

THE HOMELESS COALITION OF THE ALABAMA GULF COAST
CONTINUUM OF CARE AL-501

ANNUAL REPORT



 For Information
al501coc.org



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Continuum of Care (CoC)
The Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast



Reaching Out

serving community through
outreach, response &
collaboration

SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MOBILE & BALDWIN COUNTIES

This is our community and there is work to be done.




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2,600

**PERSONS SERVED
THROUGH ALL
CONTINUUM OF CARE-
FUNDED PROJECTS**



**AS WE TELL YOU THE
STATS. WE NEVER FORGET
THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE
NUMBERS**

A MESSAGE

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



SHARON MURRILL
CoC Board Chair

Alabama Power Company Govern-
mental & Community Relations
Manager

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the local Continuum of Care, the Homeless Coalition of the Gulf Coast, we would like to welcome each of you to our member agencies and public annual Community Report Meeting. The CoC Board of Directors, through our relationships with many community agencies, is charged with coordinating and implementing a community-wide system to serve citizens experiencing homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin counties. The individuals serving on this Board are volunteers from local organizations and businesses who have a heart and interest in making a difference in the communities where we live, work, and raise our children.

Our CoC Board continues to look for ways and opportunities to address the challenges of

homelessness in our communities. As we all know, homelessness does not only impact individuals and their families, it also impacts our communities as well. Our Board also focuses on looking for ways to identify and serve the homeless in our communities through outreach and projects, such as the annual Project Homeless Connect event at The Grounds. In 2022, many of the Board members volunteered for this event and there were 259 clients that were served with services such as: healthcare, legal assistance, veteran's resources, employment services, clothing, food, identification, and many other services. This is an amazing outreach for those who are homeless and desperately in need of these services.

Many thanks to the administrators and staff of Housing First for their dedication and role as the CoC's Collaborative Applicant. I would also like to thank them for their professionalism and the great working relationship we have with the staff, as they are always very responsive to our requests.

Now, let me share with you some specifics regarding homelessness. In accordance with the requirements of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, the CoC is tasked with reviewing and ranking project applications for HUD funding. In

2022 the CoC Board reviewed and ranked all project applications, and in 2023 HUD awarded our CoC \$4,266,231. That is an increase of \$209,366 over last year's funding of \$4,056,865. The award consists of grants for Coordinated Entry, HMIS, CoC administration, and six homeless housing programs. In 2022, the CoC funded projects served 2,600 homeless individuals. The CoC Board is extremely pleased with the 2023 funding, as we are confident this will make a positive impact on those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Last year, we made everyone aware that we had several board members cycling off in accordance with our Governance Charter, and the same is true this year. We have once again been actively recruiting nominees to fill the vacant position on which you will be asked to vote.

As I end my tenure as Chair of the CoC Board, I would like to thank each Board member for their time, dedication, and the ideas that they consistently brought to our meetings. Thanks for the heart you have for serving the homeless community, I appreciate you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Murrill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Murrill
CoC, Board of Directors Chair

WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

Our Continuum of Care (CoC) is comprised of representatives from nonprofit service providers, the business community, local government, housing agencies, school districts, hospitals, universities, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations.

A Continuum of Care is a group of representatives from local organizations, assembled to plan for and provide a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment of homelessness in our geographic area (Mobile and Baldwin counties).

The CoC implements various strategies to prevent and end homelessness, including: rapid-rehousing, transitional housing,

homelessness prevention, and homelessness diversion strategies.

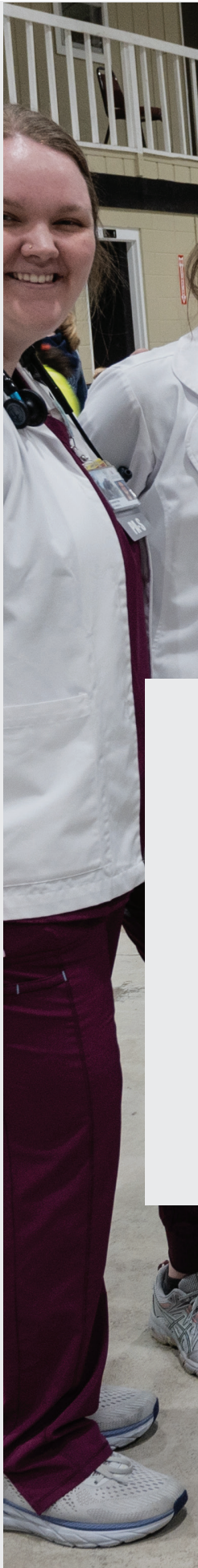
At its simplest, a CoC is established by representatives of relevant organizations to carry out the responsibilities set forth in the CoC Program Interim Rule, which include establishing and operating a Coordinated Entry and an HMIS (Homeless Management Information System).

