Puget Sound Regional Equity Network: Principles of Equitable Development

Social Equity means all people can attain the resources and opportunities that improve their quality of life and enable them to reach their full potential. Addressing the history of inequities in the systems we work in and their on-going impacts in our communities is a shared responsibility. Social equity also means that those affected by poverty, communities of color, and historically marginalized communities have leadership and influence in decision making processes, planning, and policy-making. Together we can leverage our collective resources to create communities of opportunity.

Principles of Equitable Development

- **Advance economic opportunity.** Promote local economic development and entrepreneur opportunities, enhance community-serving establishments, and increase quality living wage jobs for people in all neighborhoods.

- **Prevent displacement.** Develop policies and programs that allow anyone who wants to live in the community to do so and discourage displacement of viable small businesses that serve community needs.

- **Preserve and expand affordable housing options.** Create healthy, safe and affordable housing for all family sizes and incomes in all neighborhoods.

- **Understand and respond to local context.** Respect local community character, cultural diversity, and values. Preserve and strengthen intact neighborhoods, building upon their local assets and resources.

- **Promote broader mobility and connectivity.** Prioritize an effective and affordable public transportation network that supports transit-dependent communities and provides equitable access to core services and amenities, including employment, education, and health and social services.

- **Practice meaningful community engagement.** Require local community participation and leadership in decision-making to reflect a diversity of voices, including targeted strategies to engage historically marginalized communities. Build cultural competence and responsiveness among all stakeholders, and structure planning processes to be clear, accessible and engaging.

- **Develop healthy and safe communities.** Create built environments that enhance community health through public amenities (schools, parks, open spaces, complete streets, health care and other services), access to affordable healthy food, improved air quality, and safe and inviting environments.

- **Promote environmental justice.** Eliminate disproportionate environmental burdens and ensure an equitable share of environmental benefits for existing communities. Secure resources to mitigate and reverse the effects of environmental hazards past and present.

- **Achieve full accessibility.** Ensure any development that results from investments in the built environment is accessible and welcoming to people regardless of age, physical condition, or language.