



INTERFACE
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Justice Services Department



**Youth LIFT
Partnership
Program**

Our Mission

**Strengthening children,
families, individuals and
communities to be safe,
healthy, and thriving through
comprehensive social services.**



**THE YOUTH
LIFT
Partnership
Program**



History of LIFT

- Ventura County's YES Committee identified the need for a diversion program to address the disproportionate number of Latino youth entering the juvenile justice system, focusing on Oxnard due to its high need.
- In response, Interface secured a 3-year, \$1.1 million grant from the BSCC to establish the LIFT Youth Partnership in close collaboration with the Oxnard PD, Ventura County Probation Agency, and Oxnard Union High School District.

LIFT

Overview



LIFT

LEAD. INSPIRE. FOCUS. TRANSFORM.

is a diversion program aimed at diverting youth ages 12-18 from initial or subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system using approaches that are evidence-based, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate.

Goals & Objectives



To reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system



By reducing formal processing of citations, diversion programs attempt to reduce entrance into the juvenile justice system, effectively reducing system costs, delinquency and recidivism while increasing public safety.

Three Tier Referral System

The referral system includes a 3-tier system for pre-charge diversion that uses proven, evidence-based practices for assessment, treatment, and community referrals to assist youth in developing healthy coping skills, improve their emotional and behavioral engagement with law enforcement.

Three Tier Referral System

Tier ONE

Warn and Release

This first Tier uses minimal intervention, involving police officer warning or encouragement, and aiding the youth at arriving at a safe place. Most first time and low level offenses will fall into this tier and help avoid net widening.

Tier TWO

No Conditions

Oxnard PD, school staff, and the community have the opportunity to refer youth to Interface for services on a voluntary basis. No citation is written. School Services can be in lieu of suspension.

Tier THREE

Conditions and or Services

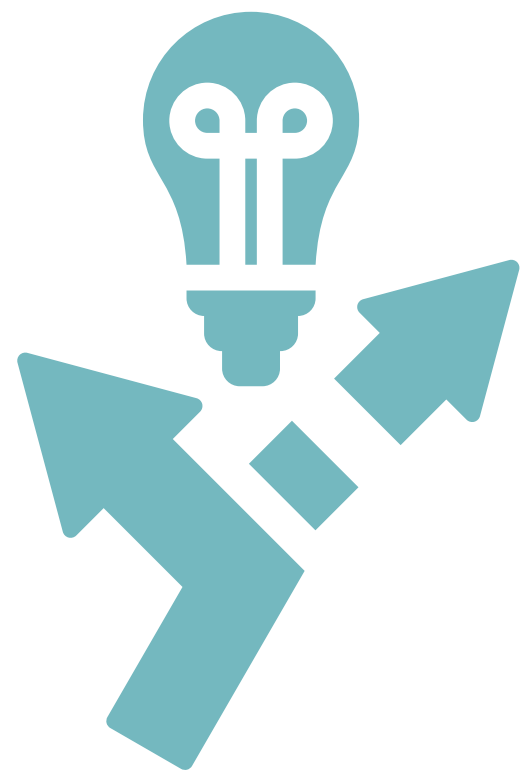
An Officer determines that a citation is warranted and the youth must complete or be connected to services from Interface Children & Family Services.

Services Offered



- Needs Assessment
- Comprehensive Case Management
- Community Referrals
- Evidence-Based Journaling
- 1:1 Mentoring
- Educational Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Mental Health Referrals
- Conflict Resolution Skills Development

The Early Pivot



- Delays in project launch
 - Low Tier 3 referrals in year 1 due to Covid-19
- Expanded Tier 2 referrals
 - OPD
 - Trained all OPD officers
 - Google referral form for easy field referrals
 - Schools
 - Pivoted program delivery
 - Opened referrals to schools

School-Based Referrals

- During the initial pilot from 2021–June 2024, LIFT was provided through eight Oxnard area high school Wellness Centers including Pacifica, Channel Islands, Hueneme, Oxnard, Rio Mesa, Gateway, Del Sol and Frontier.
- Staff collaborated with Wellness Center Coordinators and school administrators for referrals and follow up.
- In June 2024, BSCC funds sunsetted. A new grant through the OJJDP was secured to help support the continuation of LIFT on four Oxnard area high schools and three middle school campuses.