Whether at our annual Project Homeless Connect or during the day-to-day work of our CoC's housing programs, we're making a difference in the lives of people experiencing a housing crisis in our community.

In 2022

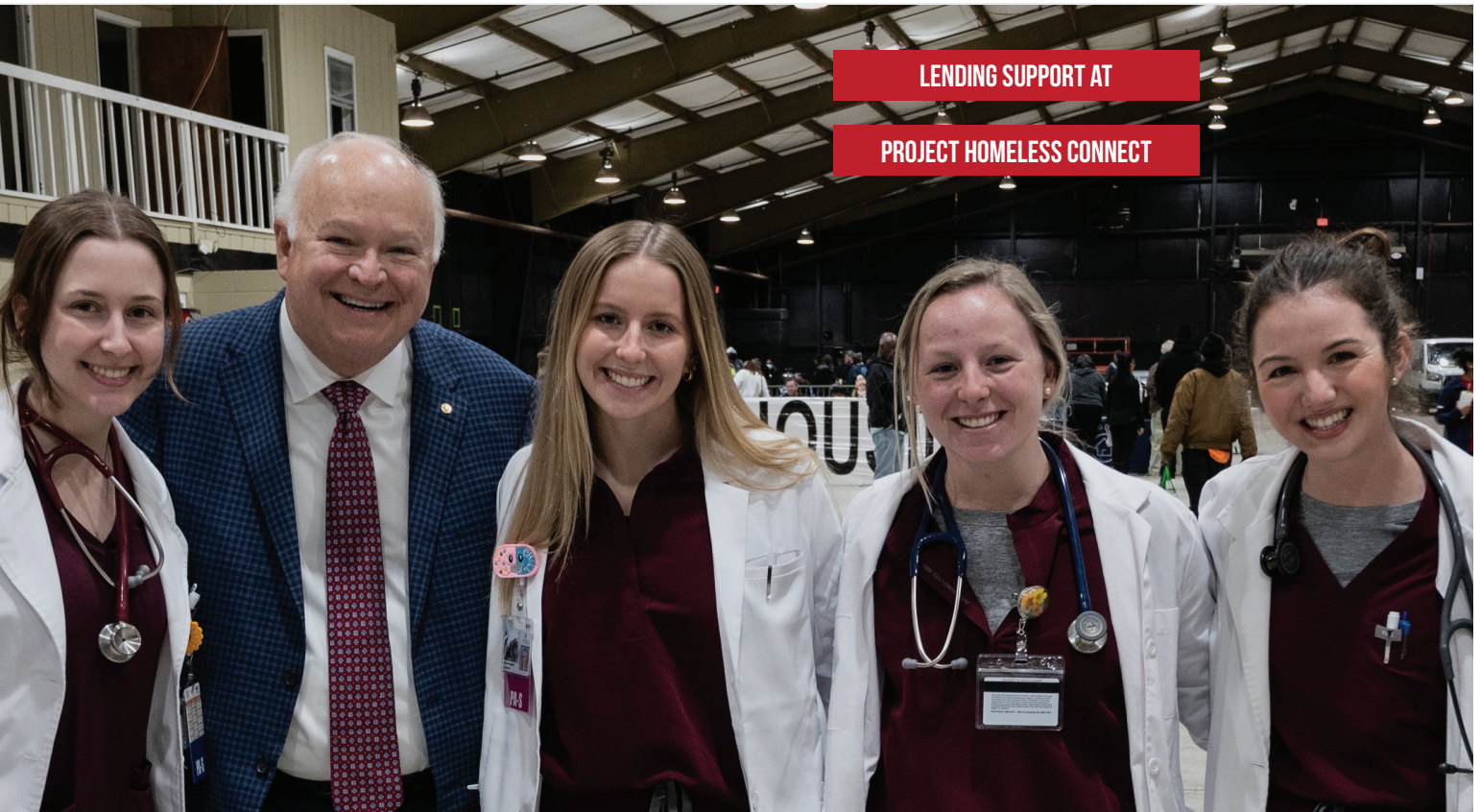
2,600 PERSONS

were served through all CoC-funded projects



LENDING SUPPORT AT

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT



Meet Amanda

Amanda overcame homelessness, abuse and more with the support of Housing First.

