Problem:
Among the 1,500 English Language learners in Portland Public Schools, a diverse group of refugee and immigrant students suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, acculturative stress and family conflict. Stigma, affordability and lack of understanding prevent families from seeking help.

Solution:
Increase availability of linguistically and culturally appropriate mental health services and help refugee and immigrant children and their families utilize the services. Build partnerships among community organizations and with immigrant and refugee communities to provide emotional supports for new arrivals.

Program:
Expand care by engaging the immigrant and refugee communities in extensive conversations about their needs; train teachers, school social workers, school-based health center staff and community providers in culturally responsive practices, and increase skillful mental health interpretation.

Impact:
The partners believe strongly that the project has enabled them to break out of organizational silos and join together for the benefit of the target population. Access to mental health services for immigrant and refugee students has increased in schools; workshops and educational services are in place for families, providers and school staff; and cultural sensitivity, accessibility and respect have increased in schools and communities.