



CHERISH™  
Nurturing Relationships for Children to Thrive

  
KINDERING

<https://cherish.kindering.org>

# What is CHERISH? (Children Encouraged by Relationships in Secure Homes)



**CHERISH** is a multidisciplinary Infant Mental Health (Social/Emotional) best practice model for providing Early Support (ESIT) services to child-welfare systems-involved children and their families.

**CHERISH** is delivered through Early Support (ESIT) home/community visits by someone who has had specialized CHERISH training.

# CHERISH Vision & Purposes:

**Vision:** Children (0-5 yrs) and their families involved in the child welfare system get their social-emotional needs met in safe, secure, and nurturing relationships.

**Purposes:**

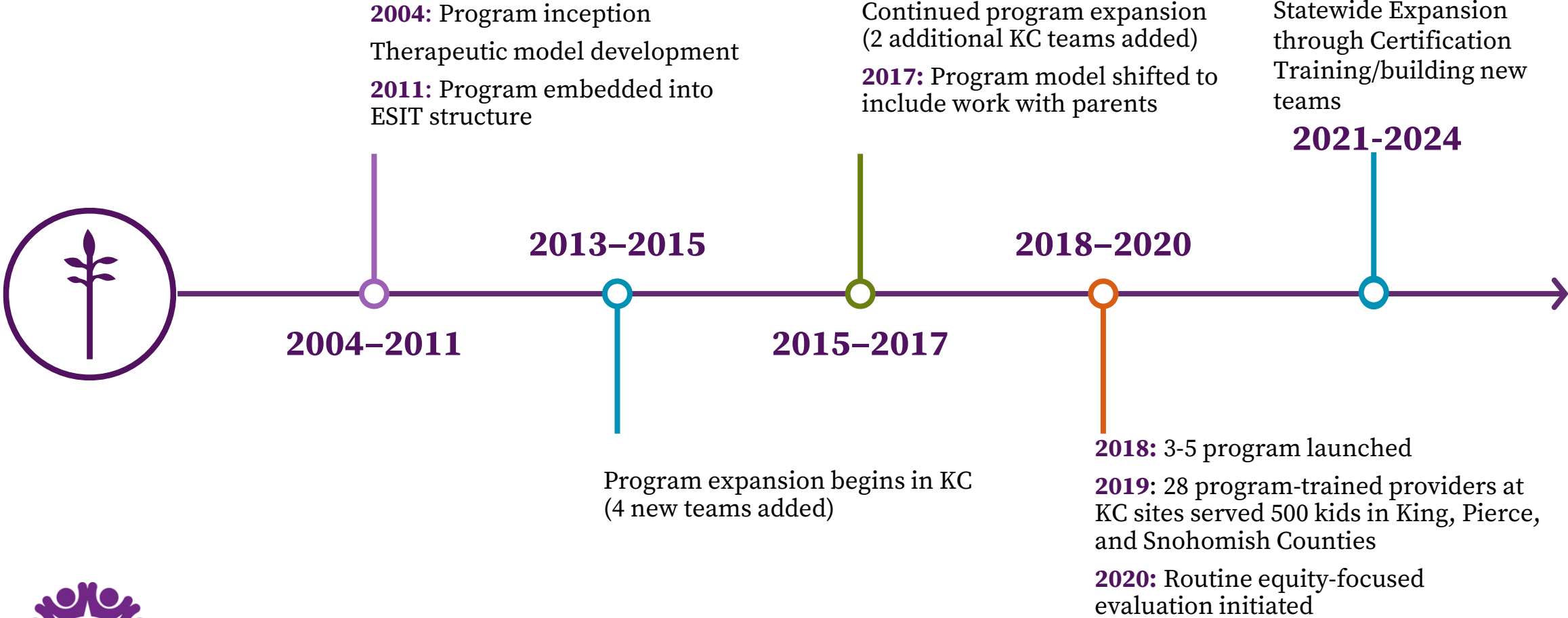
**#1:** To improve well-being through safety and security in relationships.

**#2:** To provide support and aid in healing for children and families.

**#3:** To support children and families in ways that minimize or avoid additional trauma while they are involved with the CW and ESIT system.



# CHERISH History & Growth



# CHERISH Core Values

**We are committed to anti-racism** and we amplify the voices of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. We actively seek opportunities to engage in conversations about the responsibility of white community members to be informed, to speak out, and to act against racist policies and practices.

**We emphasize parents' role in children's lives** and seek to connect parents to ESIT services. We support connections between parents and caregivers for child and family well-being. We participate in authentic relationships that encourage healing.

