

THE SUDA INSTITUTE

FY 2026

Suda Institute Annual Report

Listening. Learning. Leading Change.

A Year of Collaboration, Compassion, and Systems Transformation.



SUN PROJECT | SUBSTANCE USE NETWORK



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

At 2am, Dr. Levy arrived at the hospital to deliver a baby. As labor progressed, the mother whispered, *"Remember the plan."*

Like many fearful moms, she had entered pregnancy with an untreated opioid use disorder (OUD) and Hepatitis C. But instead of finding shame, she received prenatal care, medication for OUD behavioral health treatment, peer support, and coordinated care through the SUN Project.

She delivered a healthy baby boy. But the story didn't end there. The compassionate care she received inspired her husband to seek treatment for his own alcohol use disorder. Today they are raising a healthy family of five, and Dr. Levy sees them regularly as their established medical home provider.

That is what systems change looks like.

Their success wasn't the result of one provider or one program. It was possible because healthcare providers, peer support specialists, child welfare, lawyers, and community partners worked together as one coordinated system.

Every accomplishment you'll read in this report traces back to families like theirs.

In FY 2026, we strengthened that system. We expanded provider education and informed the field through presentations and technical assistance. SUN was recognized by AMCHP and SAMHSA as a national example of collaborative care for pregnant women with OUD. These national recognitions affirm that our work is grounded in best practice—not because recognition is the goal but because families deserve approaches proven to work.

We piloted a rural home-based prenatal case, amplified lived experience through our portrait project and community feedback groups, and supported more than 100 children through our Holiday Toy Market.

None of this happens because of one organization or one individual. We are deeply grateful to **Dr. Suda**, whose vision guides this work; **Dr. Levy**, whose compassion inspires us; **Jeff Barnhart**, who advocates for our mission; **Dr. Williams**, whose research keeps us accountable; **Mark Botts**, who built the legal foundation that makes this model possible; and **Jennifer Yates**, who ensures the voices of families remain at the center of everything we do. And as always, special recognition to the **SUN community partners and patients** who are the champions, pioneers, and driving force behind every success we celebrate.

Thank you for believing that families deserve more than treatment—they deserve hope, dignity, and the opportunity to heal together.

