

# KEEP Outcomes:

Responsive to Culturally Specific Communities



## The KEEP Program:

One of the most compelling components of the KEEP program is the ability for the model to be used in a way that is culturally responsive. The model was developed to be flexible in delivery, allowing for partnerships with community organizations and groups with specific cultural identities. KEEP's flexibility enables the program delivery to be responsive and adaptable while maintaining fidelity.

## Oregon Social Learning Center, KEEP Data:

KEEP has data on program outcomes for Spanish, Danish, Swedish native speakers and for Black and Hispanic foster parents. Some positive outcomes that have been measured in these communities include:

- In a Chicago study, African American children whose foster parents participated in KEEP had fewer mental health concerns than those in the control group (case work services as usual)<sup>i</sup>
- In a California study, Hispanic foster parents benefited more from KEEP than white foster parents<sup>ii</sup>
- In an Oregon study, foster parents who participated in KEEP were more likely to be retained as foster parents<sup>iii</sup>
- In the ethnically diverse foster care system in New York City, children whose parents participate in KEEP spent significantly fewer days in foster care<sup>iv</sup>
- In NYC an agency specializing in work with Hispanic families (Coalition for Hispanic Family Services), has been able to improve outcomes for foster children and increase their use of kinship (versus non relative) placements

In addition to the above data, the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) is committed to expanding the tracking of outcomes for populations including LGBTQ, immigrant, refugee, and rural communities, which will expand upon the OSLC's ability to adapt KEEP to the needs of the communities they serve. In previous studies the numbers for some groups have been too small to allow for statistical analysis.

## KEEP Pilot Program, Multnomah and Washington Counties

The pilot KEEP program has served over 100 foster children so far, 77 families in all. An initial review of the data shows the following outcomes:

### KEEP Increases Retention Across Racial Delineations:

- During the KEEP pilot, a Native American culturally-specific group was created. The group allowed for community building between Native providers and providers of Native children.
- As of July 2018, 100% of KEEP pilot program participants, including those in the Native American cohort, are still active foster parents<sup>v</sup>
- One long-term Native provider-participant offered, “I have wanted something like this for years”<sup>vi</sup>
- “The KEEP model, because it is focused on relational techniques and perspective shifting, can be tailored to accommodate any culturally-specific group. The key ingredient to creating a culturally-specific group is to employ/contract with a KEEP facilitator who is a member of that particular culture”<sup>vii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Leathers, S.J., Spielfogel, J.E., McMeel, L.S., Atkins, M.S.(2011) Use of a parent management training intervention with urban foster parents (2011)

<sup>ii</sup> DeGarmo, D. S., Chamberlain, P., Leve, L. D., & Price, J. (2009). Foster parent intervention engagement moderating child behavior problems and placement disruption. *Research on Social Work Practice, 19*(4), 423-433.)

<sup>iii</sup> Chamberlain, P., Moreland, S., & Reid, K. (1992). Enhanced services and stipends for foster parents: Effects on retention rates and outcomes for children. *Child Welfare, 5*, 387-401.

<sup>iv</sup> Chamberlain, P., Feldman, S. W., Wulczyn, F., Saldana, L., & Forgatch, M. (2016). Implementation and evaluation of linked parenting models in a large urban child welfare system. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 53*, 27-39. doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.09.013

<sup>v</sup> Fox, Anthony, KEEP Liaison, DHS. “Culturally Specific Communities and Keep.” Message to Johnson, Marissa A.

<sup>vi</sup> Fox, Anthony, KEEP Liaison, DHS. “Culturally Specific Communities and Keep.” Message to Johnson, Marissa A.

<sup>vii</sup> Fox, Anthony, KEEP Liaison, DHS. “Culturally Specific Communities and Keep.” Message to Johnson, Marissa A.