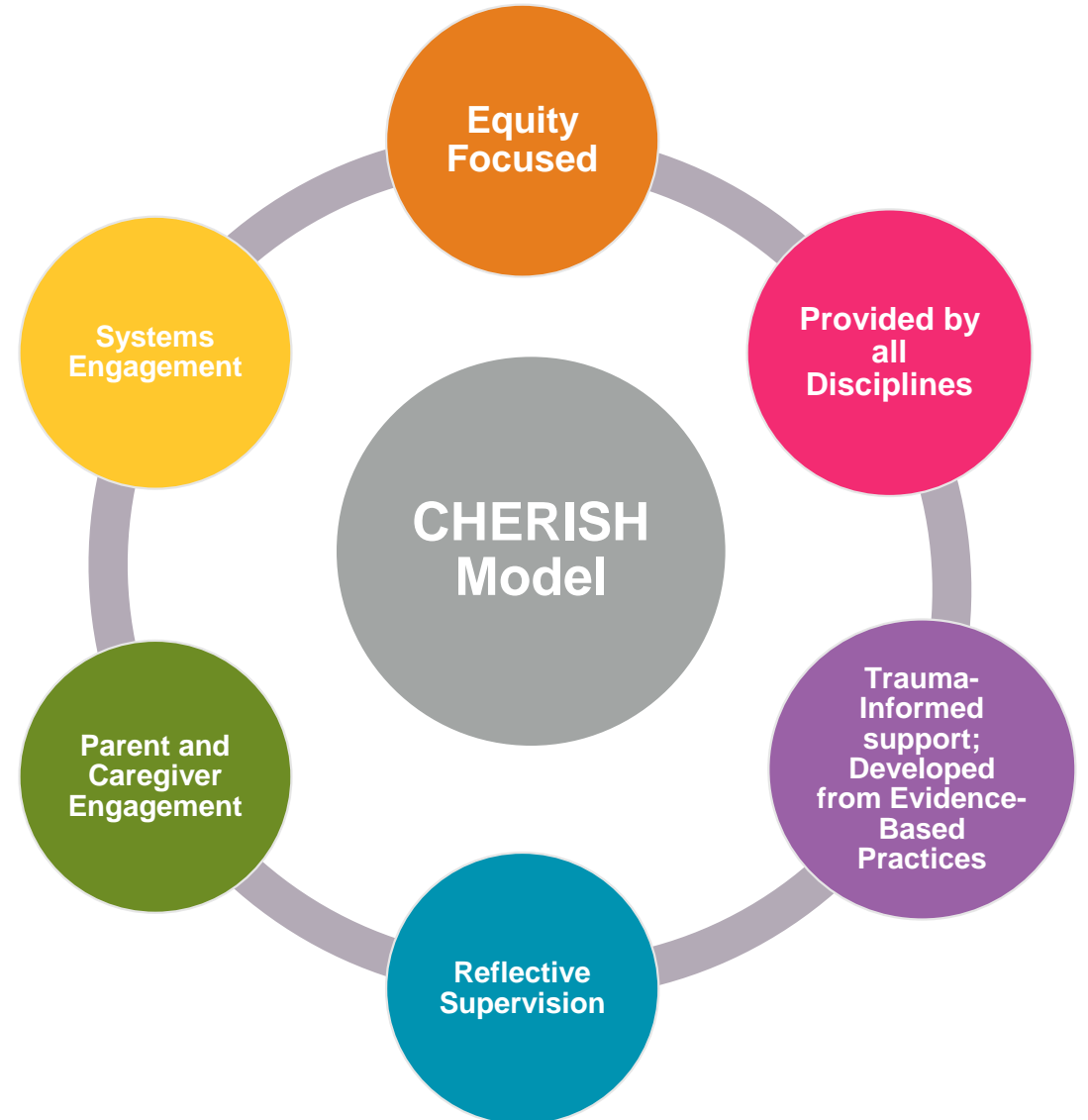


**We center children's experiences** when conferring with Child Welfare staff and other stakeholders. We honor that children and their families' needs are inextricably linked. Further, we acknowledge systemic and institutional inequities and affirm DCYF's strategic plan to reduce the number of children in out-of-home care.

**Through collaboration and partnerships, we invest in sharing our knowledge,** learning from the community, and improving our program's services.

**We prioritize staff wellness** by maintaining reasonable expectations for ourselves and others. We recognize the parallel process—that our own wellness supports wellness in those we serve.

# CHERISH Model: Active Ingredients



# Training Opportunities



## CHERISH 101 – Informed Training

- For ESIT service providers & FRCs in Washington who work with kids in the child welfare system
- Four sessions, three and a half hours each
- At completion, participants considered “CHERISH-Informed”



## CHERISH 102 – Conversations & Mentoring

- Optional, regular virtual meetings for attendees of CHERISH 101 to access ongoing learning & support
- Provides platform for feedback to the training team regarding community needs across the state



## CHERISH Certification Training

- Cohort of ESIT providers engaged in an in-depth training
- Weekly training sessions over six months
- At completion, providers are certified and continue with ongoing support from the CHERISH program

"They let me prove myself...to myself"

"It's *how* they said it (that mattered)"  
re: a visit supervisor asking a dad how he was doing

"To love this child is to love this family"

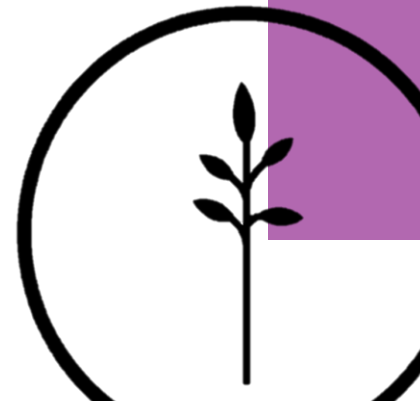
"It's helpful to have things written down"

## Quotes from Parents and Caregivers

"Providers helped me to break it down into little pieces"

"Love never fails, right? So don't stop pushing" 😊

"Because we both loved the child...we were able to work together"





# CHERISH Outcomes

Increased Parent involvement in services

Improving Child-Caregiver and Child-Parent Relationships

Meeting Developmental Milestones/Increased child wellbeing

Placement Stabilization

Parent and Caregiver Satisfaction

Systems Engagement for Better Outcomes

Equity-Focused Outcomes Analysis



# Equity Focused

- Reduce children in out-of-home placements
- Provider trainings centered in racial equity practices
- Data analysis for race/ethnicity disparities
- Thoughtfully engage participants with lived experience on training team
- Solicit organic feedback
- Discuss culture openly and address racism & historical trauma
- Hire staff with lived experience in Child Welfare System
- CHERISH Program learnings inform Kinderling's work