With gratitude,
Gina Hofert CEO
The Suda Institute

BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2026 Impact at a Glance

3



Counties with Collaborative PSUD Care Networks

27



SUN Clinic and RISE Clinic clients with a signed SUN Project ROI

581



Training and TA encounters with Subject Matter Expert

24



Provider partners with a MOU for the SUN Project

10



Monthly Community Feedback Sessions

12



Grant Applications Submitted

\$441,672

Total Amount Revenue FY 2026

Annual SAMHSA Assessment

90%

Cabarrus

85%

Rowan

90%

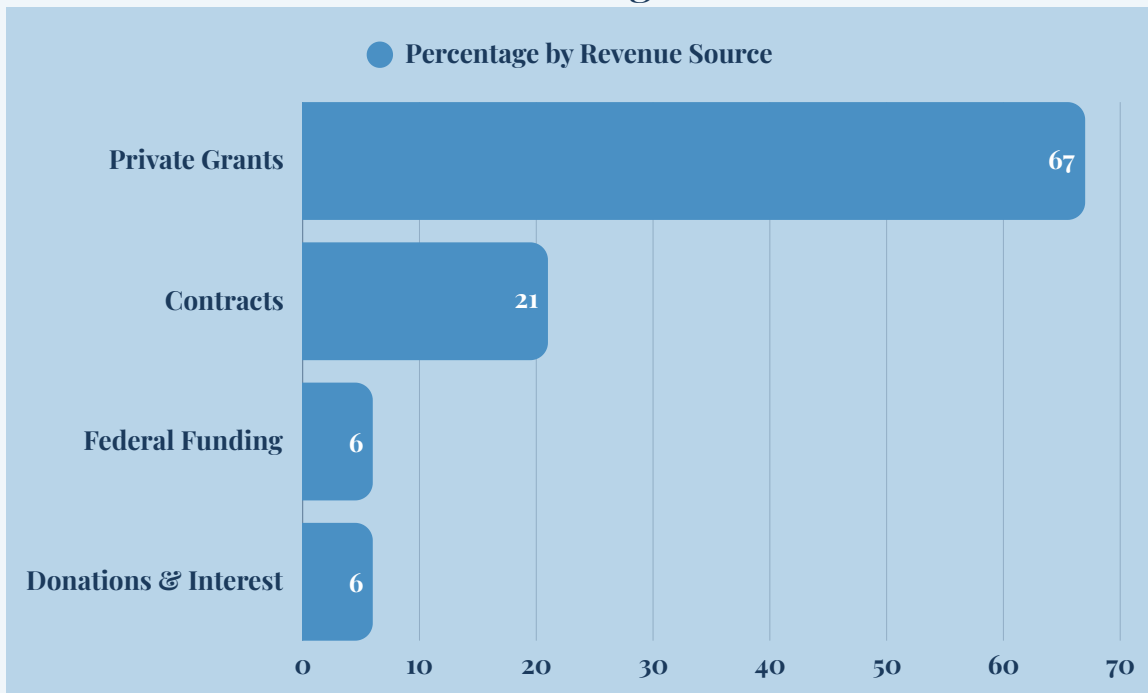
Stanly

County specific improvement in the identification, treatment, and coordination of care for pregnant individuals impacted by Opioid Use Disorders.

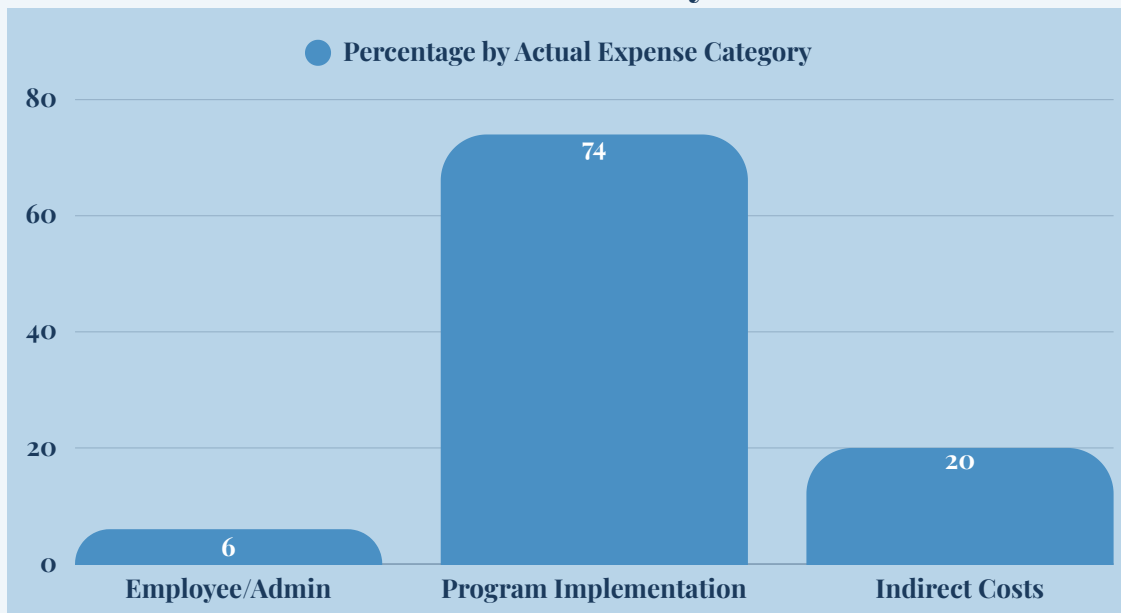
Investing in Healthier Families and Stronger Communities

With an FY 2026 operating budget of \$721,292 and \$557,329 strategically invested during the fiscal year, The Suda Institute remains committed to responsible stewardship of every dollar entrusted to us, ensuring resources are directed toward education, collaboration, and services that improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

Where Our Funding Comes From



How We Invest Every Dollar



SUN Clinic Overview



46

SUN Clinic Clients



0

Infant Maternal
Deaths



36.3

Avg. Gestational
Age (weeks)

Child Welfare / Custody Status

Reflects FY 2026 point-in-time data for SUN Clinic clients.



