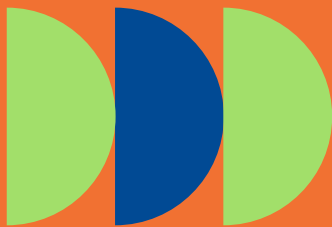




# 2024

## Sangha Unity Network Annual Impact Report



EXPANDING, STRENGTHENING, AND  
EMPOWERING PEOPLE AS CITIZENS  
OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

# Sangha Unity Network helps build bridges to enhance productive citizenship via community inclusion.

The mission of Sangha Unity Network (SUN) is to provide opportunities to empower and enhance the lives of people who are marginalized.

We envision communities where all people are valued for their contributions, gifts, and capacities, and where people are connected, included, and living a life with autonomy and choice.

## A message from our Executive Director

As I look back at on an incredible year of transformation and community building, I am excited to share with you some highlights from Sangha Unity Network's 2024 achievements within our 2024 Impact Report. Our work has made substantial impact strengthening resilience and empowerment across diverse communities throughout Georgia.

As I look forward to 2025, I am excited about the opportunities to continue our work to make visible the people who are not seen, to build inclusive communities that welcome all citizens with dignity and respect and to grow our diverse network. As our network grows so does our impact and we measure this impact by the quality of relationships and building spaces where everyone is welcomed and valued. By educating and engaging with local leaders, community organizations and policymakers, we will continue our advocacy for continued investment in local infrastructures and supports that focus on inclusion, accessibility and connection.

Thank you for your belief in our mission. Together we have the power to create lasting impact and meaningful change so let's make 2025 the year of visibility, growth and inclusion for all!

With gratitude and hope for the future,  
Michelle



**Our work offers learning opportunities and mentorship to support people being included and leads to individuals with disabilities being seen and treated as valued citizens who contribute, as opposed to “clients” who are in need. Through several grants, SUN has worked with disability providers, advocacy organizations, state agencies, and community members to learn about self-advocacy.**

**98%**

of participants believe they are better able to meet “shift” their culture of services to focus on the hope of people they work for

## Projects

**The Learning Journey:**  
Reimagining Waiver Supports & Services

## Details

Supporting DBHDD provider agencies in “shifting” service provision to person-centered practices

## Outcome

Identify focus areas to implement organization change supporting increase in individualized service provision.

**98%**

of participants have a greater understanding of Medicaid expectations

**Transformational Change Workshops:** 12 workshops around Georgia.

Educate I/DD Professionals on implementing HCBS Setting Rule so people being supported have more autonomy, choice, control, and connections.

Greater understanding of how to implement person-centered practices to support people with disabilities to live a meaningful life in compliance with Medicaid expectations.

**19%** ↑

In network members who participated in advocacy efforts across Georgia with 430 active members

**Uniting for Change:**  
Supporting the Self-Advocacy Network and Local Area Networks

Supporting self-advocates to expand the self-advocacy movement across Georgia, teach & mentor others, rise up & speak out as full citizens.

Increase in self-advocate participation in area network meetings, attending community strong, & learning opportunities.

# Learning Journey



Sangha Unity Network, with funding from The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) continued facilitating the Learning Journey in 2024.

This Learning Journey is designed for DBHDD Medicaid waiver provider agencies who seek to further commit to a foundation of supporting self-advocates and person-centered practices.

It is a 8-month commitment that offers an opportunity for personal growth for each individual participant and collective discovery for provider organizations. In total, 14 service provider agencies have participated in this work since the project's foundation. In 2024, SUN recruited and supported six new agencies to participate in the Learning Journey.

## Learning Journey Sessions

Held sessions to enhance skillsets and create person centered organizations via contribution, choice and valued social roles, while imagining what more is possible.

## Mentor Sessions

Facilitated Mentor Sessions to support the organization's identified focus areas within enhancing, creating and revising areas within the agency to shift service delivery.

## Community Networking Sessions

Community Networking Sessions support the development of a Community of Practice for participating organizations across the state of Georgia.

## Wisdom of Leadership Retreat

Following the completion of each Learning Journey SUN hosts a Wisdom of Leadership retreat which includes the provider community of practice, self advocates from Uniting for Change and representation from state policymakers.

