


 **NASCSP** | NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

ROMA Next Generation Listening Session for State CSBG Office Staff

March 2013

www.nascsp.org

ROMA Next Generation Center of Excellence (ROMA COE) Overview

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- Assure standardized knowledge of ROMA.
- Increase Network capacity to execute the ROMA cycle.
- Increase Network capacity to collect, report, and use performance data for decision making.
- Establish ROMA focused metrics for comparison of CSBG eligible entity use of CSBG resources.

NASCSP's ROMA COE Partners

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Partners:

- National ROMA Peer-to-Peer Training Program
- National Alliance for Sustainable Communities
- Community Action Partnership



ROMA
Results Driven Management and Accountability




NASC
AN AFFILIATE OF NASCSP



community Action
PARTNERSHIP
Helping People. Changing Lives.


ROMA COE Key Activities

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Key activities to date include:

- ROMA Implementation Survey
- Theory of Change

Session Objectives

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- **Discuss**
 - Results of the national ROMA Implementation Survey
 - How a national Theory of Change for Community Action can assist us in strengthening ROMA
- **Gather Input**
 - On elements of the current draft Theory of Change
 - On what elements of performance are most important to measure

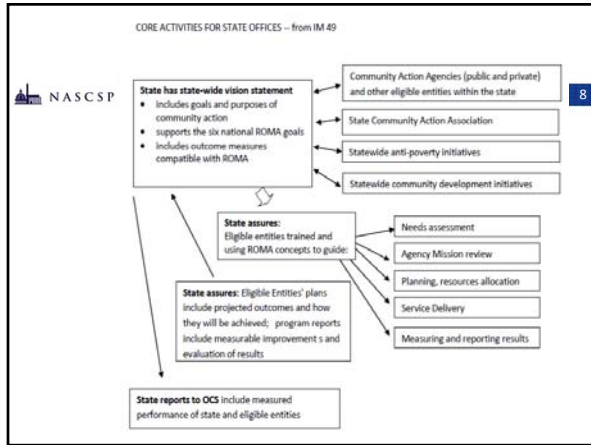
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ROMA Implementation Surveys

Survey Highlights

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- Based on the ROMA core activities in IM 49 (OCS 2001)
- 43 state responses
- 749 local agency responses
- Results posted online at www.nascsp.org
- The highlights provide insight regarding the current status of ROMA implementation in the network, both at the State and local CAA level.
- Local CAA implementation has been guided by the ROMA Cycle, but there is uneven use of the Six National Goals



State Highlights

NASCSP 9

- States are engaged in broad anti-poverty and community development initiatives
- Many of these initiatives have performance measures that are consistent with the Six National ROMA Goals.
- Only a few States report that they included consideration of the Six National ROMA Goals in their statewide vision statement.
- States have included ROMA concepts and core activities for eligible entities in their monitoring practices.
- Most of those who responded to this survey have established ways of monitoring the existence of the key elements of mission, community assessment, planning, and reporting.

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Theory of Change

Using the TOC Model to Enhance ROMA

NASCSP 11

ROMA Next Generation

It is important, as we look to greater standardization of ROMA and other performance measurement and management systems, that we...

- ✓ Clearly understand **HOW** the Community Action Network (as a whole) is engaged in producing change for families and communities.
- ✓ Have a common understanding of **WHAT** that change will be.

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What is a Theory of Change (TOC)?

- Describes a process of social change from the **ASSUMPTIONS** that guide its design to the **LONG-TERM GOALS** it hopes to achieve.
- Shows the **CONNECTIONS** between activities and outcomes.
- Helps explain the **RELATIONSHIP** between the problems you are addressing and the strategies you use to get the work done.

How Does the TOC Relate to ROMA?

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- The **TOC is like the ROMA logic model** in that it is a way of presenting a series of interrelated concepts so that they can be understood as a “big picture.”
- The ROMA logic model has been used primarily at the **local level**. A TOC can be useful for setting goals, strategic planning, and performance evaluation at the **NATIONAL, STATE, REGIONAL** as well as local level.
- The TOC adds consideration of **external factors** and the preconditions related to the achievement of results.
- The TOC prompts **review of the actual results** identified at the end of a service period and provides the data for reflection.

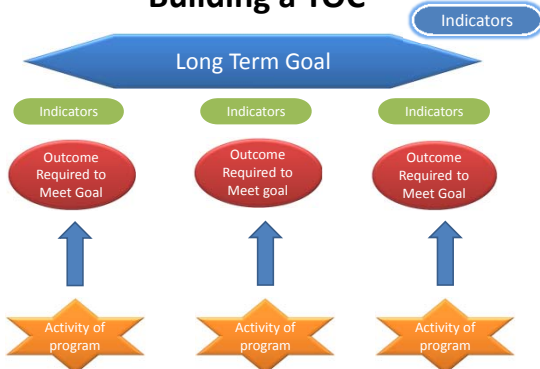
TOC for Community Action

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THIS IS NOT A GENERAL THEORY OF CHANGE BUT RATHER SPECIFIC TO COMMUNITY ACTION