Current LIFT Programming FY 24–25

- OJJDP grant–*Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence* aka LEAP
- Expands services into middle schools
- Includes Family Engagement
- Schools included:
 - Pacifica HS
 - Oxnard HS
 - Channel Islands HS
 - Del Sol HS
 - R.J. Frank Academy
 - Dr. Manuel M. Lopez Academy
 - Fremont Academy

Referrals by Type and Source

	Tier Two	Tier Three
Oxnard PD	266	242
Schools	189	
Community	3	
Total	458	242

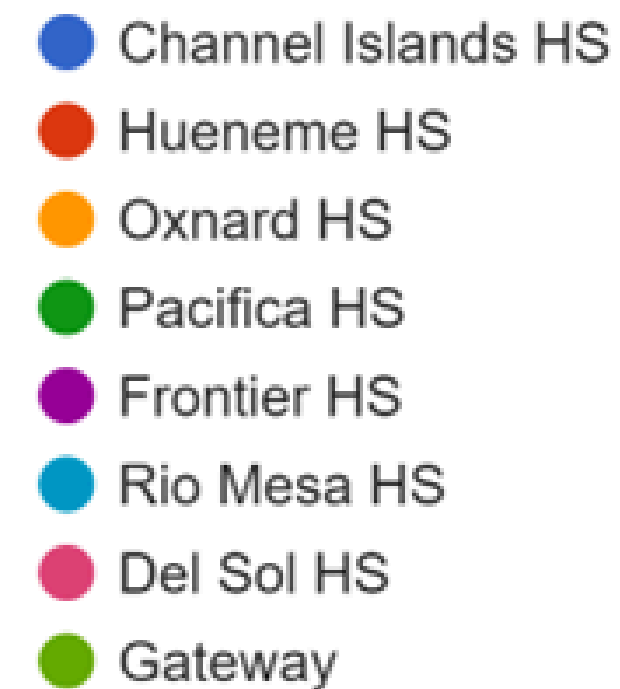
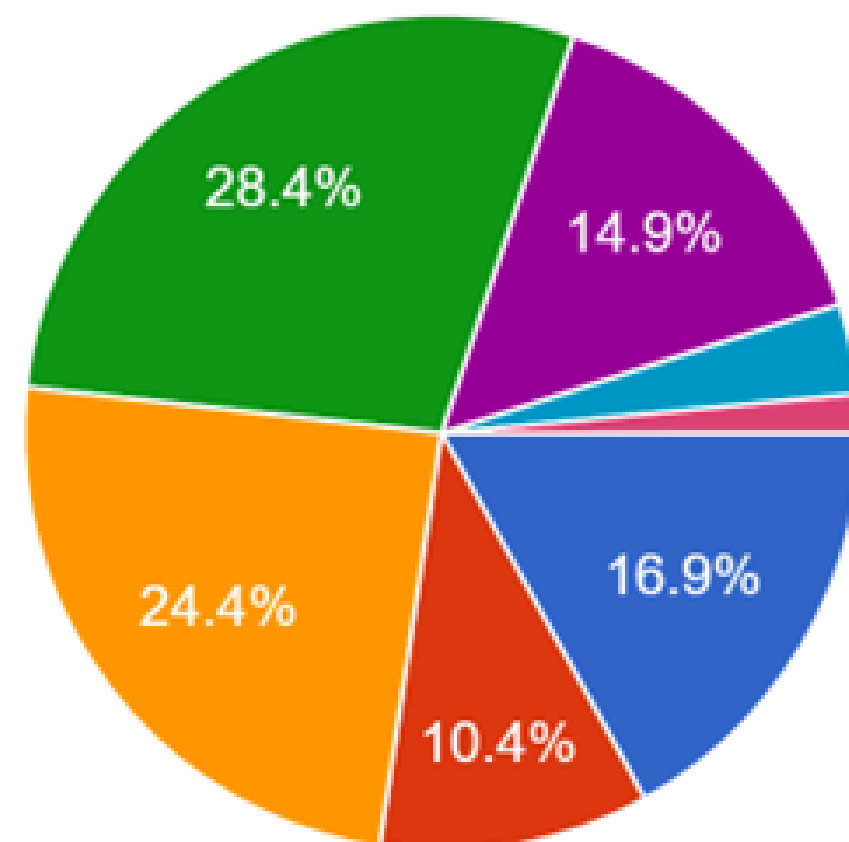
• Data represents referrals received March 2021–June 2024

Tier Two Referrals by School Location

School sites: Pacifica, Oxnard, Hueneme, Frontier, Channel Islands, Rio Mesa, Gateway, & Del Sol.