Amanda came to Housing First, Inc.'s Permanent Supportive Housing program after spending time on the streets where she lived with untreated mental illness and substance use disorder. Maintaining stable employment and housing once seemed elusive, but with the help and support of her case manager, the Housing First, Inc. team and her own fierce determination to create the future she desires, today she is thriving. Pursuing her associate's degree at a local community college and the recent recipient of the "Outstanding Student" award, she has a 3.9 GPA and is on track to graduate in 2024. Amanda is actively involved in her mental health care and has two years of sobriety. With plans to pursue her bachelor's degree after graduation, we are honored to have been on this journey with Amanda and are excited to see what she has in store for her future!



Amanda is not only surviving, she is thriving!



University of South Alabama President, Jo Bonner visiting with USA medical students and volunteers.

COORDINATED ENTRY

The CoC oversees the operation of the community's Coordinated Entry system, known locally as the Community Connections Network (CCN). CCN maintains a real-time list of individuals in the community who are experiencing a housing crisis, and links them with resources and community partners who can help.

In response to the introduction of Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), as made available through the American Rescue Plan, the Coordinated Entry Department at Housing First worked in partnership with the Continuum of Care and the Mobile Housing Authority to develop prioritization and referral processes for these new vouchers. Through this collaboration, the Move-on Strategy was developed to support the transition of formerly chronically homeless persons from Permanent Supportive Housing to housing independence through the EHV project.

1,040

Households Assessed

241

Households Referred

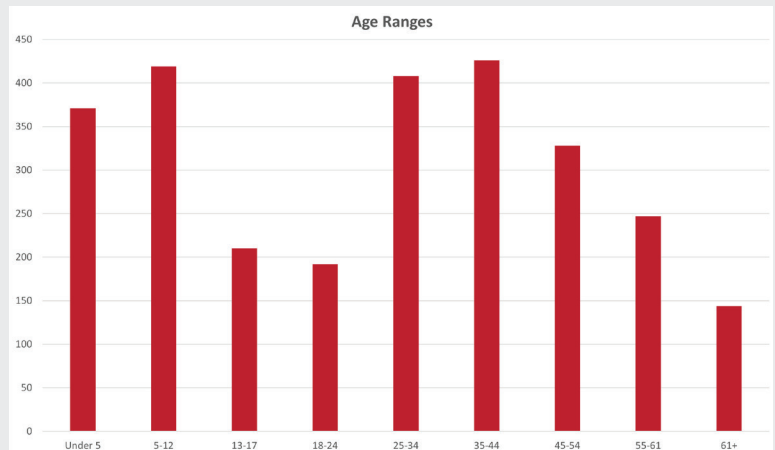
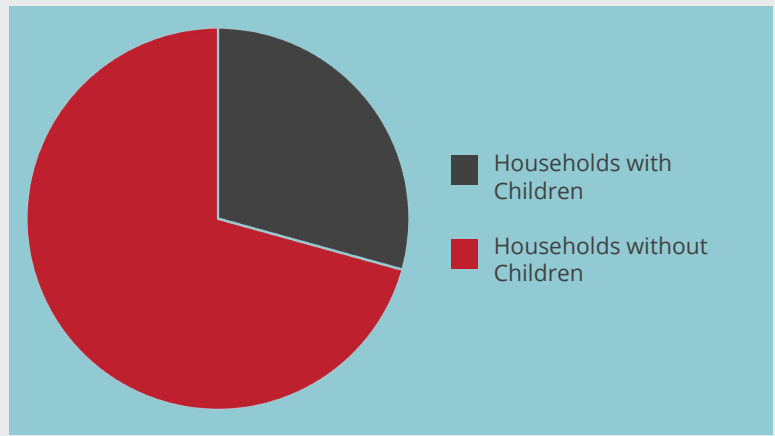
747