- It is useful for setting goals, strategic planning, and performance evaluation.
- It includes a **step by step Backwards Mapping Process** to define all the preconditions to reach your vision.
- It is a product that illustrates the process.
- Using a TOC will help us talk about the impact of Community Action within context

Building a TOC



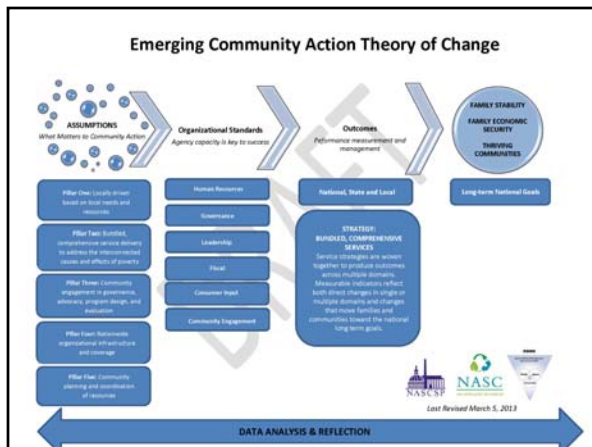
Add the activities or programs that will lead to the outcomes.

Applying the TOC Steps at the State Level


The long term goal of the CSBG Network must be consistent with the outcomes being achieved at the local CAA level, and must also be consistent with statewide initiatives (anti-poverty, community development, and others) that will fulfill the state vision.

Listening Session Results

Beginning to Gather Pieces for a National Community Action TOC



Six National ROMA Goals

 NASCP 19

1. Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
2. The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
3. Low-income people own a stake in their community.
4. Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
5. Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
6. Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.


Are the 6 National Goals actually the long term goals that we are aiming to achieve?

Long-term Goals

 NASCP 20

1. Family economic security
2. Family stability
3. Thriving communities

**Poll Questions:
Family Level Goals**

 NASCP 21

From the listening sessions, we understand that there is not a consistent national definition of "self sufficiency." While local agencies may report on the indicators listed under Goal One in the NPIs, very few States can say "this is the number of people who have become more self-sufficient."

1. Poll Question: Check all the statements below regarding self-sufficiency that you agree with:


- We should keep self-sufficiency as a goal.
- My state has measure for self-sufficiency.
- We should add economic security as a goal.

Because many of the individuals/families who receive assistance from local CAAs are below 100% of poverty, it is not likely that they will reach self-sufficiency (however you may define it) in a one-year period. Many more receive services that are supportive (Goal 6).

2. Poll Question: Is it important to have a long-term goal that covers people who are not ready to move toward self-sufficiency. Do you agree?

- No, it's not important to have that long-term goal.
- Yes, goal should be: Families should be stabilized.
- Yes, and the goal should be: Families should be strengthened.
- Yes, and the goal should be: Low-income people achieve their potential.

**Poll Questions:
Community Level Goals**

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Many of the changes that CSBG funding are to support are at the community level.

Consider Goal 2: "Conditions in which low-income people live are improved."

- **3. Poll Question:** Do you believe this kind of outcome is important to track? yes/no
- **4. Poll Question:** Do you have a way of knowing how many conditions or what communities have been improved? (other than the specific indicators in NPIs) yes/no

Consider Goal 3: "Low-income people own a stake in their community."

- **5. Poll Question:** Do you believe this kind of outcome is important to track? yes/no
- **6. Poll Question:** Do you have a way of measuring this goal (other than specific indicators in NPIs)? yes/no


7. Poll Question: Does the work of Community Action aim to achieve thriving communities? yes/no

Assumptions from Listening Sessions

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1. CAA activities are locally driven based on local needs and resources.
2. Bundled, comprehensive service delivery to address the interconnected causes and consequences of poverty.
3. Community engagement is key in governance, advocacy, program design and evaluation.
4. Community planning and coordination of resources are both strategies and outcomes.
5. Nationwide organizational infrastructure and coverage.


**Poll Questions:
Assumptions at State Level**

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8. Poll Question: Check the State-Level assumptions you believe to be true about the State CSBG office.

1. Monitors agency compliance.
2. Monitors agency effectiveness and quality.
3. Gathers information and reports on results.
4. The State CSBG office and the State Association collaborate to provide training and technical assistance needed to assist in building agency capacity to provide services efficiently and effectively.
5. The State CSBG office links with other state agencies to focus on specific anti-poverty and community development priorities and provides contacts and resources to agencies that choose to work toward these priorities.


**Poll Question:
Local Agency Data**

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9. Poll question: Please indicate which of the following data elements you currently USE to make decisions:

1. Leveraged resources charted over time
2. Numbers served
3. Emergency services numbers
4. Number of individuals moved out of poverty (based on income)
5. Number of families stabilized

**Poll Question:
Comprehensive, Bundled Services**

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One pillar of Community Action is using a bundled, comprehensive service delivery system to address the interconnected causes and consequences of poverty.

- NASCSP looked at this several years ago
- Asking for your help again


10: Poll Question: Do you know what agencies in your State are using bundled, comprehensive services?

- No
- Yes, and I know of evaluations that some of these agencies may have done
- Yes, but I'm not sure if any evaluations have been done by any of these agencies

For More Information

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