Problem:
Albany Park is a port of entry for immigrants and refugees from across the world and has the largest percentage of foreign-born residents in the Chicago area. In school, these students struggle. They do not understand how to behave – they leave the classroom, have crying spells, refuse to go to school, fight, and have trouble understanding the rules. Refugee and immigrant students must deal with poverty, lack of health insurance, minimal community resources, lack of family support, and adjustment to a new culture.

Solution:
Provide comprehensive school-based mental health interventions that are culturally and linguistically accessible. Help school staff learn skills essential to managing their students.

Program:
Expanded mental health services at two Albany Park Schools, Hibbard Elementary School and Roosevelt High School have added language-accessible, on-site clinical services. Also added bicultural and bilingual outreach workers who provide behavioral consultation and classroom management for teachers and provide direct care to parents and students.

Impact:
The project provided services to over 200 children and on-site consultation and assistance to teachers to successfully work with refugee and immigrant students. Due to the success of this project, the program will be replicated in two other schools in Chicago.