School Location

201 responses



*Services provided March 2021-June 2024

Total Youth Served

	Tier Two	Tier Three	Total
Program Lifetime	188	170	358
Last Fiscal Year (2023/2024)	97	82	179

Impact of LIFT

358 youth received individualized case management, community referrals, and mentorship

220 youth successfully completed services

107 Tier 3
113 Tier 2

242 Tier 3 Referrals (OPD):
71% accepted LIFT services

63% of citations given to LIFT clients who actively participated were dismissed

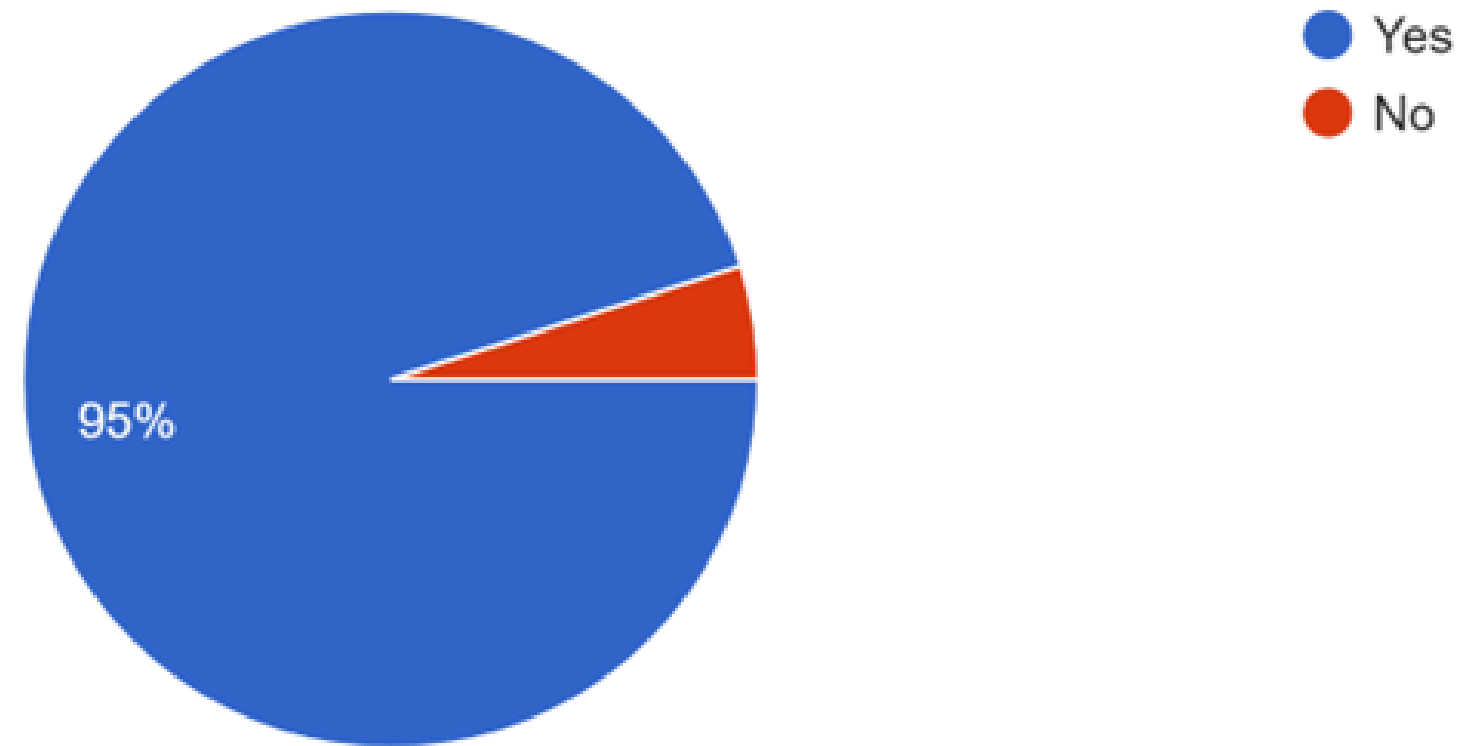
Impact of LIFT – Key Learnings

- Connections made through Case Managers' persistence & opportunistic advantage
 - Case Managers on-site presence was an advantage to facilitate service delivery
- Emphasis on Client-centered support
 - Case Managers offered non-judgemental support, went above and beyond for clients, and empowered youth to take initiative
