



Newsletter

Monday, February 4, 2013

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Grants Solutions Coming to ACL

Beginning in April, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will be switching to the Grants Solutions grants management system for our discretionary grants. Grant Solutions is a comprehensive grants management system that provides end-to-end grants management services. Grants Solutions makes grant administration easier and more cost effective, for both ACL and our grantees, by allowing electronic reporting and information access as well as allowing grantee involvement in key stages of the grant process, including post award activities and official correspondence tracking. More to come in subsequent newsletters regarding this important change...stay tuned!

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AoA Funds to Support Virginia Caregivers Respite Care

Virginia residents who take care of disabled or chronically ill family members can apply for \$400 to cover the costs of having someone stay with their loved ones while the caregivers take a break. A total of \$179,079 is available for families through the program, which closes July 31.

The program is being administered by the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Officials expect 447 families to be helped. The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services is a 2011 Administration on Aging (AoA) Lifespan Respite grantee and the agency also received an expansion supplement grant in 2012. The expansion funds will be used to provide the respite awards.

[Click here](#) to read more about this program and to download an application.

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Extended Comment Period for Proposed Rule Change

The newly proposed regulations by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), involving the 2014 Medicaid expansion and both flexibilities and safeguards being built into the Medicaid program are published in the [Federal Register](#).

The deadline for comment on the proposed regulations has been extended to February 21, 2013. Comments may be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services or CMS offices, or they be submitted [electronically](#).

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CMS Announces New Initiative to Improve Care and Reduce Costs for Medicare

Hundreds of providers selected to participate in the bundled payments for care improvement initiative

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that over 500 organizations will begin participating in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative. Through this new initiative, made possible by the Affordable Care Act, CMS will test how bundling payments for episodes of care can result in more coordinated care for beneficiaries and lower costs for Medicare.

The Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative includes four models of bundling payments, varying by the types of health care providers involved and the services included in the bundle. Depending on the model type, CMS will bundle payments for services beneficiaries receive during an episode of care, encouraging hospitals, physicians, post-acute facilities, and other providers as applicable to work together to improve health outcomes and lower costs.

The announcement included the selection of 32 awardees in Model 1, and marked the start of Phase 1 (January-July 2013) of Models 2, 3, and 4. The awardees in Model 1 will begin testing bundled payments for acute care hospital stays as early as April 2013.

[Click here](#) to see the list of awardees for Model 1 and participants for Phase 1 of Models 2, 3, and 4.

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Conference Call for Those Working in the Field of Aging, Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, or Intellectual Disabilities

Presented by the Administration for Community Living, this conference call is part of the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) Technical Assistance Call Series. The purpose of these calls is to provide helpful, current, and applicable information for professionals who work with people with dementia and/or their caregivers.

Participants will learn about:

- The impact of caring for a family member with dementia and an intellectual disability
- Community living providers and their work with people with dementia and intellectual disabilities
- The perspectives of a family caregiver on the challenges of caring for a family member with dementia and Down syndrome

Presenters:

- Seth Keller, MD, Co-Chair, National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices and Immediate Past President, American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry
- Madeleine Will, Director of the National Policy Center and Vice President for Public Policy of the National Down Syndrome Society

Topic: *Caregiving for People with Dementia and Intellectual Disabilities, Including Down Syndrome*

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Eastern

Registration Required:

[Online Registration](#)

Phone Registration: [\(888\) 869-1189](tel:8888691189) or [\(706\) 643-5902](tel:7066435902)

Notes:

- Space is limited, so please register as early as possible.
- Call materials and your personal dial-in information will be sent via email after registration is complete.
- This call will also be recorded and posted on the AoA website under [Resources and Useful Links](#)

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CMS to Host Elder Maltreatment & Care Symposium

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting an Elder Maltreatment Symposium. The purpose of this symposium is to solicit input from stakeholders to assist CMS in further development of Measure #181: *Elder Maltreatment Screen and Follow-Up Plan, as part of the Physician Quality Reporting System.*

Interested parties are invited to participate, either on-site at CMS headquarters in Baltimore, Md., or via Webinar. The meeting is open to the public; however attendance is limited for both on site and Webinar participation. Please register for this event early as registration will close when attendance capacity has been met.

