



The Arc[®]

Michigan

Annual Report

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Dear Members & Friends of The Arc Michigan

As we reflect on another year, we are reminded of Michigan's constitutional commitment to foster and support the health and well-being of people with disabilities. Since 1951, The Arc Michigan has been determined to ensure this promise is honored through meaningful action. We remain steadfast in holding policymakers accountable—whether in the Governor's office, the legislature, or state and federal agencies—and will keep advocating for systemic change that creates more inclusive, independent lives for individuals with disabilities.

Our efforts will carry into the new year and beyond. The Arc Michigan is committed to advancing service system improvements and strengthening our public mental health system—one where every individual has access to authentic Person-Centered Planning, Self-Directed Services, Independent Facilitation, and Conflict-Free Case Management. We are also calling for increased investment through General Fund dollars, as the current budget does not provide adequate support for the needs of all people with disabilities in Michigan. We are fighting to raise wages for Direct Care Workers and preserve Medicaid at the federal level. Both of these issues are essential to ensuring the long-term stability and accessibility of services across the state.

Our work is strengthened by the collaboration of our 26 local chapters and the many advocacy organizations that share our vision. Together, we are breaking down barriers, improving access, and enhancing quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families across Michigan. Your partnership is essential to maintaining our efforts, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

The progress we've made is possible because of you. Together, we will keep building a brighter future for individuals with disabilities in Michigan. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the work of The Arc Michigan.



Andrea Lane,
President



Sherri Boyd,
Executive Director

About our Projects

The Arc Michigan is proud to support and coordinate a range of programs and projects that empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across the state.

From early childhood through adulthood, **Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)** offers information, education, and support to families navigating early intervention and special education services. Through **Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA)**, we cultivate parent leaders and self-advocates ready to drive systems change. The **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)** program provides essential benefits counseling and support for people with disabilities seeking employment. The Arc Michigan **Pooled Amenities Trust** enables individuals with disabilities to protect their benefits while improving their quality of life. Our **Supported Decision-Making** initiative promotes alternatives to guardianship and empowers individuals to make their own choices with the help of trusted supporters. Our collective advocacy work through the **DCW Wage Coalition** helps improve the recognition, support, and compensation of direct care workers. The **Person-Centered Planning Quality Improvement Project** helps ensure that people receiving services through the public mental health system experience meaningful choice and control in their lives. Finally, **Partners Advancing Self-Determination (PAS)** works to improve access to self-directed services by supporting local Community Mental Health agencies and state-level collaboration.

Together, these programs reflect our commitment to advocacy, inclusion, and self-determination for people with disabilities throughout Michigan.





Project Director, Kanika Littleton

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org> | (800)552-4821

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF) provides information, education, and support for families with students (from birth to age 26) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) early intervention or special education services. The work of MAF is done by Regional Parent Mentors (RPMs) and supported by central Information and Referral staff, all of whom are family members of individuals with disabilities.

Regional Parent Mentors can connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children's education and mentor them in becoming a more active participant in their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). This year, mentors responded to 15,645 requests for individualized assistance, and helped 4,907 parents to review/prepare for IFSPs or IEPs and solve other special education related issues.

MAF helps facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. No matter where you are in Michigan, you can connect with a Regional Parent Mentor in your part of the state. Additionally, MAF has two mentors providing statewide assistance to Arabic-speaking and Spanish-speaking families.

In 2025, MAF trainers, along with our state partners and RPMs offered 343 virtual and in person learning opportunities. Learning opportunities were held regionally and statewide. We had a total of 8,877 participants, of whom 4,688 were parents, 3,524 were professionals, 553 were students with a disability, and 112 with multiple roles.

Topics include:

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Special Education Evaluation and Eligibility
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Sensory Processing Disorder
- Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports
- Youth Self-Determination
- Transition: What You Need to Know
- Employment Expectations
- And more!