- Appropriate and relevant case management across Tiers
 - Clients were engaged, built rapport & trust regardless of Tier level
- Case Managers' professionalism & expertise
 - Referrals were available and relevant to client needs
- Sense of hope
 - Clients felt connected to the program and their goals, they shared their future aspirations and took initiative

LIFT Client Survey Data

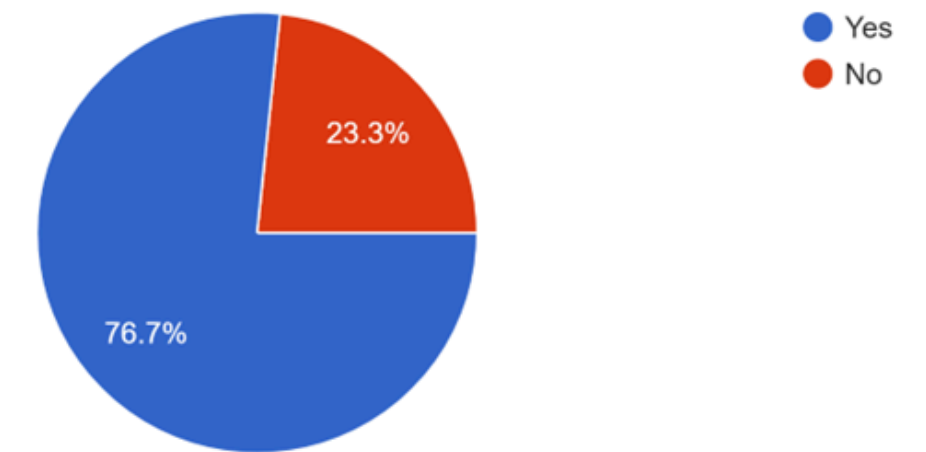
Do you feel that the services met your needs?

60 responses



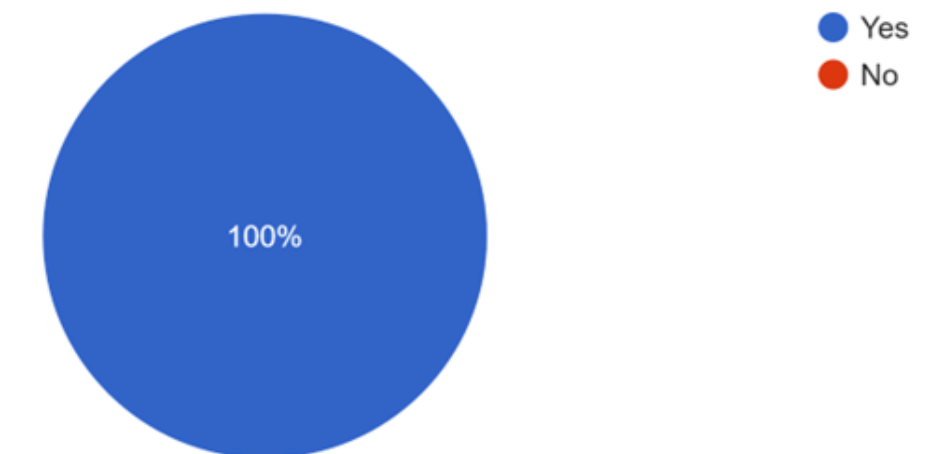
Did you participate in a journaling project with your Case Manager?

60 responses



Did you find the tools you learned helpful in life situations?

46 responses



Overall responders found services to be helpful & appropriate. They appreciated the care of their case managers and noted that their CMs went above and beyond to help them.

