

One cause. Unlimited potential.



Inspiring permanent, positive change
for our children by rallying resources
around a common goal.

Permanent change only happens when we work together.



***Our mission** is to create positive change for Nebraska's children through community engagement.*

***Our vision** is a Nebraska where all children will have the resources and support to reach their full potential in life.*

Dear Friend,

Nebraska isn't the biggest or wealthiest state in the union. And like any other state, we have urgent, complex social problems to solve and limited resources to apply to them.

Here's the good news. We're Nebraskans.

We have a profound understanding of the power of teamwork, cultivation and compassion. We know that if we work together with our neighbors toward a common goal, the job will get done more effectively. It's the Nebraska way of doing things.

At Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, we've taken the lessons of our land to heart. Our Nebraska Impact approach pulls together all the resources available across sectors in a community, sets them on a common course, and infuses them with the data, coordination and dollars to make permanent change a reality.

It's a tested approach that *works*, empowering communities to develop more healthy, successful children and stable families.

Now we're ready to touch new communities across the state and deepen the commitment and impact of our current initiatives. And we need your help to do it. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is in a unique position to build on the trust we've established with our partners, engage and mobilize new partners, and expand our successful programs.

We invite you to learn more about our approach and how you can be a part of the positive changes Nebraska's children and families so desperately need. Nebraskans like you have the power to help each of our children overcome poverty, crime, abuse and mental health challenges to become happy, contributing members of our statewide community.

Mary Jo Pankoke
President

Dr. Doug Christensen
Board Chair



Mary Jo Pankoke



Dr. Doug Christensen

Our goal is to empower families and children to be:

- Healthy
- Safe
- Enjoying life
- Achieving milestones
- Contributing positively to their communities
- Economically stable



Nebraska Children
AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION

Cultivating the good life for *all* of our children.

The power of prevention

Generating profound effects from cradle to career



Every \$1 invested in prevention saves \$7 spent on advanced intervention.

While there is no one solution to the complex issues Nebraska’s children and families face, there is one proven approach – **prevention**. At Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, we invest in children from birth to young adulthood with prevention-focused initiatives. By working with our community partners to understand the risks facing children and families at every stage, we can identify the most effective avenues to create positive change. We continually tap our nationally recognized resources for the most up-to-date science on how children thrive, and how each stage of childhood is connected.

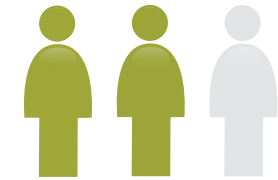
Preventing adverse experiences

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are one of the most accurate predictors of future problems. Children who are exposed to abuse, neglect, poverty, criminal acts and other traumatic stressors are at a far greater risk for substance abuse, depression, chronic diseases, violence and risky behaviors. What’s more, the compounding effect of adverse childhood experiences increases the child’s risk with each exposure.

The good news is that we know how to prevent more of these experiences. By creating well-designed prevention systems from birth to age 24, we can reduce the ACEs in a child’s life and set them up for brighter outcomes.

“Protecting young children from adversity is a promising, science-based strategy to address many of the most persistent and costly problems facing society, including limited educational achievement, diminished economic productivity, criminality, and disparities in health.”

— American Academy of Pediatrics



Two-thirds of individuals have had at least one adverse childhood experience.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

Changes Nebraska needs

Preventing problems in communities at risk leads to life-changing improvement for children and families

These risk factors indicate a higher danger for children and families falling into the welfare or justice systems. These are the statistics that we seek to improve, thereby preventing long-term negative outcomes.

JUVENILE ARRESTS

13,144 juvenile arrests in 2011

DROPOUT RATE

1,937 students dropped out in 2010/11

POVERTY

18.1% of Nebraska’s children live in poverty (2011)

NUMBER OF STATE WARDS

5,926 children entered the child welfare system in 2011

42.6% of Nebraska’s students were eligible for free or reduced lunch (2010/11)

8 children per day are removed from their homes and enter the foster care system

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

6,375 instances of child abuse and neglect in 2011

14 children are maltreated each day in Nebraska

BIRTHS TO TEEN PARENTS

1,975 children were born to teenage mothers in 2010, which means those children are more likely to live in poverty

INFANT DEATHS

136 Nebraska infants (under 1 year) died in 2010

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

6.7% of students were English language learners in 2010/11, making them vulnerable to social isolation

Nebraska Impact

The framework that makes lasting change happen

Traditionally, each non-profit group in a community has its own goals, and is doing its best to serve people with limited resources. These groups do amazing work to forward their individual missions. But when the goal is prevention, work needs to be done at the system level and involves diverse resources and shared data.