Persons Achieving Permanent Housing Destinations



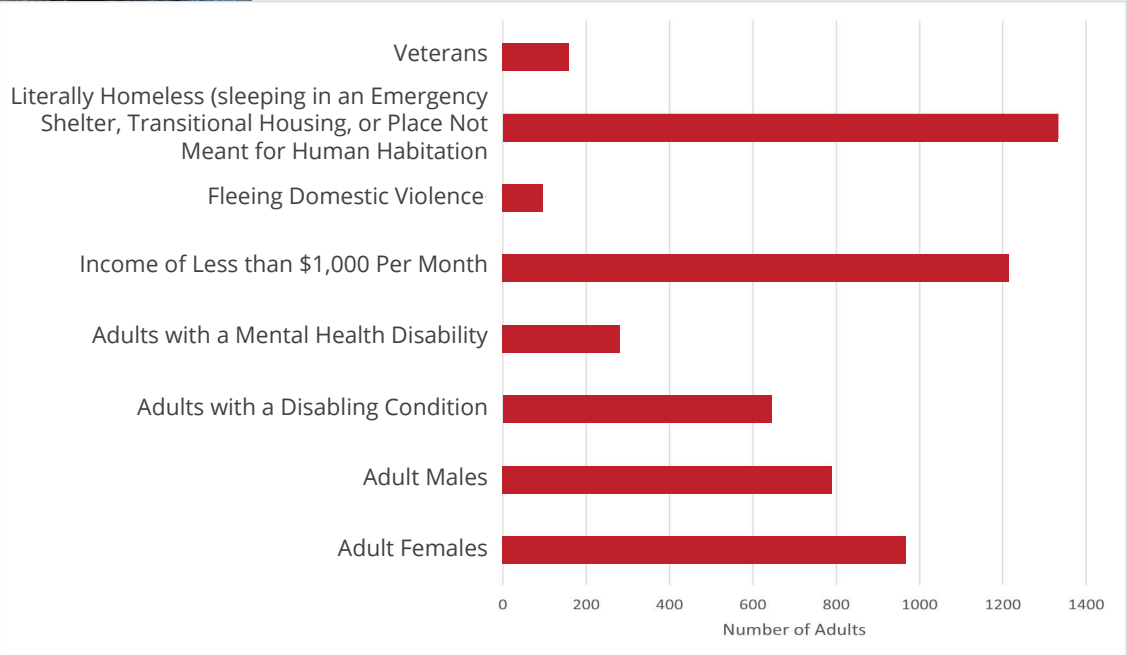


A VISUAL OF OUR HOUSING CRISIS



WHO IS EXPERIENCING A HOUSING CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Data obtained through CCN



POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

VOLUNTEERS PREPARING FOR THE COUNT

One day. One point in time.

Gathering data to develop a snapshot

During the last ten days of January each year, communities nation-wide participate in the HUD-mandated annual Point-in-Time Count to capture a snapshot of homelessness in the United States. Community agencies and volunteers join Housing First staff to survey sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin counties.

388

PERSONS EXPERIENCING
SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS ON
JANUARY 25, 2022

197

PERSONS EXPERIENCING
UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS ON
JANUARY 25, 2022

PROJECT HOMELESS

CONNECT

Securing essential life resources.

- 1 HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES
- 2 LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- 3 DENTAL & VISION SCREENINGS
- 4 HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- 5 STATE-ISSUED IDS
- 6 FOOD STAMPS

259

**PERSONS
SERVED**

Project Homeless Connect is an annual event held at the Grounds where those experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of becoming homeless, receive vital services, including: health and wellness services, legal assistance, dental and vision screenings, access to housing

assistance, and mainstream resources such as State-issued ID cards, food stamps, and more.

All services, including transportation to and from the event, are provided free of charge.

COMMUNITY HOUSING PROGRAM



Mobile Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, Bradley Byrne addressing Point In Time count volunteers.

The Housing First, Inc. Community Housing Program is focused on ending homelessness through permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention.

Numerous grants fund the Community Housing team's efforts, including two HUD permanent supportive housing grants—CHP and DHP, a HUD-funded rapid rehousing grant— FYS, an ADECA-funded emergency solutions grant—ESG, which ended in 2022 as well as local grants provided by the United Way and the Community Foundation.

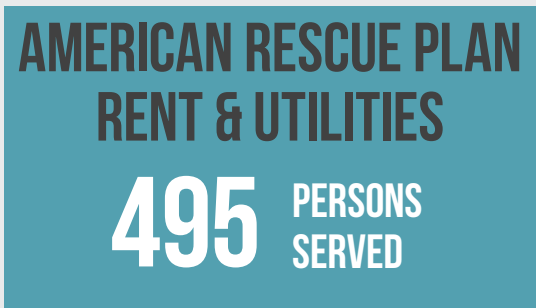
Additionally, the Emergency Solutions Grant - Coronavirus (ESG-CV) is a \$1,000,000 grant focused on assisting clients that hit financial difficulties due to

COVID. This program focused on rapid rehousing and ended in February 2023.

Awarded to HFI by the City of Mobile, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is \$1mm in rental and utility assistance for those that have fallen behind due to COVID. These clients are in housing and receive up to 12 months of rental and/or utility arrears.

Every person housed in the Community Housing Program is partnered with a case manager who works to equip them with the skills and resources needed to achieve housing independence and avoid returns to homelessness.

The Grants that fund the Community Housing Program



Engaging through diverse forms of outreach

The Community Outreach team engages in a variety of outreach activities in the community in effort to assist persons experiencing homelessness.