Community Connections & Support



Letters of Support

- Pacifica High School

Letters of Intent

- Frontier High School
- Rio Mesa High School
- Ventura Unified School District

MOUs

- Oxnard Police Department
- Oxnard Unified HS District
- Oxnard School District

Testimonials



“The Oxnard Police Department is grateful to collaborate with Interface in the LIFT Youth Partnership Program. As the primary referral source for LIFT, we understand the importance of advocacy for youth facing adversity in our schools, and in our community. LIFT provides vital opportunities of earlier intervention and positive engagement that individuals may not have otherwise received.”

**-Sgt. Hannah Estrada, Oxnard Police
Department**

Countywide Need

VCPA estimates on average 1,500 citations are given to youth each year in Ventura County*

- Approximately 60% of those citations are eligible for diversion



*Excluding City of Oxnard which currently refers independent of VCPA

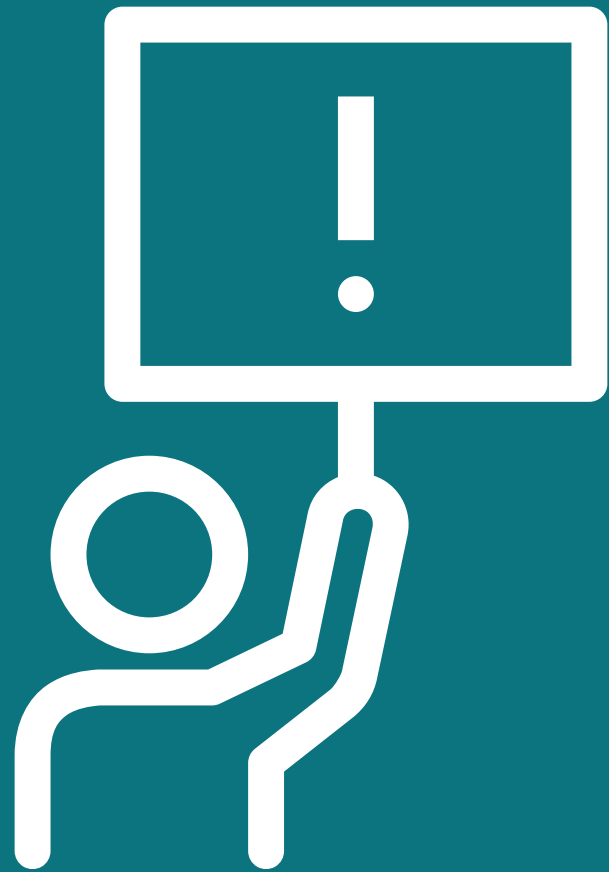
Local Suspension Rates

School Name	2023 Suspension Rate (State Average 3.5)	# of Students/School	# of Students Suspended
Frontier High School	15	528	79
Ventura High School	6.2	2,195	136
Hueneme High School	6.2	2,436	151
Fillmore High School	6	1,124	67
Royal High School	5.6	2,082	116
Santa Paula High School	5.3	1,770	93
Rio Mesa High School	4.6	2,374	109
Simi Valley High School	4.4	2,019	89
Pacific High School	4.3	282	12
Moorpark High School	3.8	1,883	86
Adolfo Camarillo High School	3.5	2,000	70
Santa Susana High School	2.4	1,125	27
Buena High School	1.4	1,800	25
Rancho Campana High School	1.3	861	12
Total Students Suspended			1072

*List of schools not currently served by LIFT

Data obtained from California Schools Dashboard 9.3.2024

Addressing the Need



Interface proposes a countywide expansion of diversion and prevention programming that will build upon the framework and success of the LIFT Youth Partnership.

This project will be a collaboration between Interface, VCPA, local law enforcement agencies, and county and city school districts.

Option A- Tier 2 & 3 Referrals

Goal: To reduce the number of youth entering the criminal justice system through the establishment of a countywide Tier 2& 3 referral system.

- Referrals will be received by both law enforcement and school personnel in lieu of citations or suspensions.
- Services will be available for delivery on school campuses and community-based locations.
- 100% of Tier 3 clients will receive needs assessments, case management, mentoring, and Evidence-Based Programming, community referrals, and diversion opportunities.