MAF offers a full calendar of statewide virtual learning opportunities and regional small-group learning, including live and on demand webinars, videos, and courses. Families can watch 55+ different webinars and video presentations at home, at their own pace at www.youtube.com/michiganalliance.

Our recorded webinar presentations have been closed-captioned through a partnership with Michigan Department of Education's Center for Educational Networking (CEN). Accommodations are available for all our live learning opportunities.

Leaders **In Policy Advocacy**



Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/lipa/>

Through Michigan Alliance for Families, we have completed three cohorts of Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA). LIPA is a six-month leadership program for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of minor children with developmental disabilities who want to better understand how systems work, build advocacy skills, and learn how to influence change.

LIPA is designed to help participants move from feeling overwhelmed to feeling informed and confident. Through hands-on learning, participants gain practical skills to understand policy, navigate complex systems, engage with decision-makers, and clearly share their lived experiences. Just as importantly, the program builds a supportive community where participants learn alongside others who care about belonging, access, and meaningful change.

In 2025, 18 participants completed the program, bringing the total number of LIPA graduates to 54 since the program returned in 2023.

At the end of 2025, we hosted a reunion for all three cohorts. More than half of our graduates joined for an afternoon of connection, empowerment, and community. This growing network of leaders continues to engage in systems advocacy and provide peer support to people with disabilities and their families across Michigan.

We are excited to continue and expand the Leaders in Policy Advocacy program in 2026, by offering another cohort to support more emerging leaders and advocates across the state.

Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

<https://arcmi.org/michigan-family-voices> | [Facebook](#)



Michigan Family Voices is a statewide, family-led network housed at The Arc Michigan. It brings together families and allies to elevate family voices and influence health care and other policies affecting children with special health care needs and disabilities.

In 2025, Michigan Family Voices strengthened connections with the National Family Voices network through meetings and peer learning, built stronger relationships with state partners, sought grant funding to support and expand its work, and provided public comment on the FY2026 Child Health Block Grant to ensure family perspectives were included in state planning.



Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

DCW Wage Coalition Position Statement: <https://www.dcw-michigan.org/our-position>

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates and advocacy opportunities

The Arc Michigan continues to lead the Direct Care Worker (DCW) Wage Coalition, a partnership of 14 state-wide disability advocacy organizations, along with participation from disability services providers. The Coalition is focused on one clear goal: increasing wages for the 50,000+ direct care workers in Michigan's behavioral health system.

Direct care workers are the backbone of the behavioral health system. They provide essential, life-preserving support to people with developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses. Despite the critical role they play, DCW wages remain far too low.

In 2025, the DCW Wage Coalition continued to educate policymakers about the value of DCWs and the urgent need for higher wages. This work included meetings with legislators, public events, collecting stories from people with lived experience, digital advocacy, and grassroots outreach.

DCW wages in Michigan's behavioral health system are funded through Medicaid and depend on the state's level of investment. The FY2026 state budget maintains the existing \$3.40 per hour increase from prior years in addition to the state minimum wage. However, it is believed that the funding allocated in the state budget for both Fiscal Year 2026 and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027 does not adequately cover the cost of these wages, which creates an unfunded mandate. Addressing these ongoing issues remains a top priority for the Coalition.

As we move into another year of advocacy, the DCW Wage Coalition remains committed to improving administrative efficiencies and ensuring the passthrough reaches the DCWs within the behavioral health system so that wage investments are implemented as intended - so direct care workers can earn a true living wage.

You can support this work by reviewing and sharing our FY27 DCW Wage Coalition Position Statement and discussing it with your state lawmakers. Your voice is essential in sharing real experiences of families, providers, and direct care workers during this workforce crisis.



SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

Project Coordinator, Jill Gerrie | <https://bit.ly/4k83tJw>

Supported decision-making means giving people the help and support they want and need so they can make their own decisions and avoid guardianship.

