Problem:
Philadelphia’s West African refugee children and families experienced dangerous escapes and refugee camps leaving many with post traumatic stress disorder yet culture, language, stigma and costs have made mental health care inaccessible to them.

Solution:
Teach school professionals to understand trauma, West African culture, school-based mental health interventions and how to refer to other services to build school capacity to assist West African refugees.

Program:
Deliver training to teachers, school counselors, nurses, and administrators in Southwest Philadelphia public elementary, middle, and high schools on topics related to West African mental health and work with the schools, families, and the behavioral health system to improve West African refugee student access to mental health services.

Impact:
School staff that went through the training report better understanding of West African students, better communication and overall the West African children felt more accepted in school.