

New American Girls on the Rise is a targeted mentorship and enrichment program for middle and high school girls from Chittenden County refugee and immigrant groups with the goal of fostering inclusive health care and improved health outcomes for local immigrant communities by increasing collaboration and trust between the academic health center and the local community and, ultimately, increasing representation in the healthcare workforce. Using the novel concept of “cocooning,” New American Girls on the Rise surrounds local immigrant, refugee and 1st generation American girls with home, school, and individual supports necessary to succeed in health sciences. Using a combination of mentorship and academic enrichment, the program guides the girls into (1) college careers in health sciences and then (2) into careers in health sciences to diversify the healthcare workforce.