American Journal of Evaluation

http://aje.sagepub.com/

December 2013 Issue

Book Review: The Logic Model Guidebook: Better Strategies for Great Results

Mary E. Arnold

American Journal of Evaluation 2013 34: 593

DOI: 10.1177/1098214013487793

Published by: \$SAGE

http://www.sagepublications.com



Lisa Wyatt Knowlton and Cynthia C. Phillips
The Logic Model Guidebook: Better Strategies for Great Results. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2013. \$50.00. ISBN: 9781452216751.

Reviewed by: Mary E. Arnold, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA DOI: 10.1177/1098214013487793

In less than 20 years, logic models have been established as a central and established method for laying the foundation for program planning and evaluation in many sectors, particularly in nonprofit work, government grant programs, and educational design. Through the dissemination efforts of organizations like the Kellogg Foundation and United Way, among others, logic models are now an expected feature of most program descriptions. Program funders, in particular, routinely require carefully developed logic models in grant applications and subsequent reports.

As a program evaluator who spends considerable time engaged in capacity building with novice evaluators, I am always on the lookout for books to support my work. The first edition of *The Logic Model Guidebook: Better Strategies for Great Results*, published in 2009, has long been an important resource for my capacity building efforts. With its clear and concise approach to developing and using logic models, I have found it to be a valuable aid for teaching logic modeling to the educators with whom I work. The second edition provides even greater utility through the addition of more complex and detailed graphics to support the text and the addition of a new chapter with a selection of actual program logic models that illustrate the multitude of ways that these models can be presented and used. These examples show the use of logic models to answer three questions put forth in the opening pages of the book: (1) Are we doing the right work? (2) Are we making the right decisions? and (3) Are we achieving superior results? The answers to these questions are foundational to our efforts to plan, implement, and evaluate programs, and this new chapter provides a real-world glimpse into the importance of well-developed logic models for these purposes.

The authors, both leaders in the field of logic modeling, present a thorough examination of the topic, from basic concepts through sophisticated program models that are complex, realistic, and understandable. Both authors have significant backgrounds in nonprofit work, notably with the