The Arc Michigan and the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council believe all adults have the right to make decisions, to direct their own lives, to be treated with dignity, and to be respected as autonomous adults.

Together we facilitate a broad statewide coalition of organizations and individuals to provide advocacy, education, training, and resources around supported decision-making. The Supported Decision-Making Toolkit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mihealthy/mentalhealth/developmentaldisability/supported-decision-making/sdm-toolkit> details supports available for families throughout the lifespan.

We continue to promote the use of supported decision-making through training and presentations and are recording personal stories about guardianship and the transition to supported decision-making. The stories will be used in educational and advocacy efforts.

In 2025 a set of bills was introduced [HB 4676](#) and [HB 4677](#) that would make supported decision-making the first consideration when deciding to grant guardianship. The bills have not passed out of committee as of this writing, and advocacy efforts are underway to move them along.

The Supported Decision-Making Coalition, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University compiled data received from court and Community Mental Health records. A report with the findings will be available in 2026, which will help the Coalition target advocacy and educational efforts.

For more information on Supported Decision-Making, visit:

<https://arcmi.org/resource-center/documents/>

or the Developmental Disability Council's web page at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mihealthy/mentalhealth/developmentaldisability>





PERSON CENTERED PLANNING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Coordinator, Marie Eagle | Project Assistant, Heather Hallett

<https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi>

Launched in 2019, The Arc Michigan's Person-Centered Planning Quality Improvement Project partners with MDHHS to evaluate and improve Person and Family-Centered Planning across Michigan's Behavioral Health Provider System.

Evaluation of Current Person-Centered Practices

As a partner in the MDHHS Site Review process, the project conducts interviews with individuals and families receiving services from PIHP and CMHSP entities, focusing on their experiences with Person and Family-Centered Planning, access to support and other quality measures. These interviews capture experiences with the CMHSP system, HCBS indicators, self-direction, and understanding of available services. Data is used in collaboration with MDHHS to identify system improvement needs across Michigan's 10 PIHPs and to guide ongoing statewide support and training. This year interviews have increased to include annual Site Reviews for all 10 PIHP Regions and capture experiences from people receiving services under the HSW, CWP, SEDW, and iSPA.

Development of Training and Technical Assistance

Guided by data from a statewide training needs assessment and Site Review interviews, the project created a Statewide Training Plan focused on Person and Family-Centered Planning, Self-Direction, Independent Facilitation, and behavioral health system navigation. This plan drives a free monthly webinar series, held via Zoom, on the third Tuesday of each month from 3–4pm. The current webinar series focuses on understanding the wide array of services available under Michigan's state plan and various waiver authorities. To register for the webinar, please contact Heather Hallett. Recordings are available on The Arc Michigan's website:

<https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi/webinars/>

Self-Direction Help Desk

The Self-Direction (SD) Help Desk provides a central location for people to provide feedback and request technical assistance on self-direction across Michigan. The Help Desk also features a FAQ on SD that can be used as a resource for individuals, families, advocates, and those working in the system. The SD Help Desk and SD FAQ can be found at: <https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi/pcpqisdhelpdesk/>

Self-Determination Conference

The project continues to collaborate with MDHHS to plan Michigan's 6th Annual Self-Determination Conference, taking place May 4-5th at The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Conference details and PCP Quality Improvement Project resources are available at <https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi/>



PARTNERS ADVANCING SELF-DETERMINATION

Project Coordinator, Jill Gerrie

<https://www.arcmi.org/projects/partners-advancing-self-determination/> + Facebook

Partners Advancing Self-Determination (PAS) is a grant project designed to improve self-directed services, also known as self-determination in Michigan. PAS is funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. It is in the fifth year of a five-year grant.