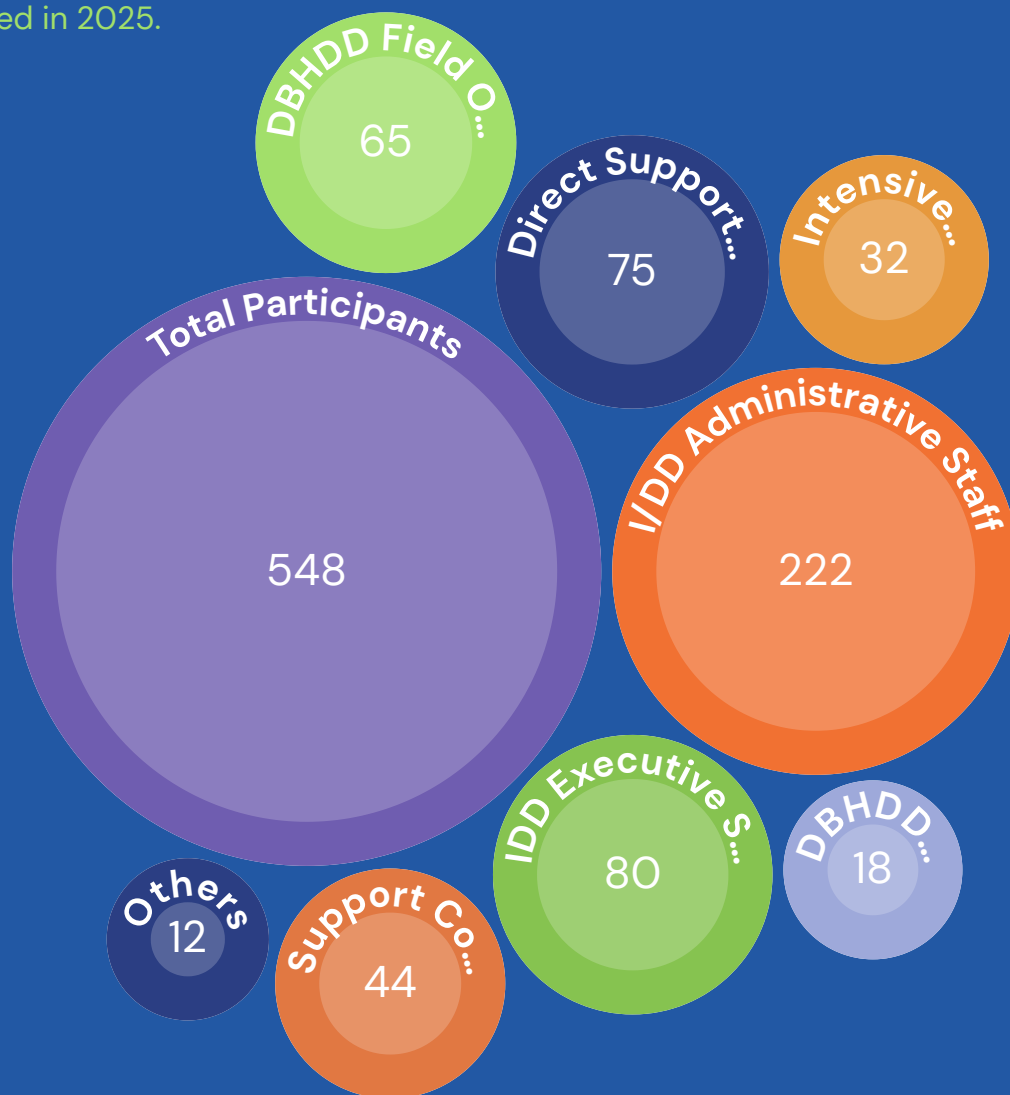
# Transformational Change



A workshop series facilitated by Sangha Unity Network with funding from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

These workshops were specifically designed for DD service providers, support coordinators, and field office staff. Sangha Unity Network facilitated 12 Transformational Change workshops in 2024. Additional workshops will be presented in 2025.

The Transformational Change workshops provide opportunities for participants to learn about the Home and Community Based (HCBS) Settings Rule and gain ideas about shifting HCBS from a systems-framework to a more individualized framework, where the person who uses services is at the center of their lives, determining preferences, having autonomy, and making choices that work for them.



# Supporting Self-Advocacy



Sangha Unity Network has long-standing relationships with people experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities across Georgia. Since 2018, we have worked in partnership with self-advocates to create space for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have lives of meaning with supports that are intentionally designed around their capacities, gifts, interests and dreams.

In 2024, we continued to expand the number of self-advocates across the state actively working in their Local Self-Advocacy Area Networks to bring about change and continued meaningful legislative advocacy and educational opportunities for all self-advocates and their allies and supporters.

## Workshops

SUN supported Uniting for Change, a grassroots self advocacy network to facilitate **9 workshops, with 252 participants**, to educate other self-advocates in Georgia about Voting, the HCBS Settings Rule, Self-advocacy, and Supported Decision-Making.

## Local Area Networks

SUN supported U4C to grow and develop the U4C Local Self-Advocacy Area Networks in Georgia. **452 people participated in 16 Area Network Meetings in 2024.**

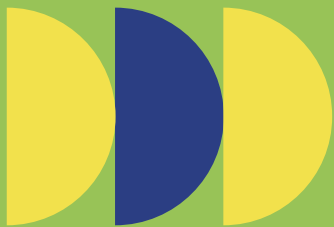
## Community Strong

Assisted Uniting for Change Self-advocates to facilitate **32 Community Strong gatherings with 161 participants.**

## Uniting for Change Leadership Retreat

Each year SUN facilitates a retreat for the Uniting for Change Leadership Collective to determine their priorities for the year. This year the retreat focused on the Power of Visibility in November 2024.

**We'd like to thank all  
our partners for their  
generous support.**



# Together we can build a stronger, more inclusive future for all!

As we look forward to 2025 we will continue this momentum and extend our reach even further, however, we cannot do this alone! Your generous contributions are the cornerstone of our success. With your continued support we will be able to:

- Expand our reach throughout the state in building relationships and partnerships between people with disabilities and community members and organizations.
- Enhance our resources and tools for community leaders to continue to be agents of change.
- Provide on-going and additional workshops and learning opportunities for growth and learning on a variety of platforms.

Join us in making a difference! Your donation will ensure that Sangha Unity Network can continue to be the driving force in shifting how community members and government leaders see people who are marginalized as decision makers taking the lead in shaping their future. Every contribution empowers us to create lasting impact.

[We invite you to make your contribution here!](#)