“Large-scale social change requires broad cross-sector collective impact coordination, yet the services often remain focused on the isolated intervention of individual organizations.”
— Stanford Social Innovation Review



Complex problems need collaborative solutions

Our approach offers just that. It engages all of the important players, often overlooked stakeholders and disenfranchised voices in a community. We mobilize them toward one common goal, centralize coordination of their efforts and help secure the funding required to move the needle on factors that put the community’s children at risk. The result of these efforts is a community-based prevention organization that supports, strengthens and amplifies the efforts of all contributing parties.

Investing in change

Combining public and private funds to make a difference that lasts

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation was designed as a partnership between public and private funding sources. Public partners, like the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education provide program-specific support because they know these funds will be matched and maximized through private investment.

By braiding support, we’re able to work with a combination of state agencies, legislators, private philanthropists and direct service providers. That means we can bring the right combination of resources together to make a difference for children across the state.

Our PUBLIC investments
are matched
by PRIVATE funders
who are *committed* to Nebraska’s future.

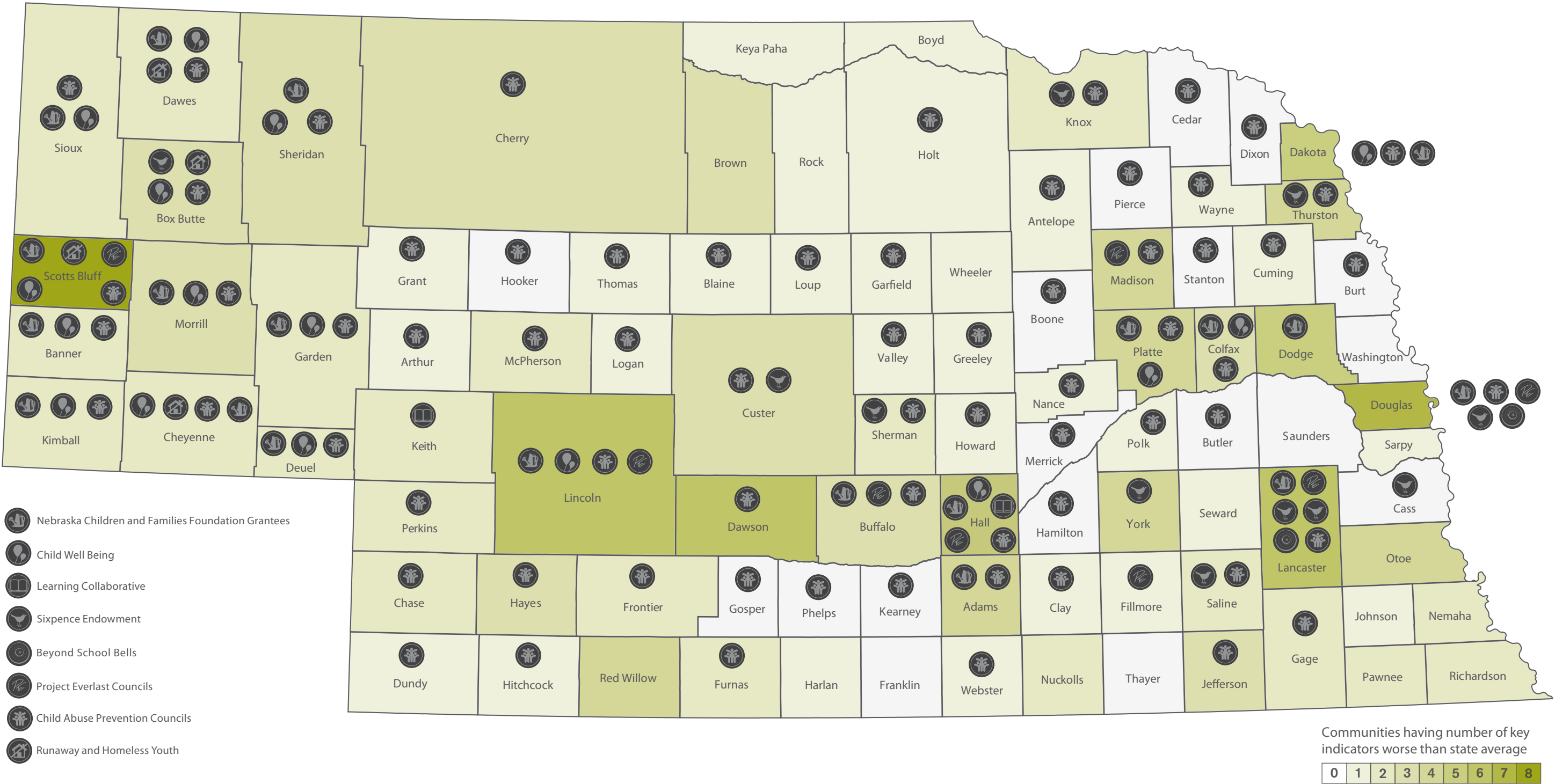
Nebraska Impact at work

Nebraska’s at-risk communities and investments made by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation evaluates the landscape of issues facing vulnerable children and families based on key risk indicators, including:

- Juvenile arrests
- Poverty
- Graduation rate
- Infant deaths
- Number of state wards
- Child abuse and neglect
- Births to teen parents
- English as a second language

With this data in hand, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation scans the state for the areas of greatest need, where the community is ready to engage in a collaborative initiative and where outside support and investments will maximize the difference made to the community’s children. From there, we review and determine what investments should be leveraged for the greatest benefit.



Early childhood

Strong starts predict successful lives



35% of Nebraska children ages 6 and under live in poverty and are considered at risk.



Nebraska has less than half of the needed child care slots for children 0-5.

35,428 children in Nebraska received child care subsidies in 2011

With a focus on prevention, it's clear that the most powerful impact can be made with children under the age of five. Investing in the early years – beginning even before birth, and focusing first on those children and families who face the greatest risk – is a smart way to shift the odds so more children will grow up eager to learn, prepared for school and poised for a healthy, productive adulthood.



Sixpence Early Learning Fund

This fund provides support to parents of young children and early childhood caregivers so they can create safe, stimulating environments that spark learning through meaningful interaction. The fund focuses on at-risk children ages 3 and under, ensuring that our most vulnerable kids have the best start possible.



Rooted in Relationships