Option A- Scope of Work

Estimated Number of Youth to be served annually once fully implemented:

- Tier 2: Up to 500
- Tier 3: Up to 950

Includes comprehensive needs assessment, individualized case management, mentorship, follow up, family engagement, psychoeducation, restorative practices and community referrals utilizing a suite of evidence-based programs.

Option A- Budget

Budget:

- Year 1: \$1.4 million (includes first 3-months of program start up activities)
- Year 2: \$1.6 million (full implementation)

Option A- Program Staff

- (1) Program Manager
 - (8) Full time Case Managers
 - (3) Full time Program Leads
 - (2) Full time Family Engagement Specialists
 - (1) Part time Group Facilitator
- Administrative Support Staff & Management

Option A- Service Sites

Tier 2 & 3 referrals

Year One

Oxnard Unified HS District:

- Rio Mesa High School
- Frontier High School
- Odyssey High School
- Hueneme High school
- Adolfo Camarillo High School
- Rancho Campana High School

Ventura Unified School District:

- Ventura High School
- Buena High School
- Pacific High School

East County and Santa Clara River Valley Tier 3 citations:

Utilization of Evening Reporting Centers in Simi Valley and Fillmore and mobile case management to meet client need.

Year Two

Expand East County to include Tier 2 referrals & presence on campuses

Possible expansion into targeted middle school locations

Option B- Tier 3 Referrals Only

Goal: To reduce the number of youth entering the criminal justice system through the establishment of a countywide Tier 3 referral system.

- Referrals will be received by law enforcement in lieu of citation.
- Services will be available for delivery on school campuses and community-based locations.
- 100% of Tier 3 clients will receive needs assessments, case management, mentoring, and Evidence-Based Programming, community referrals, and diversion opportunities.

Option B- Scope of Work

Estimated Number of Youth to be served annually once fully implemented:

- Tier 3: up to 950

Includes comprehensive needs assessment, individualized case management, mentorship, follow up, family engagement, psychoeducation, restorative practices and community referrals utilizing a suite of evidence-based programs.

Option B- Budget

Budget:

- Year 1 budget: \$900,000 (includes first 3-months of program start up activities)
- Year 2 budget: \$1,000,000 (full implementation)

Option B- Program Staff

(1) Program Manager

(5) Full time Case Managers

(2) Full time Program Leads

(1) Full time Family Engagement Specialist

(1) Part time Group Facilitator

Administrative Support Staff & Management

Option B- Service Sites

Tier 3 Referrals

Ventura Unified School District:

- Ventura High School
- Buena High School
- Pacific High School

Oxnard Unified HS District:

- Rio Mesa High School
- Frontier High School
- Odyssey High School
- Hueneme High School
- Adolfo Camarillo High School
- Rancho Campana High School

East County and Santa Clara River Valley

Tier 3 citations:

Utilization of Evening Reporting Centers in Simi Valley and Fillmore and mobile case management to meet client need until MOU's are executed with schools in those areas.

Key Features



- Trauma-Informed Case Management
- Summer Programming
- Youth Advisory Group
- Family Engagement Opportunities
- Collaboration & TA for Local Law Enforcement Officers & SROs
- In-lieu of Suspension Alternatives
- Evidence-Based Programming
- Program Evaluation

Evidence Based Programming



- **Seeking Safety**
- **Restorative Justice Practices**
- **Motivational Interviewing**
- **Triple P Positive Parenting**
- **A Window Between Worlds**
- **The Change Companies Interactive Journaling**

Cost Benefit

\$1,000,000/950 youth = \$1,053 investment per youth per year!

(Based on Tier 3 referrals only)

VS.

- **Cost of incarceration in VC Juvenile Facility:** Approximately \$716*/per youth/per day. *FY17-18 costs. Does not include legal expenses.
- **Loss of school revenue due to suspension:** \$120/per student/ per day suspended. Approximately 1,072 students were suspended for one or more days in SY 2022/2023.

*https://bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/FINAL_BSCC-Youth-Cost-Report-FY17_18.pdf



Importance of LIFT Programming

LIFT services address all five priority areas listed in the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Plan

- **Prevention & Early Intervention**
- **Emotional & Behavioral Well Being**
- **Family Support**
- **Prosocial & Skill Building**
- **Coordinated Systems Approach**

Data Tracking and Coordination



Questions



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