MENTORING PROJECT FUND GRANTS 2007-2008

Logic Model Planning
As most of you know who applied for mentoring funds in the last two cycles, we use a traditional format in our mentoring fund applications. We received many excellent proposals in our first year and provided grant support to almost all of them. As we enter the second year of funding, we are eager to provide additional help through a tool known as a logic model. Logic models are typically used as an aid to help project planners think about their projects in broader, more conceptual ways. We think that the model could be helpful to applicants as a preliminary warm-up to proposal writing, and that it could also be useful to all of us as an overarching reminder of the guiding principles and goals of the Mentoring Task Force itself.

As is the case in our standard grant application with terms like “objectives” and “methods,” there are certain terms that are typically associated with logic model approaches. Regardless of the type of logic model being used, you will encounter words like “inputs,” “outputs,” and “outcomes”.

The terms objectives and methods do not have exact parallels in the logic model, but there is enough of a connection for this to be a useful exercise. Remember, the logic model is bigger picture thinking that helps you drill down to the detail that helps you put together a solid project proposal.

What Exactly is an Objective?
What is sometimes confusing about the term objective is that it can mean different things to different people and can even have multiple meanings for one person.

- Behavioral objectives: a human action will take place as a result of your project (Students will learn a certain skill.)
- Performance objective: students will learn that skill in a certain amount of time.
- Process objective: the very act of holding a class or series of classes to teach the skill.
- Product objective: a tangible item is created or developed as a result of your project.
- Outcome objective: Attitudinal or behavioral change from increased understanding or knowledge.

We discovered in evaluating first-year proposal that all of these types of objectives had their fans. In the hopes of helping us all to use and appreciate terms for which we can share a common definition, we are encouraging you to see these parallels between standard grant language and logic model language:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Application</th>
<th>Logic Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>Medium-Long-term Outcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Primarily short term outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>Outputs (Activities &amp; Participants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Items</td>
<td>Inputs (Not all inputs will be line-items on a budget).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bonus: Better Evaluations
A logic model used at the beginning of your project should help you explain and quantify the contributions of your project when the funding is over!