We know that the relationships formed in the early years have a powerful influence on mental health. The Rooted in Relationships initiative is focused on maximizing the emotional, physical, social and cognitive well-being of children birth through age 8 and their caregivers. We work with communities to design systems around their unique needs and strengths, so they can support the development of these healthy relationships for all children.



Case Study: Bryan Community Focus Program Child Care Center

Through the Sixpence Early Learning Fund, this Lincoln alternative high school was able to open a child facility to serve its student parents. Because of the facility, the parents have the opportunity to finish high school and the children receive high-quality, early childhood education needed to prepare them for kindergarten. The parents also participate in parenting classes and home visitations to show them how to be their child's best teacher. The result is preschoolers who are surpassing their developmental milestones and young parents who are on their way to a stable, productive adulthood.

Middle childhood

Enriching young minds
beyond the school day



42% of Nebraska's students are at risk of major summer learning loss, putting them up to 3 grade levels behind by 5th grade



64% of Nebraska third-graders test less than proficient on reading tests.



Beyond School Bells

Beyond School Bells is a statewide public-private partnership that supports sustainable, high quality, school-community collaborations that provide youth with what they need during the out of school time to be successful in school and in life. These collaborations provide at-risk youth access to learning and enrichment opportunities they would otherwise never experience – and in the process encourages school attendance, positive behavior and improved academic performance.

The hours between the end of the school day and when parents come home from work are fraught with peril for kids without a stable support system. This is when drugs, alcohol and other high-risk behaviors are often introduced. But these hours have the potential to provide valuable learning opportunities to put these young people on the path to high academic achievement, a lifelong love of learning, and fruitful long-term careers.



Case Study: Project Liftoff

Beyond School Bells launched Project Liftoff to expand high-quality science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning opportunities in out of school time programs. Out of school time programs that provide exciting, engaging, hands-on experiences in STEM are proven to increase students' interest in pursuing STEM careers. Project Liftoff connects out-of-school time programs with centers of STEM excellence and non-profits to help enhance and expand the quality of STEM experiences available to all Nebraska youth.

Teen/Young adulthood

Transitioning to a successful adulthood



20% of youth who age out will be homeless before age 21



72% of young women who age out of care will be pregnant by age 21



60% of young men who age out of care will be convicted of a crime

Each year, more than 300 young people age out of the system in Nebraska, and for many, the long-term prospects aren't good. At age 19, they may be cut off from the array of supports and services provided by the state, and sent to figure out life on their own. Those without guardianship or permanency face joblessness, homelessness, persistent mental health issues, unintended pregnancy and a myriad of other challenges.