Local PAS Teams

PAS provides free state-level technical assistance, training, and support to local Community Mental Health (CMH) Teams wishing to improve or refine their self-direction processes. PAS has worked with teams from Macomb CMH, AuSable Valley CMH (now Wellvance), Oakland Community Health Network, LifeWays CMH of Jackson and Hillsdale Counties, Ottawa County CMH, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, and beginning in 2026, Summit Pointe in Calhoun County.

All of the teams made progress. Some of the improvements were highlighted at a presentation with Ottawa CMH at the 2024 national Applied Self-Determination Conference. We were asked to apply and hope to present again this year, which will be a review of the five years' accomplishments of the project.

Budget Authority Workgroup

The Budget Authority Workgroup is made up of people who use self-directed services, family members, Financial Management Services organizations, advocates, and former Community Mental Health employees. They are working to ensure budget authority or control is a reality for people using self-directed services in Michigan.

In 2026, the last year of the grant, the Budget Authority Workgroup will work to:

- Ensure the adoption of their recommendations to improve self-directed services by MDHHS
- Develop documents about self-directed services that are easy to read and understand, to include topics such as the budget process and roles and responsibilities for family members and people with disabilities
- Conduct a survey to document the state of self-directed services in Michigan
- Problem-solve issues as they arise

POOLED AMENITIES TRUST

Project Coordinator, Cathy McRae

<https://arcmi.org/projects/the-arc-michigan-pooled-amenities-trust/>

The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust opened in 2015. A pooled trust offers a way to protect and manage resources for people with disabilities, without risking their public benefits. The assets in this type of trust are “pooled” together for purposes of investment, but each person is assigned a sub-account to track their individual funds. Pooling makes it possible to join the Trust with less money than is generally needed to create a traditional special needs trust, making it an excellent option for families of modest means and individuals who find themselves with an inheritance, insurance payout, or legal settlement that could threaten their benefits.

Assets in a pooled trust may be used to procure those items and experiences that are not specifically meant to be purchased with public benefits, but which can enhance the person’s quality of life. In 2025 the Pooled Trust enabled people to pay for necessities like dental work not covered by Medicaid, automobile insurance, and clothing. We were also able to help people with major purchases like automobiles, and to have fun with the purchase of things like gaming systems, tickets to sporting events, and going out to eat.

As of December 31, 2025, The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust held assets totaling \$3,259,998 with 117 sub-account holders and had paid over \$56,000 to The Arc Michigan for the administration of the Trust over the last year.



WORK INCENTIVES, PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE

Project Coordinator, Cathy McRae | <https://arcmi.org/miwipa/>

A project to assist people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to:

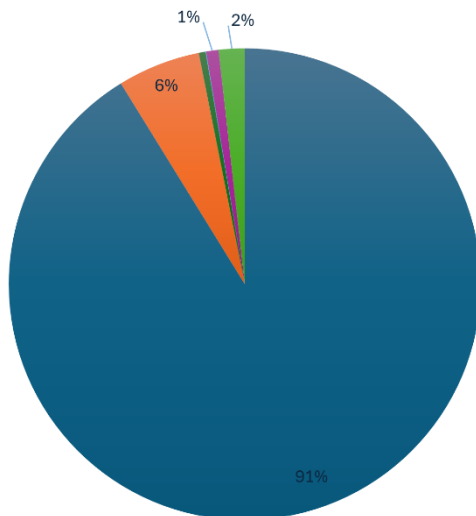
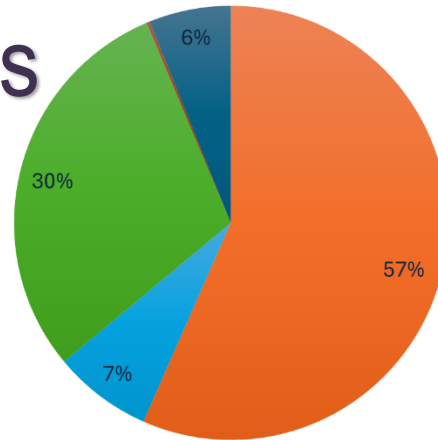
- understand and use work incentives, correctly report wages, including those from self-employment, and expenses that may reduce countable income, understand the impact of work on Medicaid and Medicare coverage, understand the relationship of work to disability cash benefits, other state and federal benefits such as food and housing assistance, Veteran’s Administration benefits, or Unemployment Insurance, and improve individual financial outcomes.