96%

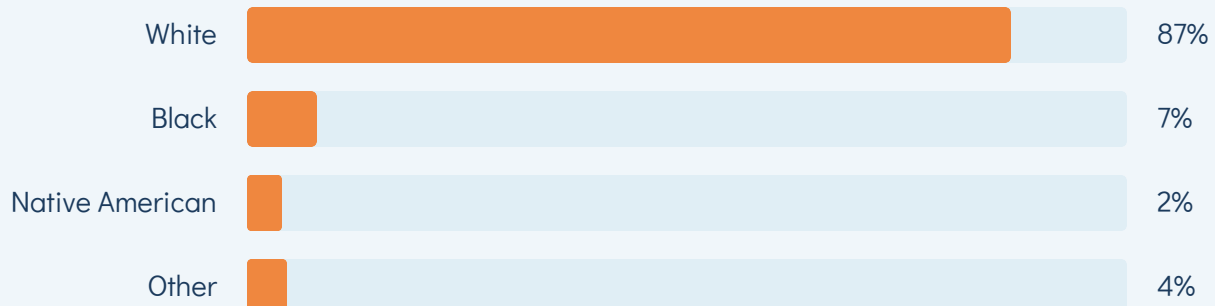
Maintained Guardianship



4%

Out-of-home Placement

Demographics



RISE Clinic Overview

The RISE Clinic provides similar services as the SUN Clinic, however it serves SUN Project participants who have exceeded the 1-year postpartum date. Individuals with a signed ROI continue to be monitored by the SUN Project upon transition from SUN Clinic to RISE Clinic.

**22**

RISE clients
transitioned from
SUN

Child Welfare / Custody Status

Reflects FY 2026 point-in-time data for RISE Clinic clients with a signed ROI.

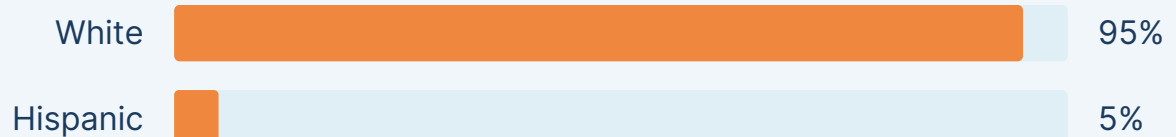
**85%**

Maintained Guardianship

**15%**

Out-of-home Placement

Demographics



Building Better Systems

Replacing silos with coordinated, compassionate care through cross-sector partnerships.

25

Monthly Care Coordination
Meetings across 3 counties.



300+

Partner Meetings, Presentations,
TA

Healthcare



Hospital systems & OB providers
coordinating prenatal care

Behavioral Health



SUD treatment integration
with maternal services

Child Welfare



Family-centered approaches
to safety & reunification

Public Health



Population-level data &
community health strategies

EMS & First Responders



Frontline crisis response
with warm handoffs

Community Partners



Peer support, housing &
wrap-around services

Project ECHO

in partnership with the NCPSUD Network Learning Collaborative

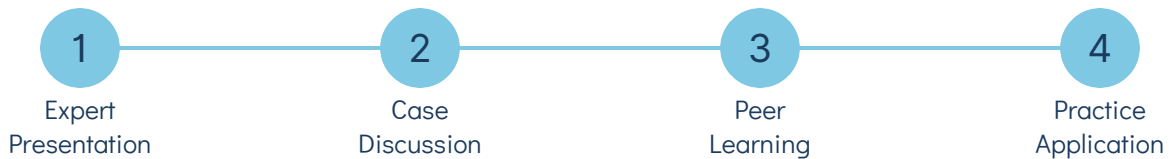
53

Unique Professionals
Trained

8

Monthly ECHO
Sessions

HOW PROJECT ECHO WORKS



DISCIPLINES REPRESENTED

OB/GYN

Pediatrics

Social Work

Nursing

Behavioral Health

Public Health

EVALUATION RESULTS

84%

reported increased understanding of evidence-based perinatal substance use disorder care

83%

reported gaining practical strategies they could immediately apply in their roles

100%

reported increased confidence in accessing subject matter experts for consultation and support

100%

reported a positive shift in perspective regarding care for individuals impacted by substance use disorders

Experiencing The Model

SUN Project Site Visit: From Learning to Implementation

Following the completion of the NC PSUD Network Project ECHO series, participants were invited to the SUN Project for an immersive site visit designed to bring classroom learning to life. Providers toured the SUN Clinic, heard directly from individuals with lived experience, participated in case-based discussions, and received face-to-face technical assistance from subject matter experts to support implementation within their own communities.



Hear Lived Experience

Individuals with lived experience shared their personal journeys, providing valuable insight into the importance of compassionate, person-centered care.



Connect with Experts

Providers met directly with SUN Project faculty and NC PSUD Network subject matter experts to discuss challenges, ask questions, and receive technical assistance.