The symposium will be held on March 8, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (E.S.T) in the main auditorium of the Central Building of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Meeting Registration and Request for Special Accommodations Deadline:
For security reasons, registration and requests for special accommodations must be completed no later than 5 p.m. E.S.T. on Friday, February 22, 2013. Note that registration may close earlier than this date if maximum capacity has been met.

[Registration is now open](#). Anyone interested in attending the meeting or participating by webinar must register

CMS anticipates posting an audio download and/or transcript of the symposium on this [CMS Website](#) and an [alternate CMS Website](#) following the meeting.

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Webinar on Caregivers as Partners and Clients of Behavioral Health Services

In the US today, approximately 48 million people serve as caregivers to someone age 60 and over with chronic health and/or behavioral health conditions. Caregivers play a critical role in caring for older adults with mental health and substance use disorders.

This [free webinar](#) will discuss:

- The role of caregivers in caring for older adults with behavioral health problems, such as depression, anxiety and alcohol and prescription drug misuse/abuse
- Explore the mental health impact that the caregiving role has on lives of caregivers themselves
- Provide examples of evidence-based programs and resources that address the behavioral health needs of caregivers.

This webinar is supported through a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging and the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA), and was developed in collaboration with SAMHSA Older Adult Behavioral Health Technical Assistance Center and the American Psychological Association.

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Time: 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Register.](#)

If you experience difficulty registering or signing on, please contact Donna Siu at JBS International, Inc. at dsiu@jbsinternational.com or 240-645-4898.

Once the host approves your registration request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting. Please register no later than one day prior to the webinar.

You will receive audio call-in information when you log-on to the webinar.

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Funding Opportunity

AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation Accepting Grant Applications for Connections for Cardiovascular Health Program

The [AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation](#) has announced that it is accepting applications for the 2013 Connections for Cardiovascular Health grant program. This grant program supports nonprofit organizations engaged in charitable work at the community level in support of the foundation's mission to improve cardiovascular health in the United States.

To be eligible for a grant, applicants must be:

- U.S.-based nonprofit organizations engaged in charitable work that addresses cardiovascular health issues within the U.S. and its territories.
- Recognize and work to address an unmet need related to cardiovascular health in the community.
- Respond to the urgency around addressing cardiovascular health issues, including cardiovascular disease or conditions contributing to cardiovascular disease.

- Improve the quality of patients' and non-professional caregivers' lives in connection with the services provided and work done.

Grant applications that describe innovative initiatives with clearly defined outcomes and measurable results and processes will be considered for funding.

Eligible organizations can submit an online application from February 1 through February 28, 2013.

[Link to Complete RFP](#)

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Oral Health Funding Opportunity

DentaQuest Foundation is looking to identify, cultivate and spread promising oral health models and effective approaches to pressing oral health challenges. Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded over \$30 million in grants and program support to improve oral health. On January 9, 2013 the latest [Innovation Request for Proposals](#) was released.

Individuals may submit concept papers at any time. The DentaQuest Foundation reviews these on the 4th Thursday of every month. Two weeks later, authors of successful concept papers will be invited to submit a full proposal. There is no specified amount of funding, as DentaQuest is seeking as wide of a range of ideas as possible. If a concept seems too large for context, DentaQuest will work to modify as reasonable. If an idea/proposal seems smaller than it could be, DentaQuest will also work with authors to expand.

For more information about the Initiative, eligibility, and the application process, contact: Andrea Forsht, (617) 886-1760 or Andrea.Forsht@dentaquestfoundation.org.

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Stay Informed

This Week's Quick Facts

In 2010, roughly 30.6 million individuals aged 15 and older (13 percent) had limitations associated with ambulatory activities of the lower body including difficulty walking, climbing stairs, or using a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or walker.

Life expectancy at age 65 in the United States was lower than that of many other industrialized nations. In 2009, women age 65 in Japan could expect to live on average 3.7 years longer than women in the United States. Among men, the difference was 1.3 years.

Care for the Caregiver: Valentine's Day Webinar

Sponsored by the National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA), this webinar is designed for the health care professional to learn self-care techniques through the creative arts – practices that can be used to ease the daily and cumulative stresses of caregiving.

Burnout, compassion fatigue, encounters with death, caregiver grief, and preserving self-integrity while caring for others will be explored through the transformative power of art.

Date: February 14, 2013

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Cost: Free for NCCA members; \$35.00 for others

[Register Now](#)

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February NASUAD I&R/A Support Center Call

The next National Association of State Units on Aging and Disabilities I&R/A Support Center Call is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2013 beginning at 3:00 p.m. ET.

This call will focus on mental health. The featured presenters will be:

- Kimberly Williams of the MH Association of NYC, who will discuss:
 - Mental Health Advocacy
 - Coalition Building
 - Consumer Perspective/Voice
 - Resources and Changes to the Co-pay Rules

- Rachel Weiner, Director of the State Options Counseling Program in Massachusetts, who will review
 - State examples of successful partnerships between the Aging/Disability Network and the Mental Health Network

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Webinars in February Sponsored by the HHS Partnership Center

The Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (HHS Partnership Center) continues to host a

series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have. We also encourage you to submit questions you would like to have answered on the webinars to ACA101@hhs.gov.

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information. Please click on the title of the webinar and fill out the registration form. After registering you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the webinar.

Please contact us at ACA101@hhs.gov if you have problems registering or if you have any questions about the health care law.

[The Health Care Law 101](#): February 12 at 2:00 p.m. ET

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community.

[Tour of HealthCare.gov](#): February 21 at 12:30 pm ET

An online tour of [HealthCare.gov](#) that will help you and those in your congregation and community access health care, provide information on the Health Insurance Marketplace (Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion) and understand the main provisions of the health care law.

[The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#): February 26 at 3:00 p.m. ET

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community in Spanish.

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Seminar on *Frail Older Adults: Building a Care System*

When you get older and begin dealing with frailty and other comorbidities, will you want to be treated in the same system that health care has today? Most likely, the answer is no. Those who care for frail elders work hard and have the best intentions, but the system they work in is inefficient and fragmented. Because of this, care becomes increasingly expensive — and more importantly — does not meet patient and family needs.

The [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI) believes there is a better way. There are organizations that have developed and tested novel solutions to this growing problem. IHI will share these tools and best practices through a new two-day seminar called [Frail Older Adults: Building a Care System](#) to be held in Denver, Colorado on March 20-21.

Expert faculty will provide the “how-to” knowledge to build the foundation for a system that is affordable, reliable, efficient, and provides care that any of us would be happy to receive when we are older.

This seminar is designed for anyone who treats older adults with complex needs, is interested in improving care and services for this group, and/or wants to integrate health care with care in the community, including clinical practitioners and administrators, hospitals and health systems, ACOs, and community-based service providers.

After this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Describe a community-based system of care for older adults with complex needs that is reliable and achieves optimal well-being and lowered system costs
- Identify and plan actions they can take now – in their organization and in their community – to establish the building blocks toward the ideal system of care

Scholarships and special discounts are available.

For more information please [visit the program webpage](#).

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Tools & Information

AoA’s February Widget and Other Social Media

February is American Heart Month and the Administration on Aging’s (AoA) February widget provides information on women and heart disease. When you [click](#) on the AoA statistics widget, you’ll learn about recent risk factors associated with heart disease and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiatives that promote women’s awareness of heart disease.

In addition to widgets, AoA’s social media offers a variety of engaging [e-cards](#). AoA’s e-cards feature attractive images with health tips and links to health resources. Our e-greetings also encourage healthy eating, different types of exercise and volunteering. View all AoA e-cards and select one for a friend.

AoA has an active presence on a variety of social networking sites. If you have not already done so, please visit and follow AoA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and

YouTube! Also, recently AoA became a part of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and has launched an [ACL Twitter account](#).

Please click the “Like” button for us on Facebook, check our tweets on the AoA and ACL Twitter pages, and view and share our videos on YouTube.

In addition to widgets, e-cards and pages on the social networking sites, we have also launched the ACL [blog](#). The ACL blog offers different perspectives on health issues related to older adults and people with disabilities, and offers the opportunity to share your viewpoint on these issues. Visit the ACL blog today to learn more.

If you have any questions or comments on our social media content, feel free to contact Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov.

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AGID Update

On January 25, 2013, the Administration for Community Living AGing Integrated Database ([AGID](#)) was updated to include the Administration for Community Living’s Administration on Aging’s (AoA) Special Tabulation based on the ACS 2008-2010 Survey data, limited to summary information on disability characteristics only. Nine tables for each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are included, with three different geography levels of aggregation including state, county, and total U.S.

The topics include summary information for the population 60 years and older and information for persons with sensory, cognitive, and physical disabilities. The tables are accessible in the Data Files section of AGID.

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Public Comment on Draft Research Plan: Behavioral Counseling to Promote a Healthy Diet and Physical Activity for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Persons with Known Risk Factors

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force posted for public comment its draft Research Plan on behavioral counseling to promote a healthy diet and physical activity for cardiovascular disease prevention in persons with known risk factors. The draft Research Plan is available for review and public comment from January 29 through February 25, 2013. [Click here](#) to review the draft Research Plan and submit comments.

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New NIH Resources Help Growing Number of Americans with Vision Loss

A 20-page large-print booklet and a series of videos to help people adapt to life with low vision are available from the National Eye Institute (NEI).

The booklet, *Living with Low Vision: What You Should Know*, urges people with low vision to seek help from a low vision specialist and provides tips to maximize remaining eyesight, enabling them to safely enjoy a productive and rewarding life. The videos feature patient stories about living with low vision.

Another video, targeted to health care professionals, emphasizes the importance of informing patients with vision loss about vision rehabilitation services.

[Click here](#) to download the booklet and videos.

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Early Identification of Developmental Disabilities: Practical Tools

This webinar, featuring Dr. Jacqueline Bertrand and Dr. Rebecca Wolf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), describes programs and materials available from the CDC that can assist child welfare directors and providers with the identification of and referrals for children with developmental disabilities. It focuses on children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders or autism spectrum disorders and highlights the CDC's Learn the Signs Act Early program.

[View webinar.](#) [Download webinar.](#)

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New MS Factsheets Available Online

The [Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation Research and Training Center](#) (MSRRTC) has added the following new factsheets to the list of resources available in its [Living Well with Multiple Sclerosis Program](#).

[Getting Trustworthy Health Information from the Internet](#)
[Exercise and MS](#)
[Getting the Most Out of Health Care Visits](#)

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Disaster Response Template Toolkit

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC) is pleased to announce the [Disaster Response Template Toolkit](#), a new installment in the Disaster Behavioral Health Information Series. It contains a comprehensive collection of online resources and materials, as well as editable templates that can be easily tailored to meet the needs of any disaster response program.

You will find templates for:

- Brochures for adults, older adults, or children about common disaster responses and ways of coping
- Door hangers with common signs of disaster stress, ways to reduce stress, and common reactions to trigger events such as the holidays
- Editable tip sheets with information on managing stress, coping with disaster anniversaries, and helping children cope with the disaster
- Newsletters, wallet cards, and postcards with broad messaging and room to add your program's contact information

The toolkit also contains customizable public education materials and tips for writing television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements (PSAs). There are also links and examples of disaster response program websites, social networking pages, and blogs.

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Paying for Dental Care Using Incurred Medical Expenses

Accessing dental care can be especially difficult for nursing home residents. Paying for dental care using Incurred Medical Expenses (IME) helps long-term care residents get dental treatment and allows dental practices to get reimbursed for services. IME is routinely used for eyeglasses and hearing aids, but many people are not aware that it is also available for dental treatment.

Members of the ADA's National Elder Care Advisory Committee hosted on September 20, 2012 the [Webinar: Reimbursement for Treating Long-Term Care Patients](#) to educate dentists on using Incurred Medical Expense billing.

Two additional resources on IME include: [Paying for Dental Care: A How-To Guide](#) and [Suggested Steps for Residents and their Caregivers](#).

For more oral health information visit the Administration on Aging's [Older Adults and Oral Health webpage](#).

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Adults Need More Than Just the Flu Vaccine

Through vaccines.gov, it is now easier to find all of the vaccinations adults need. The [healthmap vaccine finder](#) is a free online service that helps consumers locate vaccine providers like pharmacies and health clinics. By entering an address or zip code, you can easily find nearby providers of recommended adult vaccinations including the flu vaccine.

Check out the new adult [vaccine finder](#) tool to locate providers of adult vaccines near you.



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17th Annual NISC Research Award

The National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) is now accepting nominations for the 17th Annual NISC Research Award.

The award will recognize outstanding research in the senior center field and serve as a catalyst for encouraging research related to the administration, operation, or programming of senior centers. The NISC Research Award will be presented during a NISC event in 2013.

Individuals and/or organizations are eligible to be nominated. Submissions may include journal articles, dissertations, books, research reports, and other research documents. Research must have been published after January 1, 2010.

Criteria:

- Research must make a substantive contribution to knowledge and understanding of the senior center field and stimulate questions for further research in the field.
- Potential long-term effect on public policy.
- Critical usefulness for senior center practice.
- Creativity and depth of analysis.
- Replicability of research.
- Quality of literary style, readability, and format.

Important Dates:

- Nomination deadline is by close of business Friday, March 29, 2013.
- Review and selection process completed by May 2013.
- Announcement of awards by September 2013.

[More information and an application.](#)

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Materials from the *Overcoming Retirement Hurdles: The Financial Realities for Women Symposium* Are Now Available Online

Materials, including speaker bios and PowerPoint presentations, of the December 6-7, 2012 *Overcoming Retirement Hurdles: The Financial Realities for Women Symposium* sponsored by the Women's Institute For A Secure Retirement (WISER) are now available [online](#).

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2013 HHS Poverty Guidelines

The Annual Update of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Poverty Guidelines](#) was recently published in the Federal Register.

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Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), sometimes called EIC, is a tax credit to help you keep more of what you earned. It is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families.

To qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you do not owe any tax or are not required to file. [Find out if you qualify for EITC this year.](#)

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Recent Reports

[*Labor Force Participation and Work Status of People 65 Years and Older*](#)

Source: US Census Bureau

Date: January 2013

[*The Sandwich Generation: Rising Financial Burdens for Middle-Aged Americans*](#)

Source: Pew Research Center

Date: January 30, 2013

[Tracking for Health](#)

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project

Date: January 2013

[A Healthier America 2013: Strategies to Move from Sick Care to Health Care in Four Years](#)

Source: Trust for America's Health

Date: January 2013

[StateData: The National Report on Employment Services and Outcomes \(2011\)](#)

Source: Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Date: Winter 2012-13

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February Observances

African-American History Month

Resource: [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#)

[Presidential Proclamation: National African American History Month, 2013](#)

American Heart Month

Resources: [The Heart Truth Campaign](#) and [Million Hearts Initiative](#)

[Presidential Proclamation: American Heart Month, 2013](#)

Children's Dental Health Month

Resource: [American Dental Association](#)

Low Vision Awareness Month

Resource: [American Optometric Association](#)

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Resource: [Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month](#)

Presidential Proclamation: [National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, 2013](#)

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February 7)

Resource: [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

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