

Theory of Change

The Theory of Change represents an organization's collective belief about the causal relationships between certain actions and desired outcomes. Some find it useful to think of a theory of change as an "if...then..." statement, or a series of statements.

Surrounding the Theory of Change is strategy - the set of actions a nonprofit organization deliberately undertakes to achieve its mission. In order to insure that all the activities of a nonprofit organization are optimum, a **strategy** must stay focused on the **mission** and be faithful to a theory of change. The strategy also needs to be compatible with both the environment in which the organization operates and the realistic capacity of the organization.

(C) The **Nonprofit Coherence Framework**, Allen Grossman and Stacey Childress, August 27, 2008