Experience the Model

Participants observed the SUN Clinic in action and learned how collaborative, relationship-centered care is delivered across disciplines.



Build Local Capacity

Participants left with practical tools, resources, and strategies to strengthen PSUD services within their own organizations and communities.

SUN Project Site Visit

Impact at a Glance

“Education changes knowledge. Experience changes practice.”

100%

felt confident accessing the SUN Project and NC PSUD Network for future consultation and training support

100%

reported the site visit positively influenced their perspective on caring for individuals with PSUD

83%

reported an increased understanding of evidence-based PSUD practices following the site visit, remaining participants reported a neutral response

83%

felt equipped with practical skills they could immediately apply within their own organizations following the visit

Participants Committed To:

Using more person-centered language when speaking with patients.

Expanding the use of peer support.

Implementing the SUN ROI process.

Improving collaboration with community partners.

Primary Care Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

At a Glance



159

Provider Survey
Responses



94%

Increased Knowledge of
evidenced based
treatment practices

Empowering Primary Care Providers to Deliver Evidence-Based Care

Expanding access to treatment begins with empowering providers. During FY2026, 159 healthcare professionals participated in the Primary Care Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder educational series, increasing their confidence, knowledge, and readiness to provide evidence-based care for individuals living with opioid use disorder.

Key Outcomes

Comfort Prescribing Medications

85% reported increased comfort prescribing medications such as buprenorphine/naloxone following the training.

Confidence Treating OUD

89% reported increased confidence managing patients with opioid use disorder, including relapse prevention, co-occurring mental health conditions, and social determinants of health.

Knowledge of Best Practices

98% reported increased knowledge of evidence-based guidelines, visit structure, and treatment recommendations.

Primary Care Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder



Providers Left Ready to Make a Difference

Participants reported not only increased knowledge, but also greater confidence in applying what they learned within their own organizations. Providers also expressed confidence in accessing ongoing technical assistance through the SUN Project and the NC PSUD Network to support continued implementation.

Additional Outcomes

Strengthening Care Teams

92% reported their staff gained valuable skills to better support patients with opioid use disorder (excluding respondents who selected "Not Applicable").

Reducing Financial Concerns

76% reported reduced concerns regarding reimbursement, coding, documentation, and financial considerations related to treating opioid use disorder.

BUILDING BETTER SYSTEMS

Education. Collaboration. Transformation.



EDUCATION

Provider training, Project ECHO, technical assistance, and site visits build the foundation for success.



PROVIDER CONFIDENCE

Providers gain knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy to treat opioid use disorder.



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Knowledge is applied through proven guidelines, best practices, and compassionate, patient-centered care.



EXPANDED ACCESS TO TREATMENT

More providers, earlier intervention, and stronger community partnerships increase access to care.



BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES

Individuals and families experience improved health, recovery, and stronger communities.



Sharing Knowledge. Inspiring Change.

Advancing perinatal substance use disorder care through education, innovation, and national leadership.

Throughout FY 2026, The Suda Institute continued to share expertise, elevate lived experience, and influence systems of care through statewide, national, and international presentations. Our team was honored to educate providers, collaborate with leaders across disciplines, and receive recognition for innovative work improving care for pregnant and parenting individuals affected by substance use disorder.



Sounds of Stanly Podcast

A community podcast series, led by Dr. Levy, highlighting substance use disorder, recovery, stigma reduction, and local resources to educate the public and strengthen community awareness.



MAHEC Women's Health Symposium

Jennifer and Sarah shared the value of peer support and lived experience in improving engagement, recovery, and maternal health outcomes.



ISSUP Conference

Gina presented innovative strategies for balancing confidentiality requirements while improving coordinated care for pregnant individuals affected by substance use disorder.



NC MATTERS

Dr. Russell Suda and Sonja Bohannon Thacker highlighted the importance of compassionate, relationship-centered care across the perinatal continuum.



National Recognition

Inclusion in a recent SAMHSA published case study. The recognition highlighted our collaborative model.



National Recognition

Recognized by the Association of Maternal & Child Programs (AMCHP) as a promising practice.

When We Listen, Systems Change

Throughout FY 2026, 22 individuals with lived experience participated in 10 Community Feedback Groups, providing invaluable insight into the barriers, successes, and opportunities within our systems of care. Their voices directly influenced provider education, statewide resources, and systems improvement efforts across North Carolina.

