

READ

Theory of Change

The table below provides a hypothetical example of a complete Theory of Change and measurement strategy for the provision of legal assistance, as introduced in the Module 2 video. Please use this example to guide the development of your own Theory of Change.

Hypothesis

Tailored legal advice and written information will cause a decrease in formal evictions, thereby increasing housing stability.

	THEORY OF CHANGE	MEASUREMENT
	What happens at each step? What has to happen in order to get to the next step?	Indicators and data to provide information on this step of the Theory of Change.
NEEDS ↓	Tenants facing eviction are concerned about navigating legal proceedings without the proper information or support	Indicators: Number of tenants who report feeling concerned about navigating housing court without proper legal advice or support Data: Survey
INPUTS / ACTIVITIES ↓	An attorney provides tenants who are facing eviction with • Tailored legal advice • An informational pamphlet	Indicators: Number of pamphlets handed out, number of interactions with each tenant, including dates of interactions, what information / advice was provided to each tenant Data: Attorney logs and administrative records

	THEORY OF CHANGE	MEASUREMENT
	What happens at each step? What has to happen in order to get to the next step?	Indicators and data to provide information on this step of the Theory of Change.
OUTPUTS ↓	Tenants receive the pamphlet and advice Tenants understand the pamphlet and advice provided	Indicators: Questions received about information in the pamphlet, number of tenants who report reading the pamphlet and comprehending Data: Survey, email/phone logs, reports by attorneys
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES ↓	Tenants act on the advice they receive (e.g., <i>set up payment plan, sign up for a one-shot deal</i>)	Indicators: Number of tenants who attend their hearing, number of tenants who effectively negotiate repayment options Data: Court records, observations recorded in the courtroom
FINAL OUTCOMES	Evictions decrease, housing stability increases	Indicators: Eviction decisions, number of days housed, number of moves in the past year Data: Court records, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data, survey data

ASSUMPTIONS

- Attorneys are able to actually meet with the tenants ahead of their scheduled hearing to provide the intervention and that tenants are willing to meet with attorneys.
- The level of information attorneys provide is not overly complex to non-legal professionals but still substantial enough to change tenants' behaviors in their eviction proceedings.
- The information and advice attorneys provide is accurate and would be received favorably by judges.