**Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH) Community Voice & Equity Committee**

**Who we are:**

The Community Voice & Equity Committee is a SWACH Board of Trustees committee that aims to:

1. Amplify community voice within SWACH governance and decision making,
2. Identify and address community needs at the system level through policy and advocacy,
3. Shift power towards more equitable decision making in funding.

The Community Voice & Equity Committee will have no more than two Board of Trustees members shall other members will be community members who are representative of the diversity within our service area.

**Focus of our work:**

Community members and organizations often advocate for policy change alone or within a single sector. This is potentially less powerful and successful in creating change. The Community Voice and Equity Committee amplifies regional advocacy power by bringing community members and organizations together to find common policy priorities and act as a team. The Community Voice and Equity Committee reviews community needs and data, provides leadership on policy and advocacy opportunities, provides guidance and makes decisions on SWACH funding, and provides input and recommendations to the Board of Trustees. We promote health equity and uplift underrepresented community voices by bringing together multiple sectors. Our advocacy supports needs across Clark, Klickitat and Skamania Counties, focusing on policy, systems and environmental change, and support the mission and values of SWACH. Our focus is to identify, advocate and work to change policies that improve the social determinants of health. \*

\*Social determinants of health (SDOH) are things like housing, access to food, education, transportation, etc

**Committee Membership**

The Community Voice & Equity Committee will consist of at least 12 voting members from across our region, who represent the diversity of our communities through lived experience, professional and educational experience. Terms are two years, and members are expected to be able to commit at least 4 hours per month (though some months may be more or less). Members who are eligible (not current SWACH Board members or staff) will receive financial compensation in the amount of $75 for up to 4 hours, and $150 for up to a full day, to honor their time and lived expertise. Meetings will occur at a minimum of 4 times per year but will most likely occur monthly (both in person and virtual options will be made available to increase access to participation). Schedule and meeting times will be determined once full committee membership is identified.

At this time, we do not have term limits. However, if and when we have a full committee, we will consider term limits in an effort to include new and diverse members on the committee.

**Community Voice & Equity Committee purpose:**

The Community Voice and Equity Committee will review and make recommendations on policy and advocacy, provides guidance and makes decisions for grants awarded to Community Based Organizations in our region, and provides input and recommendations to the Board of Trustees. This will include making recommendations to SWACH and acting on policy and system change strategies, including:

1. Incorporate community health considerations into decision-making and policy priorities for long-term change.
2. Work across diverse communities to address factors that impact health.
3. Elevate community voices and support the strength and power of communities most impacted.
4. Review funding applications and decide which projects to fund.
5. Review data and evaluations to ensure effective strategies are being supported.
6. Advance health equity across Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

* Attend at least 75% of meetings,
* Assess policy & advocacy opportunities,
* Make policy recommendations to SWACH and the Board of Trustees.
* Act on the priority work (prepping letters, testimony, outreach to other stakeholders; convening and facilitating work groups as needed to act on policy agenda, etc),
* Review grant applications and select successful recipients for SWACH’s Equity & Collaborative Impact team,
* Review data and stories from our communities in efforts to incorporate story and voice into policy and advocacy,

We are pleased you are considering joining our committee and look forward to reviewing your application. If you have any additional questions or would like alternative methods in completing your application, please contact Heather Sheppard (<mailto:Heather.Sheppard@southwestach.org>).

To submit your application, please email directly to: [Heather.sheppard@southwestach.org](mailto:Heather.sheppard@southwestach.org)

# REQUIRED INFORMATION

**Application**

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| Name: Title (optional):  Phone: Email:  Communities you represent:  Are you able to participate in lobbying and advocacy efforts? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Are you employed or a volunteer at an agency/organization? If yes, which agency and title?  What interpretation assistance, if any, would be supportive?  Geographic area you work or live in (include county and/city/zip code):  What communities do you represent both personally and professionally?:  Are you willing to fulfill the above roles and responsibilities of the committee? |

Lobbying means any communication with an official of the executive or legislative branch of government for the ultimate purpose of influencing any executive, legislative, or administrative action.

Advocacy is speaking, writing, or acting in support of something or someone.

**1. Why is the work of the SWACH’s Community Voice & Equity Committee important to you? (word limit 300)**

**2. Have you personally experienced challenges when interracting with the systems that are meant to serve us? If so, how, and how has this shaped your perspective now? (300 words)**

**3. What skills, experience, and perspectives would you bring to the committee? (word limit 300)**

**4. To what extent has pursuing racial and other types of equity and inclusion been a priority in your work, and how did you approach it? Why was this important to you to professionally and personally? (word limit 300)**

1. **What, if any, experience do you have with Policy, Advocacy and community organizing work? (300 words or less)**

# OPTIONAL INFORMATION

By providing this information, you will help us ensure that appointments represent a broad cross-section of the community. **You are under no obligation to provide this information.** State and federal law prohibit the use of this information to discriminate against you. The Community Voice & Equity Committee will treat this information as confidential to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Race/Ethnicity(ies): (however you identify)

Age:

Sexual Orientation:

Gender Identity:

Pronouns:

Religion:

Rural/Urban:

Disability:

Tribal Affiliation:

Veteran: