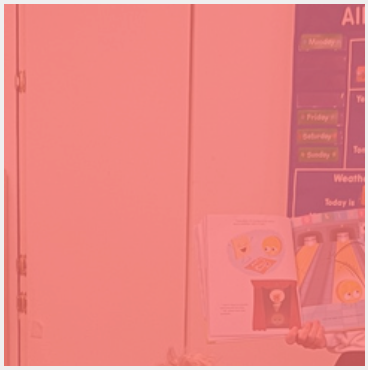
2025-2026

Head Start Annual Report

"To strengthen children, families, and communities through quality education, comprehensive health and family services, and by fostering community partnerships."





Head Start







Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska

Helping People. Changing Lives.

EARLY HEAD START



A Year of Growth, Resilience, and Possibility

A Letter from the Director

As I reflect on the past program year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Every program year brings its own opportunities, challenges, and moments that require us to pause, reassess, and find a better way forward. This year was no different. In fact, some of the challenges we faced pushed us to grow, adapt, and strengthen our program in ways that will benefit the children and families we serve for years to come.

One of the greatest challenges we experienced this year was staffing. Like many organizations serving young children and families, we faced recruitment challenges, staff transitions, vacancies, and the ongoing work of ensuring that every classroom and program area had the support needed to provide high-quality services. Staffing changes can be difficult. They affect teams, routines, relationships, and sometimes create uncertainty for the families we serve.

However, challenges do not define a program—how we respond to those challenges does.

Throughout the year, our team continued to look for solutions. We reassessed how we structure our teams, strengthened communication and support systems, worked to improve recruitment and retention, and looked for ways to provide additional coaching and assistance to staff and centers when it was needed most. We made changes not simply for the sake of change, but because we believe that continuous improvement is essential to maintaining a strong and effective Head Start program.

There were certainly difficult days, but there were also countless examples of staff stepping up, supporting one another, welcoming new team members, building relationships with families, and continuing to put children first. Those moments are what make this program special.
Our work is about so much more than enrollment numbers, classrooms, assessments, or program requirements. At the heart of Head Start are relationships. It is the relationship between a teacher and a child who is learning to trust and explore. It is the relationship between a family and a staff member who listens, supports, and helps them navigate challenges. It is the relationship among staff members who work together to create safe, nurturing, and engaging environments for children.

This year, we also continued to focus on strengthening our program through C.A.R.E.—Cooperation, Accountability, Respect, and Evolution. These values remind us that quality does not happen by accident. It happens when we work together, take responsibility for our work, treat one another with respect, and remain willing to learn, grow, and improve.
We have much to celebrate. Our program continued to provide comprehensive services to children and families across our communities. We continued to strengthen classrooms, support children's development, engage families, build community partnerships, and work toward ensuring that every child has the opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed.

We also had important accomplishments that demonstrated the strength of our program. Our federal monitoring efforts reflected the dedication and hard work of our staff, and our continued focus on quality improvement has helped us identify opportunities to become even stronger. These accomplishments belong to all of us—the staff who do the work every day, the families who partner with us, our Policy Council and Board members who provide leadership and oversight, and our community partners who believe in the importance of this work.

A Year of Growth, Resilience, and Possibility

A Letter from the Director

As we look ahead, we know there will continue to be challenges. We will face staffing needs, changing community circumstances, evolving expectations, and new opportunities. But I am confident in our ability to meet them.

We will continue to ask ourselves:
What can we do better?
How can we support one another?
What do our children and families need from us?
And how can we turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities?

That is the mindset that will continue to move us forward.

To our Head Start staff, thank you for the patience, flexibility, creativity, and commitment you demonstrate every day. To our families, thank you for trusting us with your children and for partnering with us in their growth and development. To our Policy Council and Board, thank you for your leadership, advocacy, and continued commitment to the vision of Head Start. And to our community partners, thank you for helping us build a stronger network of support for children and families.

The past year reminded us that we do not have to have everything figured out to move forward. We simply have to be willing to listen, learn, adjust, and keep going.

Every challenge gave us an opportunity to grow. Every change gave us an opportunity to improve. And every success reminded us why this work matters.

As we begin another program year, I am excited about what lies ahead. There is still work to do, but there is also tremendous potential. Together, we will continue to build a program where children are valued, families are empowered, staff are supported, and every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for being part of the journey and for believing in the work we do.



With gratitude,

Anne Peterson

Head Start Director
Community Action Partnership of Mid-NE

Head Start Preschool & Early Head Start

Head Start (0-5) operates under the mission of *strengthening children, families, and communities through quality education, comprehensive health and family services, and by fostering community partnerships.*

The primary goal of Head Start is to provide comprehensive Head Start programming to enrolled children and their families, and to provide additional funding for expansion and/or collaboration to assist the unserved and underserved populations in the Head Start service area. Head Start strives to fulfill its mission by providing children who are enrolled in our program with comprehensive child development services in the following domains:

- Language and Literacy
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Approaches to Learning
- Physical Health and Social Wellbeing
- Motor Development
- Social and Emotional Development



Head Start programs deliver comprehensive high quality services designed to foster healthy development in low-income children. Head Start grantee and delegate agencies provide a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; and family engagement. Head Start services are responsive and appropriate to each child and his/her family's development, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experience.

With an emphasis to make children's learning meaningful, Head Start teaching staff complete "High Scope - Pyramid Training". During the report period, 21 staff completed all five trainings, while six staff started in 2024-2025 and will finish the following year.

The 2025-2026 Annual Report includes program information, child outcome data, assessment results, budgets, and Head Start schedules.

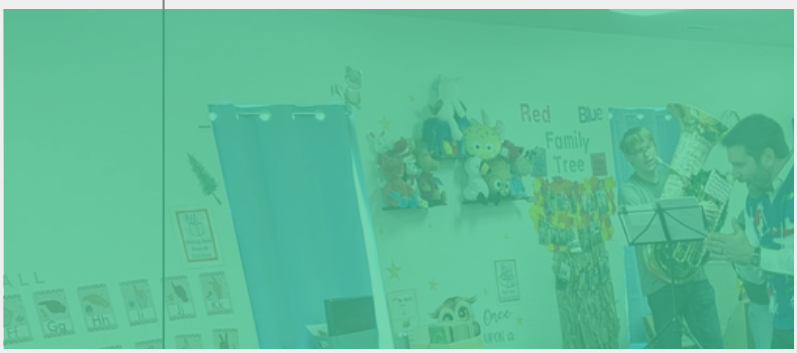
Community Action
Administrative Office | 308-865-5675
Head Start Central Office | 308-865-5690

Head Start Preschool 2025-2026 Program Year

During the past year, Head Start served 256 children, with 60% being three-year-olds and 40% being four-year-olds. Of the children served, 63% were Caucasian, 27% were Hispanic/Latino, 7% were Multiracial/Multiethnic, 2% were African American, 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and less than 1% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Among those served, 29% received SSI, TANF/ADC, or SNAP benefits. Additionally, 4% were enrolled based on foster care status, while 23% were enrolled based on homelessness.

Head Start provided a total of ***14,568*** meals this program year.

- **Breakfast - 5,056**
- **Lunch - 5,010**
- **Afternoon Snacks - 4,502**













Enrolled children on Public Assistance

29%



Enrolled children who are homeless

23%

Enrolled Foster Children

4%

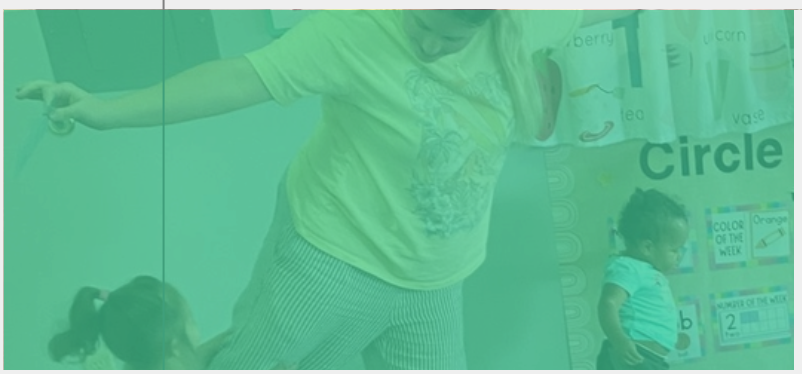


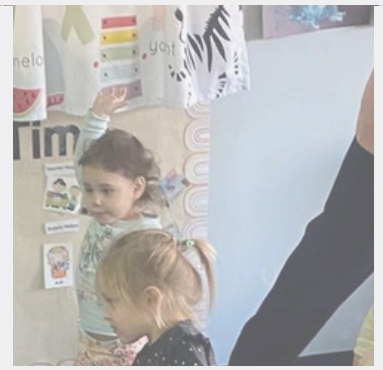
Early Head Start 2025-2026 Program Year

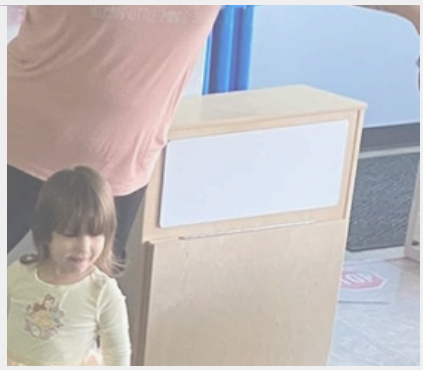
Early Head Start served 59 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women during the past year. Of those served, 10% were pregnant women, 36% were infants under one year of age, 31% were one-year-olds, and 24% were two-year-old toddlers. Racial and ethnic demographics included 59% Caucasian, 25% Hispanic/Latino, 10% Multiracial/Multiethnic, 3% Black or African American, and 2% American Indian or Alaska Native. Among those served, 44% received SSI, TANF/ADC, or SNAP benefits, while 7% were enrolled based on foster care status and 34% based on homelessness.

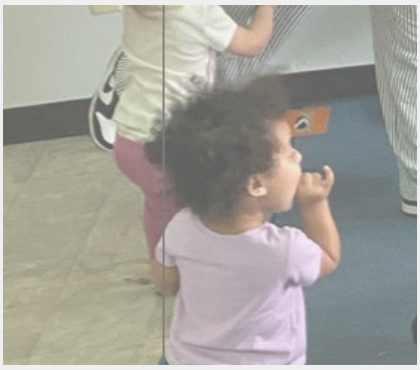
Early Head Start provided a total of ***4,427*** meals this program year.

- **Breakfast - 2,227**
- **Lunch - 2,200**













Enrolled children on Public Assistance

44%



Enrolled children who are homeless

34%

Enrolled Foster Children

7%





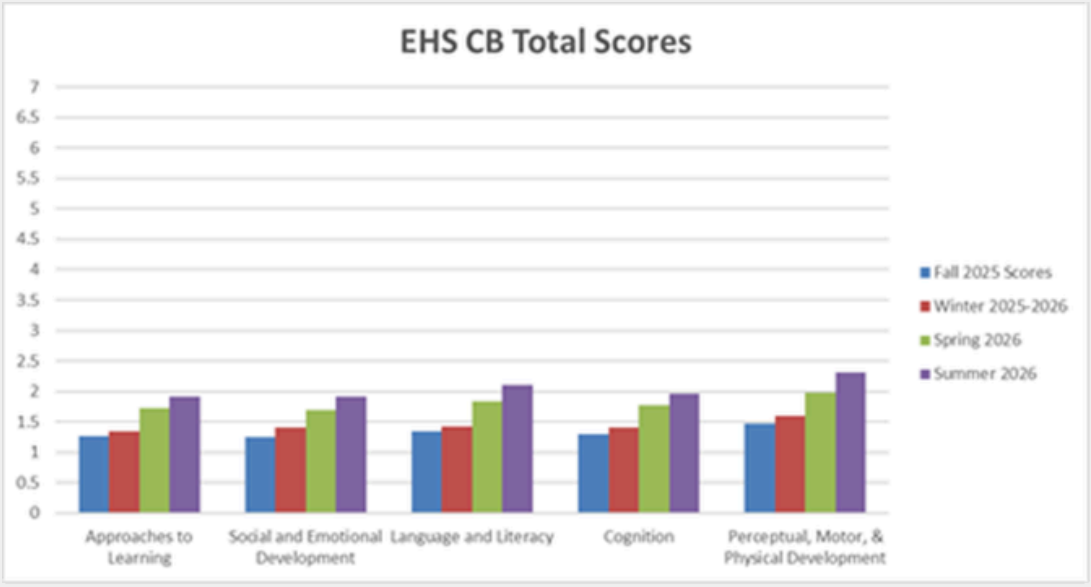
Child Outcomes

Head Start utilizes the Early Learning Outcomes Framework and quality research-based curriculums, assessment tools, and best practices, to ensure the best opportunities for positive outcomes.

	Central Domains				
	Approaches to Learning	**Social and Emotional Development**	**Language and Literacy**	**Cognition**	**Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development**
Infant / Toddler Domains	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
Preschooler Domains	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Mathematics Development	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
			Literacy	Scientific Reasoning	

Outcomes - Infants & Toddlers

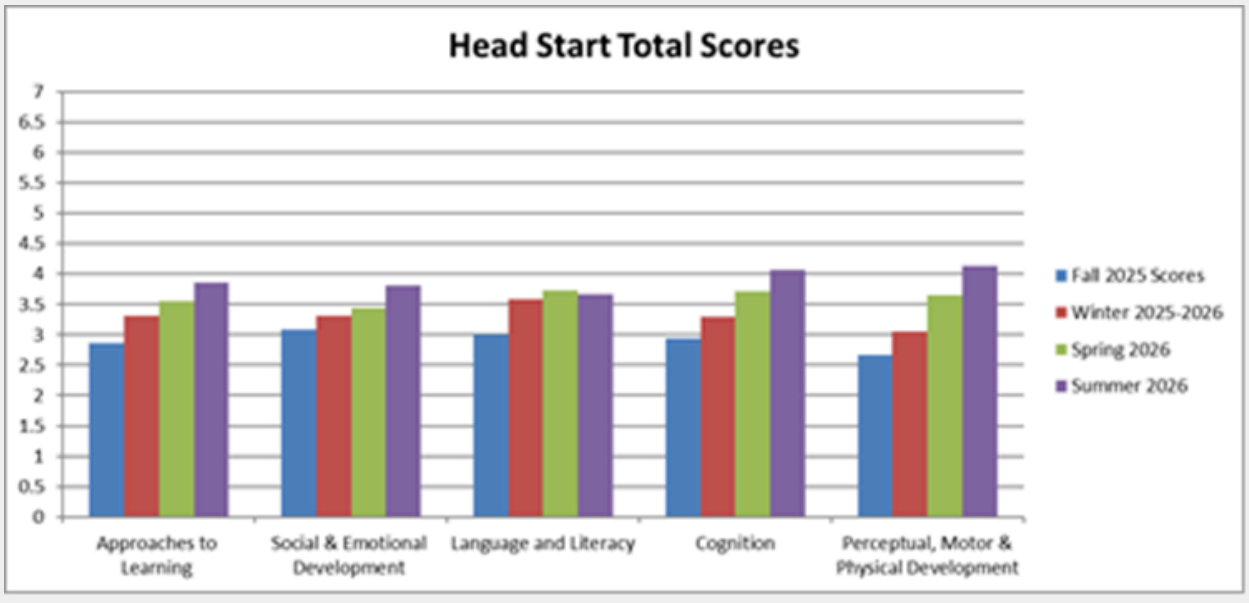
Early Head Start currently offers center-based services in Kearney and North Platte, serving 40 children aged 0-2 years.





Outcomes - Head Start Preschool

Head Start Preschool has seven center-based sites which consist of 12 classrooms - **three part-day, part-year; one full-day, full-year; two full-day, part-year; and six full-day, school-year**.
To ensure smooth transition to Kindergarten, Head Start provides families with local Kindergarten Round-Up dates as well as encourages them to continue their Child Development Goals throughout the summer. Staff provides strategies to help families meet the goals established. Other support includes helping families ensure they have the information necessary for school such as an official Birth Certificate and that the child's immunizations are up-to-date. If Head Start staff are available, they may meet with the Kindergarten teacher and school nurse to help the transition as well. If no Kindergarten Round-Ups are available, Head Start staff may offer to go with the child and family to visit the Kindergarten program prior to the last day of Head Start to ensure a seamless transition.





Observation Tools

TPITOS - Teaching Pyramid Infant Toddler Observation Scale (0-3 years)

TPOT - Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (3-5 years)

The TPITOS and TPOT observation tools measure the fidelity of the Pyramid Model Framework in our classrooms and are conducted by a trained observer. They measure how teachers implement practices targeting social, emotional, and behavioral development and individualized supports to promote positive outcomes for young children. The TPITOS and TPOT assessments are used for professional development, coaching, and program data.

TPITOS Summary Fall/Spring, 25-26

Five 0-3 years classrooms had TPITOS's completed in the Fall of 2025 and three classrooms had it completed in the Spring of 2026. There are 13 subscales called "Key Practices" that are assessed. Each "Key Practice" varies in the number of items under it. There are also 11 "Red Flag" items that are assessed in each classroom. Below is a summary of the Fall and Spring TPITOS results. Red Flag observations provide an opportunity for coaching to prioritize positive outcomes.

Red Flags

Fall - there was one "Red Flag" identified

Spring - there were zero "Red Flags" identified

Key Practices

Fidelity is measured at 70% with no "Red Flags."

The total average of all "Key Practices" assessed in the Fall is **80.2%**.

The total average of all "Key Practices" assessed in the Spring is **89%**.



TPOT Summary
Spring 2026

Nine out of the twelve classrooms had TPOT's completed in the Spring of 2026. There are 14 subscales called "Key Practices" that are assessed. Each "Key Practices" varies in the number of items under it. There are also 17 "Red Flags" items that are assessed in each classroom.

Red Flags

Spring - there were three "Red Flags" identified

Observed Challenging Behavior

There were two classrooms that had challenging behavior observed during their TPOT. Both implemented developmentally appropriate strategies in response to the challenging behavior by stating expected behavior in positive terms or by providing acceptable alternative behavior.

Key Practices

The total average for "Key Practices" is **75%** for all centers, with the highest score being **97%** and the lowest **36%**.

Serving Children with Disabilities

Young children vary in their skills, knowledge, backgrounds, and abilities. Effective teaching requires individualized teaching and chances to learn for all children to access, participate, and thrive in early learning settings. Individualizing for children who need more support helps ensure effective teaching for children with disabilities and other special needs across all the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework domains. Using children's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals is part of effective teaching, individualizing, and creating environments to support children's positive outcomes.

HS Preschool Disabilities
41 total

Speech/Language	14
Autism	4
Developmental Delays	23

EHS Disabilities
7 total

Developmental Delays	6
Discontinued	1









Health Services



Head Start provides high-quality **health**, **oral health**, **mental health**, and nutrition services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate to support each child's growth and school readiness. Health, dental, vision, and hearing exams are required for each child in the program. These health "mandates" are conducted within the first 45 to 90 days of the child attending the program. Meeting health mandates is a vital part of ensuring every child enrolled in Head Start receives the best start in life. In accordance with the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), we do this by supporting children's ongoing health and developmental needs by ensuring timely screenings, preventive care, and necessary follow-up services.

These requirements are more than compliance measures, they help us identify potential concerns early, connect families with medical and dental providers, and promote lifelong healthy habits. When children are healthy, they are better able to learn, grow, and thrive in the classroom and beyond.

By staff, families, and community partners working together, we can meet health mandates on time, strengthen family engagement in health practices, and ensure that every child is ready for school success.

To help ensure high-quality services are provided, our program has established a Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee that includes Head Start parents, professionals, and other volunteers from the community.

2025-2026 program year mandate information can be found below.

Head Start Preschool

	150
	172
	249
	248

Early Head Start

	37
	14
	49
	52

Head Start Preschool Budget

Total funds received for Head Start Preschool for the 2025-2026 budget year were $3,714,903. This included $162,898 of USDA funding. *In-kind donations totaled $1,411,414.

2025-2026 Head Start Preschool Proposed vs. Actual Budget

	Proposed	Actual
Personnel	$2,077,417	$2,006,331
Fringe Benefits	$457,183	$424,646
Indirect Costs	$481,574	$461,886
Travel	$21,193	$19,404
Supplies	$105,791	$226,800
Contractual	$29,095	$40,169
Other	$373,086	$366,103
Total	$3,746,278	$3,714,903
In-Kind *In-Kind is the value of donated goods and services, including volunteer hours	$877,702	$1,411,414
Total	**$4,423,041**	**$4,956,753**



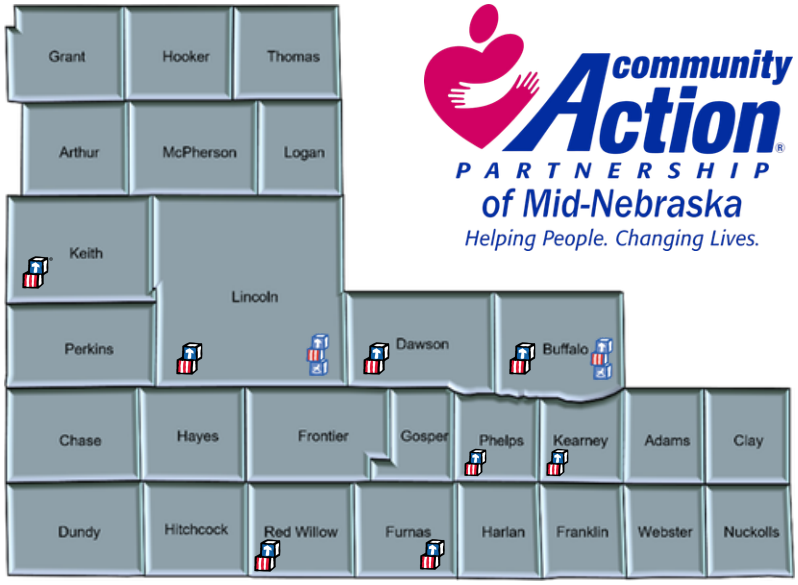
Early Head Start Budget

Total funds received for Early Head Start for the 2025-2026 budget year were $1,245,913. This included $48,825 of USDA funding. *In-kind donations totaled $465,551 .

2025-2026 Early Head Start Proposed vs. Actual Budget

	Proposed	Actual
Personnel	$761,979	$740,019
Fringe Benefits	$168,473	$161,857
Indirect Costs	$176,786	$171,357
Travel	$9,869	$9,594
Supplies	$27,653	$60,787
Contractual	$3,549	$6,545
Other	$97,604	$95,754
Total	$1,245,913	$1,245,913
In-Kind *In-Kind is the value of donated goods and services, including volunteer hours	$305,379	$465,551
Total	**$1,551,292**	**$1,711,464**





community Action PARTNERSHIP of Mid-Nebraska
Helping People. Changing Lives.

Helping People.

Changing Lives.

Making Communities a Better Place to Live.

During the 25-26 program year, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska Head Start proudly provided essential early childhood services that covered 15 counties at 11 physical locations.

Head Start Preschool Center-Based Sites

Cozad - *Full-Day, School-Year*
Holdrege - *Full-Day, School-Year*
Kearney Blue - *Part-Day, Part-Year*
Kearney Purple - *Full-Day, Full-Year*
Kearney Red - *Part-Day, Part-Year*
Kearney Teal - *Full-Day, School-Year*
Lexington - *Full-Day, School-Year*
McCook - *Full-Day, Part-Year*
Minden - *Full-Day, School-Year*
North Platte - *Full-Day, Part-Year*
North Platte - *Part-Day, Part-Year*
Ogallala - *Full-Day, School-Year*

Head Start Preschool Home-Based Sites

Dawson County
Furnas County

Head Start

Early Head Start Center-Based Sites

Kearney

Blue I & II
Green I & II
Red I & II
Yellow I & II

North Platte

EARLY HEAD START

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