SWACH has identified health equity as a critical part of the region's overall vision, strategy and work. Health equity means that all people have equal access to a healthy environment, community, and services. SWACH will further equity work by supporting partners in the SWACH Equity Learning Collaborative, where partners will receive peer and expert support in completing an equity assessment and/or equity plan.

An equity assessment includes an analysis of existing policies, practices, programs and outcomes to determine how they may impact equity. Partners may also decide to develop an equity plan with clear goals to improve current policies, practices, programs or outcomes. Overall goals include enhancing equity and trauma informed practices, while reducing stigma.

The Equity Collaborative will:
- Consist of partners who will complete an equity assessment and or plan in 2019
- Provide an environment to learn about tools, resources and approaches to move toward health equity
- Empower participants to discuss barriers and share successes with other organizations embarking on equity assessments and plans

Organizations interested in participating will identify two staff to actively participate in monthly learning opportunities focused on health equity. Organizations interested in participating in the learning collaborative will need to complete and equity assessment and/or plan in 2019.

Partners will need to complete an equity assessment before embarking on a plan. If they have indicated completing a plan but not an assessment, we will need to ensure an equity assessment has been completed.

Participating in the Equity Collaborative is a commitment. It will take buy-in from both the individual participants, and the leadership of the organizations that the direct participants represent. Interested organizations will need to be able to identify clear understanding of the scope of health equity work, including tactics to get to complete their equity assessment and/or plan. As a collaborative we will work together to build health equity in Southwest Washington.

For more information please contact:
Sky Wilson sky.wilson@southwestach.org
Kachina Inman kachina.inman@southwestach.org