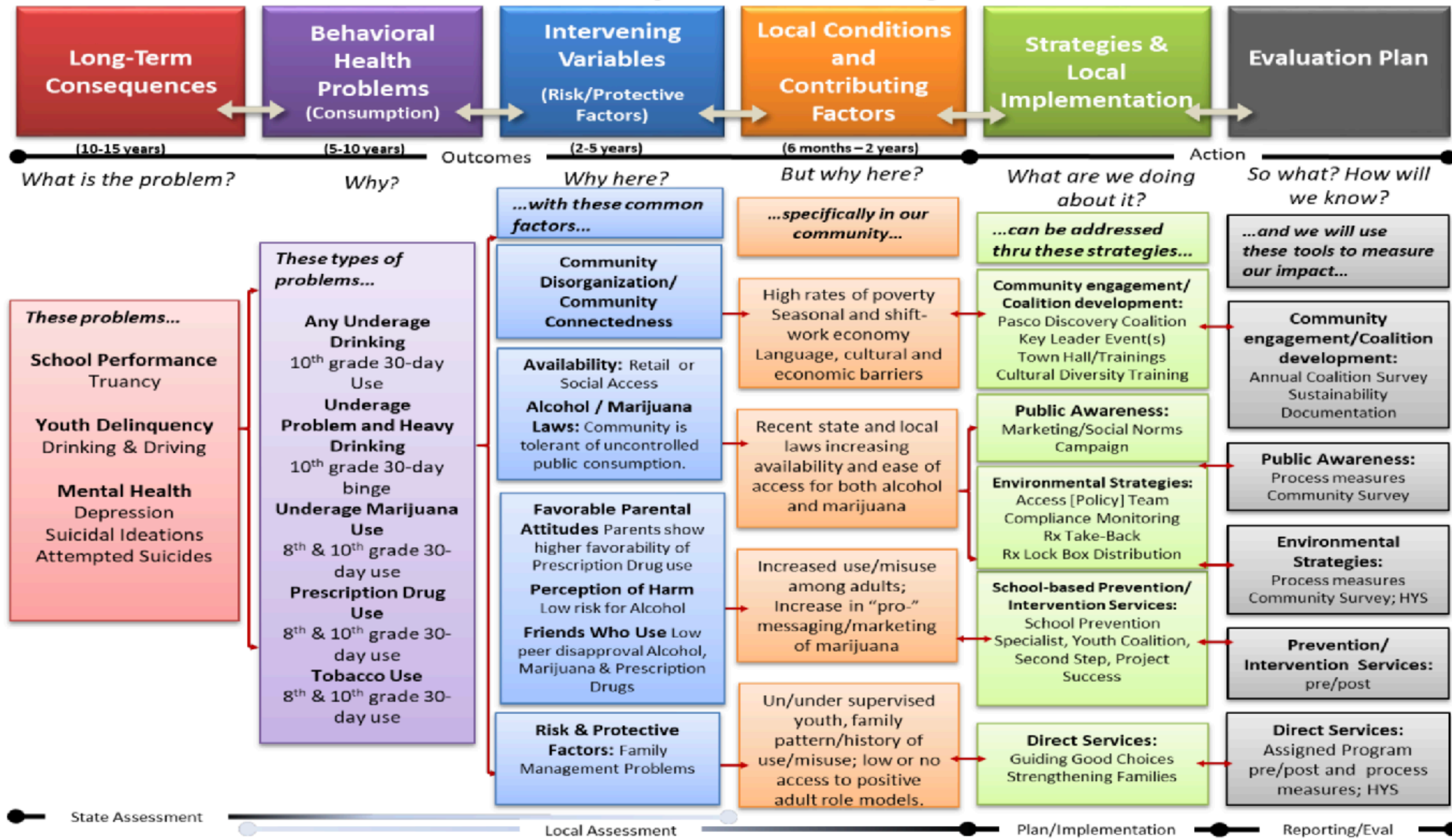


Fig. 1 Example of a theory of change logic model for trauma-informed program planning

(Rich & DiGregorio, 2025)

# Pasco Discovery Coalition Logic Model



(Pasco Discovery Coalition, 2017)