VOLUNTEER
TO END HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

437

CONTACTS MADE

STREET OUTREACH: Meeting those experiencing homelessness where they are, whether it's in an encampment in the woods, under a bridge, in their vehicle, or in a homeless shelter.

RESPONSIVE OUTREACH: Responding quickly to calls from partner agencies, law enforcement, or concerned citizens regarding persons in need of assistance.

COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH: Working together with partner agencies, municipalities, churches, schools, and law enforcement to educate, advocate, and develop resources for those experiencing homelessness.

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS



The Homeless Management Information System, or HMIS, is a locally managed database used to collect data about individuals and families seeking services to prevent and end homelessness.

The system is an integral part of the community's collaborative efforts as it allows providers to track the provision of services, maintain current case plans, and efficiently coordinate with other agencies.

The HMIS welcomed new partners to the system and provided its new and current users with a total of 65 trainings throughout the year.

All required federal reporting was successfully submitted, including: the Longitudinal Systems Analysis, Systems Performance Measures, Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Count reports.

HMIS PARTNER AGENCIES

ALTAPOINTE HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
DUMAS WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER OF MOBILE, INC.
FAMILY PROMISE OF BALDWIN COUNTY
FAMILY PROMISE OF COASTAL ALABAMA
FRANKLIN PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER
HOUSING FIRST, INC.
LEGAL SERVICES OF ALABAMA
MARY'S SHELTER GULF COAST
MCKEMIE PLACE
MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE
OZANAM PHARMACY
SALVATION ARMY OF MOBILE
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTHEAST

90

HMIS END USERS

15 Partner Agencies participated in 65 training sessions throughout the year.

PERMANENT HOUSING FOR DISABLED HOMELESS & SHELTER + CARE PROGRAMS

Permanent Housing for Disabled Homeless

28 PERSONS SERVED

Shelter + Care

39 PERSONS SERVED

The CoC-funded Permanent Housing for Disabled Homeless and Shelter + Care Programs are designed to prevent and end homelessness for citizens suffering from mental illness. To be eligible, the mental illness must prevent the individuals from obtaining and maintaining housing on their own.

Case management services are provided to assist housing participants with access to necessary care

and services appropriate to each person's needs, including medical and behavioral healthcare. Ongoing skills training services assist participants with improving their functioning in multiple areas of daily living activities, including but not limited to: health practices, behavior norms, communication, safety, managing time, managing money, nutrition, problem solving, family relationships, alcohol/drug use, social network, personal hygiene, grooming and dress.



RETURNING NEIGHBORS HOUSING PROGRAM

Operated by the Mobile Area Interfaith
Conference (MAIC)



**Joining them on the path to help them
stay on the path.**

The Returning Neighbors Housing Program is operated by the Mobile Interfaith Conference (MAIC) and is focused on helping those leaving institutions to avoid homelessness. Because stable housing is essential to obtaining a job, maintaining health, and building positive relationships, those with inadequate housing often find themselves on a path back to jail. The Returning Neighbors Housing Program seeks to break the cycle and prevent homelessness for this vulnerable population.

**43
PERSONS SERVED**

The Continuum of Care

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sharon Murrill - Chair

Alabama Power Company
Governmental & Community Relations
Manager

Beverly Reed - Vice Chair

City of Mobile
Community Housing Development
Assistant Director

Angel Steadman - Secretary

Salvation Army of Coastal Alabama
Director of Program Services

GENERAL MEMBERS

Warren Green	TriMAG Properties
Phillip Davenport	Mobile County Commission
Christine L. Fouty, MD	USA Health
Marie Mhoon	Mobile Housing Authority
Michon Trent	Family Center
Beth Biggs	Family Promise of Baldwin County
Haley Pham	Mobile County Public School System
Angie Ishee	Waterfront Rescue Mission
Sara Laurio	Dumas Wesley Community Center
Tara Armbruster	McKemie Place
Mary Carmen Williams	USA Center for Healthy Communities
Chris McGadney	City of Mobile
Michael M. Linder, Jr.	The Atchinson Firm, P.C.
Robert Monk	Retired - Agriculture Land Financing
Stacie M. Hartsfield	Bellator Real Estate and Development
Ryan Lantaff	People Engaged in Recovery (PEIR)
Carol Thompson	Retired-Education/Counseling
Jeremy Fletcher, DPT	Veterans Recovery Resources
Cindy Gipson, PHD	AltaPointe Health

**IT'S A TEAM EFFORT. EVERY
STEP OF THE WAY.**



Continuum of Care (CoC)

The Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast

Continuum of Care

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