Project Everlast

Young people aging out of foster care require ongoing support so they can reach their full potential and take advantage of the opportunities Nebraska offers to other children their age. Project Everlast addresses the policies affecting these kids and actively removes barriers that keep them from achieving permanence, educational achievement, employment, housing, physical and mental health, personal and community engagement, and economic success.



Project Everlast Youth Councils

The Youth Councils are a key part of Project Everlast. These groups are made of youth currently in the foster care system or who have recently aged out. The councils provide a way to make their voices heard. The involvement of young people in the councils has created positive outcomes for foster youth statewide, but none more than those who serve on councils. The group provides an understanding of adult institutions and exposes them to valuable learning and networking opportunities.



Project Everlast Outcomes

In a few short years, Project Everlast is seeing more youth leave the foster care system with plans for the future that include:

- High school diplomas
- Plans for post-secondary education
- Specific plans to achieve career goals
- Housing and networks of support
- Resources to maintain good health and well-being

Child development occurs on a continuum with interrelated phases. To address this effectively, we have initiatives focused on making changes across the lifespan of the child.



Nebraska Child Well Being Initiative

The goal of this initiative is to increase investments in systems that support safer, healthier, more resilient children and families, particularly among at-risk populations. Participating community partnerships improve the quality of their services, offer more resources and focus on increasing key protective factors in the families they serve.



Prevent Child Abuse Nebraska (PCAN)

PCAN is a chartered member of Prevent Child Abuse America and is dedicated to the safety, health and nurturing all children deserve. By providing community partners with proven prevention strategies, technical assistance and funding, PCAN supports 15 child abuse prevention councils that serve two-thirds of Nebraska’s population.



Influencing policy for all of Nebraska’s children

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is uniquely positioned to communicate with federal, state and local leaders to advocate on behalf of children and families. Through legislative and administrative policy influence, we educate policy makers, communicate gaps and opportunities, and encourage leaders to listen to the concerns and insight of communities.

Areas of focus include early childhood education, foster care, child abuse prevention and quality out-of-school time opportunities. We advocate for public policy that supports better outcomes for children and families.

Case Study: Fremont Early Childhood Coalition

PIWI (Parents Interacting With Infants) is an evidence-based method to improve interactions between parents and their young children. It helps at-risk parents build the skills they need to work positively with their kids, and techniques for when things get tough. In Fremont, PIWI workshops are offered to community parents who may be considered at risk. This photo is from a recent PIWI workshop called “Helping Your Child Develop Motor Skills.”



Here's where you fit in

Your partnership and investment is critical to Nebraska's children



Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is looking for partners who understand that prevention is a long-term goal that requires ongoing, sustained effort. Creating a state where all children can reach their full potential benefits us all—and it is not a one-and-done proposition.

We would like you to consider being part of a lasting change to our state's systems that will improve the lives of children, allowing them to become more productive, healthy, thriving adults. Private grants bring in more public funds, and those diverse streams work together to get more done than either could do alone.

Consider where you would like to make a difference.

- Do you want to ensure that every Nebraskan child starts kindergarten ready to learn and succeed?
- Do you want to increase the social and emotional health of our children to reduce bullying, aggression and crime?
- Do you want to prevent child abuse and neglect at all ages, in all communities?
- Do you want to give school-aged kids expanded learning opportunities to prepare them for the high-tech jobs Nebraska desperately needs to fill?
- Do you want to support at-risk teens as they transition to adulthood?
- Do you have other ideas to make life-changing improvements for Nebraska's children? If you do, we know how to help make it a reality.

Let's talk about the change you want to be a part of. . . and let's make a plan to make it happen.

PUBLIC

"Why don't we put our time, energy, resources and personnel into those first five years so we don't have to load the system at the end, when for most kids, that's too late?"

*— Dr. Doug Christensen
former Nebraska Commissioner of Education*



PRIVATE

"To expect real change without this infrastructure is akin to planting a field and expecting it to grow without water and sunlight. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is unique because they objectively provide support for collaborative work, while ensuring that authentic voices of vulnerable children and families are consistently heard."

*— Kristin Williams,
The Sherwood Foundation*



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

"Our true success is the opportunity to come together as a community and do business differently."

*— Shawn Shanahan, Director,
United Way of Fremont*

Join us. Change Nebraska forever.

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Founded in 1997, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation unites Nebraska communities, government agencies and the private sector in the work of preserving families through an innovative system of grant-making, programs, technical assistance, research, policy analysis, advocacy, education and communication.



Nebraska Children
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