

Building the Neighborhood Community Empowerment



A Multigenerational Approach to Community Building

Centering Brighton Apartments, Southeast Seattle Senior Center, Urban
Family, ADEFUA & Rainier Health & Fitness

Replacing Silos with Systems — A Neighborhood Model

In Southeast Seattle, Brighton Communities is turning one city block into a living ecosystem of care, culture, and community wealth. Instead of separate, fragmented services for families, elders, and youth—we're building a coordinated, intergenerational infrastructure that serves all of them, together.

At the heart of this transformation is a single walkable hub anchored by four community-led institutions:

- **Brighton Communities** – housing and community ownership organizer
- **Urban Family** – family services, preschool, and youth employment
- **ADEFUA Cultural Education Workshop** – cultural healing, arts, and youth identity development
- **Southeast Seattle Senior Center (SESSC)** – senior empowerment and caregiving
- **Rainier Health & Fitness (RHF)** – fitness and health equity, now expanding senior-led programs

Together, these partners are converting open land into a network of co-located services and interconnected programs, where Brighton families can find everything they need—caregiving, childcare, culture, fitness, food, and jobs—on a single block.

This is how we restore local control, deepen resilience, and build a community not just equipped to survive—but empowered to lead.

Core Program Elements – Building from Within

SENIOR-TO-SENIOR CAREGIVING AS NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT

We are organizing local elders into a paid caregiving workforce under Washington State's Individual Provider (IP) program. The Senior Center will coordinate training and scheduling, and Brighton Apartments will serve as the pilot site. This model turns state dollars into jobs and delivers care where it's most trusted—next door.

URBAN FAMILY'S 5-STORY DEVELOPMENT

This transformative building, under construction next to Brighton Apartments, includes:

- A **preschool** co-led by elders as aides and caregivers
- A **Rainier Health & Fitness gym** offering senior-powered wellness classes
- **Workforce and family services** for housing stability and job access
- Affordable **upper-floor housing** for families and youth workers

Urban Family will lead youth programming, employment training, and family engagement from this space, making it the operational heart of the hub.

ADEFUA CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

ADEFUA is developing a new 16,000 sq ft cultural facility across the street, with classrooms, a performance hall, gallery space, and a café incubator. Their programs provide:

- African-centered arts and dance education
- Cultural identity restoration for youth
- Healing circles and creative expression for families
- Elder-youth knowledge exchange

This project completes the social and emotional fabric of the Brighton hub—rooting wellness not just in services, but in heritage.

The Hub in Action – Intergenerational Integration

This one-block campus is more than the sum of its parts—it is a functioning care economy.

SHARED FAMILY SERVICE AREA

The four core institutions—Urban Family, ADEFUA, SESSC, and Brighton—have committed to operating a shared “Family Service Zone” within this block. This model includes:

- Coordinated case management and referrals
- Joint data collection and family tracking
- Cross-program scheduling (e.g., parents dropping off kids while attending fitness or job programs)
- Unified community calendar and communication via Southend Connect

RAINIER HEALTH & FITNESS: ELDER-LED WELLNESS

RHF, a proven leader in community-based fitness equity, will anchor the gym in Urban Family's new building. Their program includes:

- Senior instructors for chair yoga, walking groups, and strength training
- Teen wellness aides and health ambassadors
- Culturally responsive fitness for BIPOC families
- Recovery programs for caregivers and isolated elders

This model recognizes that fitness is not luxury—it is neighborhood infrastructure.

COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATION PLATFORM

All partners will connect through the Brighton-built Southend Connect platform—a digital backbone for scheduling care, meals, transit, and classes across programs. Think: Airbnb meets neighborhood services.

Outcomes, Metrics & What Success Looks Like

YEAR 1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 30 seniors employed as paid caregivers
- 20 teens employed in property management, cultural, fitness, and preschool roles
- 30 preschool children served, with 60% of staff drawn from local elders
- \$750K+ in public care reimbursement recaptured into neighborhood households
- 200+ residents enrolled in senior-led wellness, art, or food programs
- 300+ individuals served through the shared Family Service Zone

METRICS WE TRACK:

- Caregiver hours delivered vs. paid
- Resident participation across multiple hubs (housing, fitness, arts)
- Youth wage and employment progression
- Senior isolation reduction and mobility improvements
- Preschool attendance and early learning gains

- Cultural participation among African-descended youth

This is not about one program's outputs—it's about a neighborhood's rising capacity.

The Capital & Policy Structure

FUNDING STRATEGY: LAYERED AND LOCALLY GROUNDED

Source	Amount	Use
Medicaid (IP program)	\$750K/yr	Senior caregiver wages
DEEL + WA Commerce	\$2.2M	Preschool & cultural education facility
City of Seattle EDI	\$8.5M	Construction (Urban Family & ADEFUA)
Philanthropy	\$5.0M	Staff, tech, early coordination
PRI/CDFI	\$1–2M	Operations and working capital

POLICY ALIGNMENT NEEDED

- DSHS flexibility for senior caregivers in co-housing
- DEEL & Arts Commission coordination for co-located programming
- Land-use policies supporting integrated multi-use campuses
- Data-sharing waivers to enable multi-agency family service platforms

Brighton is building what cities often study—we just need systems to catch up.