

Example Outcomes

Background

To support the reporting of outcomes during the evidence-based budgeting process, we have compiled some strong examples of outcomes and results from prior years. A few reminders about outcomes:

- Outcomes reflect the **impact** of the program’s inputs, activities, and outputs.
- Typically, they show participant/recipient **benefits or changes in behavior**.
- They should focus on the **participant/recipient** of the program or intervention, not on changes to program implementation or efficiency. What changes have been observed in the recipient or population over time?
- Outcomes can be identified in terms of what **short-, mid-, and long-term** changes will occur relative to the participant or recipient. Using this framework, typically outcomes move from how an individual benefits from the program (short-term) to how the program produces organizational or system-level changes (long-term).
- They should contain a verb that indicates **directionality** (e.g., increase, raise, decrease, reduce, maintain).
- When reporting data, outcomes should include a **time frame** (e.g., over the last two years, since 2019, from March 2020 to March 2022, FY22-FY24, etc.).

Please note: Some examples in this document are supplemented with specific timelines or data points that may not have been provided by agencies and are not accurate. Please do not use any of this data in other materials.

Examples

Example 1: Large health program for individualized support of a population with special needs

Outcome	Result	Year(s)
<p>Outcomes describe the impact of activities; typically, they show benefits or changes in behavior for the participant/recipient. They include directionality and can be individual benefits or system-level changes. What changes in behavior or systems are you seeing? Provide 1-3 outcomes, with the most recent data, that tell the strongest story about the program.</p>		
1. Increase the number and percentage of working age adults with I/DD enrolled who are employed in an integrated setting earning at or above the minimum wage	Increase of 70% over 4 years (2016 baseline: 1,145)	2016-2020

Why is this a good outcome?

- Focus on impact to participants (adults receiving services)
- Covers multiple years
- Shows an expected direction and the actual result
- Notes a baseline output to give context about the size of the program

Example 2: Large scholarship program with administrative data

Outcome	Result	Year(s)
<p>Outcomes describe the <i>impact</i> of activities; typically, they show benefits or changes in behavior for <i>the participant/recipient</i>. They include <i>directionality</i> and can be individual benefits or system-level changes. What changes in behavior or systems are you seeing? Provide 1-3 outcomes, with the most recent data, that tell the strongest story about the program.</p>		
1. Maintain the success rate (students graduated or still enrolled) across cohorts	The success rate dropped slightly to 57.5% (from 59.8% and 59.9% in previous cohorts)	2017-2019
2. Increase Tennessee's FAFSA filing rate	The FAFSA filing rate has increased from 58.2% to 2013 (prior to the start of the program) to 78.6% in 2019	2013-2019

Why are these good outcomes?

- Focus on impact to participants (students graduating or still enrolled; more students accessing financial aid)
- Cover multiple years
- Show an expected direction and the actual result

Example 3: Agricultural cost-share program with return-on-investment calculation (ROI)

Outcome	Result	Year(s)
<p>Outcomes describe the <i>impact</i> of activities; typically, they show benefits or changes in behavior for <i>the participant/recipient</i>. They include <i>directionality</i> and can be individual benefits or system-level changes. What changes in behavior or systems are you seeing? Provide 1-3 outcomes, with the most recent data, that tell the strongest story about the program.</p>		
1. Maintain a positive return on investment (calculated by the University of Tennessee Agri-industry Modeling & Analysis Group)	Each program dollar generates \$3.89 for local economies	ROI last calculated in 2019, analyzing data from 2014-2018

Why is this a good outcome?

- This program may not capture data regarding the specific impacts to farmers, but there is a broader impact to economies that the agency is working with a partner to capture
- Names the source of the ROI calculation; if the calculation is internal, we may request additional information regarding your formula
- Specifies the year the ROI was last updated and what years are included in the calculation

Example 4: Supported housing for justice-involved individuals re-entering their communities

Outcome	Result	Year(s)
<p><i>Outcomes describe the impact of activities; typically, they show benefits or changes in behavior for the participant/recipient. They include directionality and can be individual benefits or system-level changes. What changes in behavior or systems are you seeing? Provide 1-3 outcomes, with the most recent data, that tell the strongest story about the program.</i></p>		
1. Increase the number of offenders able to continue to access transitional services and achieve employment due to receiving transitional housing	75% of offenders receiving transitional housing met program attendance requirements and/or achieved employment, an increase from the baseline of 60%	2019-2021

Why is this a good outcome?

- Not only does the outcome capture the impact of the program on recipients (receiving housing), it also captures the downstream impacts (successful completion of community supervision and obtaining employment)
- Covers multiple years
- Shows an expected direction and the actual result

Example 5: Grant program that enables educational and labor outcomes in specific regions

Outcome	Result	Year(s)
<p><i>Outcomes describe the impact of activities; typically, they show benefits or changes in behavior for the participant/recipient. They include directionality and can be individual benefits or system-level changes. What changes in behavior or systems are you seeing? Provide 1-3 outcomes, with the most recent data, that tell the strongest story about the program.</i></p>		
1. Increase the college-going rate in distressed and at-risk counties	5.9 percentage point decrease (59.1% college-going rate for HS Class of 2019, 53.2% for HS Class of 2020)	2019-2020
2. Increase the number of qualified workers to address skills gaps in high-demand industries	Additional 871 awards earned in high-need fields (30,164 awards in 2019-20, 31,035 awards in 2020-21)	2019-2021

Why are these good outcomes?

- Broad focus on system-level impacts is appropriate for this grant program
- Regional focus (distressed and at-risk counties) where appropriate, to focus on grant recipients
- Cover multiple years
- Show an expected direction and the actual result