On June 30, 2025, The Arc Michigan concluded the fourth year of a five-year WIPA project, granted by the Social Security Administration and serving 21 counties. Between January 1, and December 31, 2025, 250 individuals had been referred to our WIPA project, with 22% receiving an in-depth Benefits Summary and Analysis, 50% receiving personal assistance toward achieving their employment and financial goals, and many more receiving needed information and referrals.

Financial Summary

Expenses

\$5,333,660



- Salaries/Benefits \$3,019,319
- Office Expense/Overhead \$392,262
- Contracted Services \$1,583,409
- Payment to Arc US \$12,793
- Other Program Expenses \$325,877

Revenues

\$5,415,141

- Grants \$4,938,671
- Other Operational \$307,137
- Development \$25,224
- United Way \$2,196
- Membership \$45,800
- Interest \$96,113



The Arc Michigan is a United Way Agency
 1325 S. Washington Avenue
 Lansing, Michigan 48910



517.487.5426 or 800.292.7851 | www.arcmi.org

Communications Reach



Mailchimp

Total sends

109,466

Open rate

20.3%

Click rate

2.3%

Unsubscribe rate

0.07%



Facebook www.facebook.com/TheArcMichigan

- Followers: **5,261** (Our largest audience base, increased from 4,100 in 2024)
- Reach: **50,800** total in 2024 (124.4% increase from 2023)
- Content Interaction: **13,400** interactions (67.5% increase compared to 2024)
- **693,900** views on content (1941% increase compared to 2024)
- **Engagement Leader:** Facebook remains our highest-performing platform, showcasing its effectiveness in connecting with our audience and driving engagement.

Views ⓘ

693.9K

3-second views ⓘ

14.6K ↑ 955.8%

1-minute views ⓘ

38 ↑ 3.7K%

Content interactions ⓘ

13.4K ↑ 100.9%

Watch time ⓘ

3d ↑ 1.2K%



Instagram www.instagram.com/thearcmichigan

The Arc Michigan's Instagram account @thearcMichigan grew to **5,261** followers in 2025, and reached **46.6K** accounts (an increase of 1,194% from 2024.)

Views ⓘ

52.3K

Reach ⓘ

46.6K ↑ 1.2K%

Content interactions ⓘ

152 ↑ 100%



LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/the-arc-michigan

Our 2nd year on LinkedIn has been a success! This platform is showcasing steady growth in followers and interaction.



X (formerly Twitter) <https://x.com/arcMichigan>

This platform has eliminated free analytics tracking. The only recoverable information is that @arcMichigan has **692** followers



Bluesky New in 2025, We've Joined Bluesky! Follow us [@thearcMichigan.bsky.social](https://thearcMichigan.bsky.social)



