Problem:
Coming to a new country as an immigrant or refugee is stressful for children. For some, family separations, loss of community and sense of place, and the particular trauma of witnessing or experiencing violence can create emotional and behavioral problems.

Solution:
Develop model mental health programs that engage schools, families, students, mental health agencies and other community organizations in building effective, accessible services for children, youth and their families.

Program:
In 2006 the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation launched Caring Across Communities to help meet the mental health needs of immigrant children and youth. Building on strong community-school partnerships, the 15 funded sites are helping children and their families adapt to their new home.

Impact:
Caring Across Communities programs are...

♦ Serving children who speak 33 languages and come from 55 foreign countries.
♦ Providing care in more than 20 languages.
♦ Helping children and adolescents through school-based services in 15 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 8 high schools and 3 k-8 schools.
♦ Offering programs that range from school-wide mental health promotion projects in 14 schools to mental health services in 13 schools.
♦ Assisting others who need help in bridging culture and language barriers, including teachers (13 sites), parents and family members (13 sites) and siblings of students enrolled in schools (8 sites).