10

Monthly Community Feedback Sessions



22

Unique Participants



104

Participant Encounters



45

Referrals Generated



You Spoke



We Listened



We Acted

The voice of the community members impacted multiple areas of care:

Provider Education

Training content updated to reflect lived experience perspectives and trauma-informed approaches

Project ECHO Sessions

Community feedback directly shaped session topics, case discussions, and session resources

DSS Communication

Recommendations for clearer, more compassionate communication from child welfare workers

Process & Systems Improvement

Systemic changes to intake, referral, and coordination workflows across agencies

RESTORING DIGNITY

Through Our Eyes

A Portrait Project Empowering Mothers in Recovery



9

Mothers Photographed

5

Volunteers

31

Portrait Reveal Attendees

“Very Rewarding, I felt seen, cared about, and beautiful!”

- Portrait Participant

Through Our Eyes is a portrait project that empowers mothers in recovery by giving them the opportunity to tell their stories through professional photography and their own words. Each portrait captures strength, resilience, and the journey toward healing while helping to reduce stigma.

Through Our Eyes demonstrates that recovery is about more than treatment. When individuals feel seen, valued, and connected, healing extends beyond the individual to strengthen families and communities.

Through Our Eyes

A Portrait Project Empowering Mothers in Recovery



Self-Esteem

All participants in the Through Our Eyes Portrait Event agreed the experience improved their self-esteem and helped them feel valued and worthy.



Family Connection

100% of participants reported feeling more connected to their children and / or family following the event.



Community Support

100% of participants felt supported by their community through the portrait session and brunch.



Healing and Recovery

100% of participants strongly agreed that the experience was a meaningful part of their healing and recovery journey.



New Opportunities

100% of participants strongly agreed that this event provided opportunities they would not have otherwise experienced.

RESTORING DIGNITY

Holiday Toy Market

Second Annual Toy Giveaway



In partnership with McGill Baptist Church, Cabarrus Health Alliance, Wellcare, and a multitude of community member donations, the Suda Institute hosted its second toy giveaway. This event was hosted to support SUN Project families by providing gifts and necessities for their children during the winter holidays.

“Volunteers were amazing, Very Helpful”

- Toy Giveaway Participant

43

Families Served

29

Volunteers

100+

Children Benefited

FY 2027 Priorities

Expanding partnerships, education, and community engagement while centering lived experience.

01

Expand Regional Partnerships

We will continue strengthening collaboration across Cabarrus, Rowan, and Stanly counties to expand access to compassionate care, improve care coordination, and build a more seamless system of support. We also look forward to partnering with the NC PSUD network to share best practices and strengthen perinatal substance use disorder services across North Carolina.

02

Increase Provider Education

We will expand provider education, technical assistance, and access to subject matter experts to increase the number of compassionate, evidence-based professionals equipped to support individuals and families affected by perinatal substance use disorder.

03

Amplify Lived Experience

We will continue elevating the voices of individuals with lived experience to ensure their perspectives inform education, policy, and systems improvement, creating more person-centered and responsive care.

04

Strengthen Research and Improve Data Systems

We will enhance our data collection and reporting processes to better measure and demonstrate our community impact, improve data sharing and collaboration across partner organizations, and expand research and dissemination efforts to advance evidence-based practices and share lessons learned with communities across North Carolina and beyond.

05

Sustain & Diversify Funding

We will strengthen long-term sustainability by pursuing grant opportunities, expanding technical assistance services, engaging community donors and partners, leveraging our Board's networks, and continuing fundraising efforts to support and grow our mission.

WITH GRATITUDE

Our Funders

This work is made possible through the generous support of our funding partners and the dedication of cross-system collaborators.

MAJOR FUNDERS

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

\$400,000 Investment

The Duke Endowment

\$770,000 over 3 years

Atrium / Cabarrus Healthcare Foundation

\$135,000 Initiative

Opioid Settlement Funds - (CHA)

\$84,667 for FY 2026

Aetna / CVS Health PSUD Network (Governor's Institute)

\$29,125 for FY 2026

Fundraising Impact

\$43,135 for FY 2026

Together, we are building a system of care that centers compassion, dignity, and the voices of those most impacted.



Listening. Learning. Leading Change.

Building compassionate, coordinated systems of care for
pregnant and parenting individuals affected by substance use
disorder.

CONNECT WITH US



Scan to visit our website

www.sudainstitute.org



Support Our Mission

Your investment helps build systems that center compassion
and dignity for families in recovery.

<https://givebutter.com/SudaInstituteDonations>