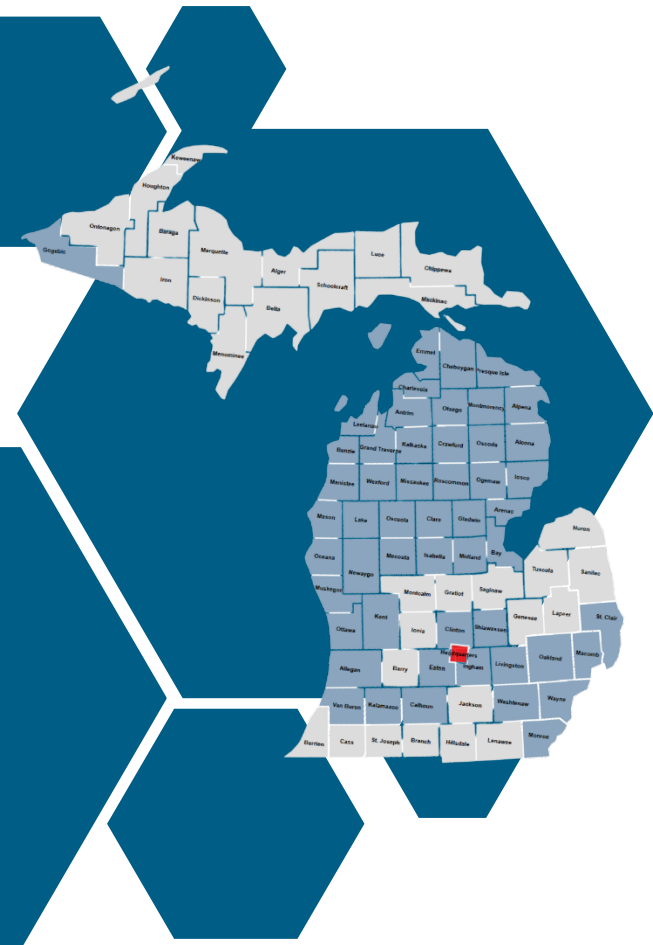
Linktr.ee

Like and follow **The Arc Michigan** across all our social media channels. See everything in one place, at

<https://linktr.ee/arcMichigan>

The Arc Michigan Local Chapters

[Find Your Arc - Michigan](#)



ARC/Allegan County
The Arc Arenac Area
The Arc of Bay County

The Arc of Calhoun County
The Arc Downriver
ARC/Gogebic Chapter
The Arc of Central Michigan
The Arc Community Advocates
The Arc Kent County
The Arc of Livingston County
The Arc of Macomb County
ARC/Manistee
The Arc of Midland
The Arc of Mid-Michigan
The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.
The Arc Lakeshore
The Arc/Newaygo County
The Arc of Northern Michigan
The Arc of Oakland County, Inc
The Arc of St. Clair County
Washtenaw Association for Community
Advocacy
Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods

The Arc Dearborn
The Arc Detroit
The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
The Arc of Western Wayne County

Committees & Boards

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- MDDC Public Policy Workgroup
- MDDC Quarterly Meetings
- MDHHS Quarterly Stakeholder Group
- MDHHS Administrative Efficiency Workgroup
- MDHHS Child & Family Issues Committee
- MDDC CoP on Charting the Life Course Leadership Team



Michigan Department of Education

- Parent Involvement Committee
- Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board
- Special Education Advisory Committee
- MI Interagency Transition Team
- OPTIMISE Task Force and Core Planning Team, Behavior Action Team, Special Education Administrators Credentialing Action Team, Special Educator Credentialing Action Team
- START Sexuality Community of Practice
- Education and Foster Care Workgroup



Board and Advocacy Groups

- National Core Indicators Workgroup
- Statewide Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee
- Michigan Parent, Advocate, and Attorney Coalition
- Special Education Coalition

- Michigan Family Voices
- Citizens Advisory Council for the Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University
- Michigan ADA Steering Committee
- Michigan Adult Foster Care Advisory Council
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Coalition
- Deaf/Blind Central Advisory Committee
- Center for Parent Information and Resources- Parent Center Equity Workgroup
- Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force
- Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)
- Care Can't Wait- Michigan
- Caring Across Generations- National

The Arc Michigan facilitates:

- DD Practice Improvement Team
- MI Statewide Advocacy Group
- Supported Decision-Making Whole Group
- Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition
- Partners Advancing Self-Determination



The Arc Michigan Board

Executive Committee

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Robert White – Clarkston
Patricia Carver – Brighton

Your time, expertise, and heart for this work make a lasting
difference – Thank you for serving.

Contact Us!



<https://linktr.ee/arcmichigan>



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www.arcmi.org



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