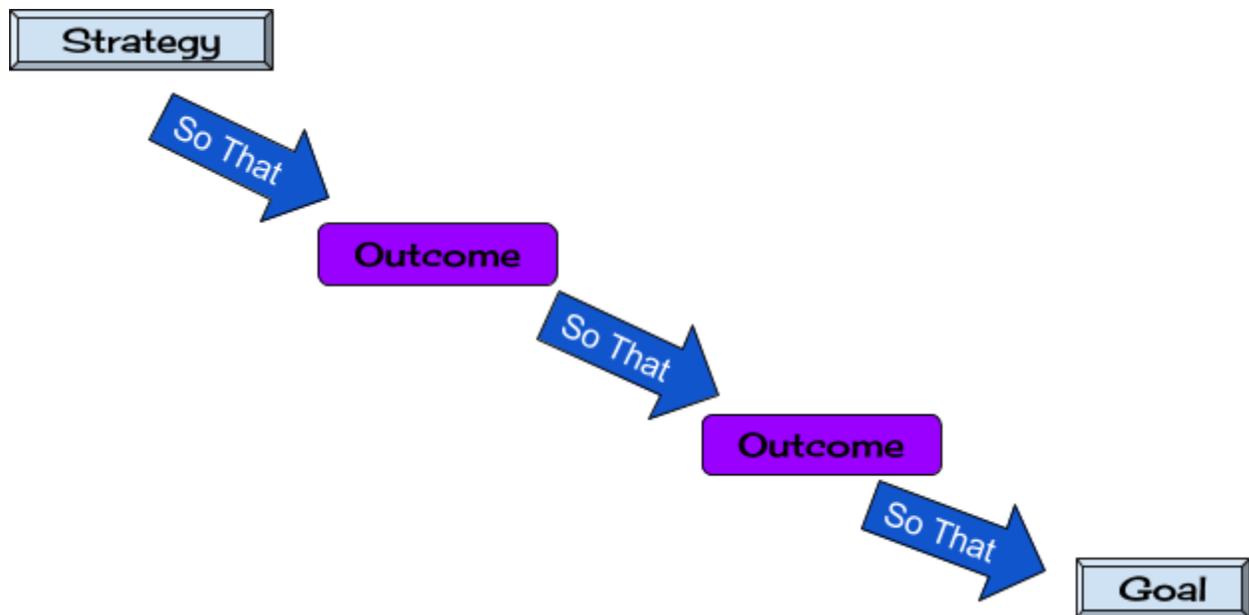


# "So That" Chains to Test Your Theory of Change

It helps to clarify the connection between all types of outcomes by creating a "so that" chain. A "so that" chain reflects the work of building core capacities as well as implementing specific strategies and program actions. Creating a picture of how different types of outcomes relate to each other can help clarify what you intend to do. You can use this as a tool to depict what you expect will happen as a result of your initiatives, strategies, activities and programmatic efforts.



For Example: *"We do X strategy so that (blank) results for (Target Community)"*

The answer should be the direct outcome or result of the strategy. Repeat this question until you have linked each strategy to your goal.

Steps in creating a "So That" Chain

1. Clarify your goal - identify the ultimate impact you want to achieve in your community. The impact will generally be an ambitious visionary statement that is not specific to your program or the results of a specific strategy. Your impact statement will involve the contributions of many strategies and partners.

2. Choose a specific strategy/ intervention or strategies/interventions that connects to your goal
3. Write your intended outcome as a “So That” chain for that strategy. You may need to add additional outcomes. Does it naturally and logically link to your goal?

**If it is challenging to link your goal and strategy you may need to refine or rethink your outcomes or strategies.**

### **Example**

We provide individualized tutoring 3 times/week for 20 min on five “building block” literacy skills through reading, writing and verbal communication activities. (*Specific Intervention*)

#### **SO THAT**

Students have increased access to high quality literacy support during the academic day to practice their skills and build their knowledge. (*Outcome*)

#### **SO THAT**

Students are able to read at 3rd grade level by the end of the school year (*Outcome*)

#### **SO THAT**

Students on track with literacy in elementary school have increased academic performance in all subjects as they continue their education. (*Outcome*)

#### **SO THAT**

Students have equal opportunities to succeed in school. (*Goal*)