



State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

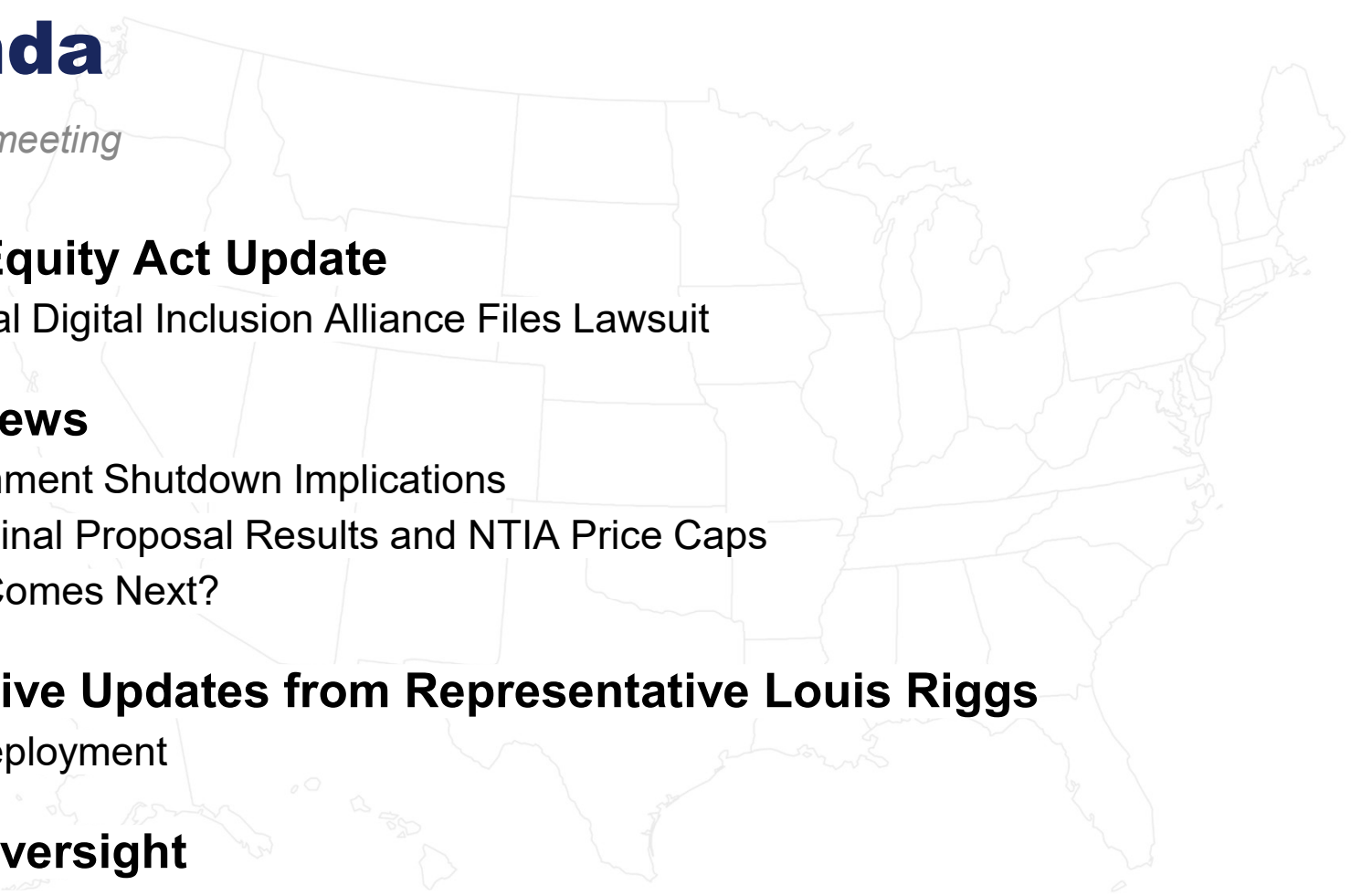
Third Wednesday of Every Month

2:00 ET / 1:00 CT / 12:00 MT / 11:00 PT

WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!

October 2025

Agenda



Recording meeting

Digital Equity Act Update

- National Digital Inclusion Alliance Files Lawsuit

BEAD News

- Government Shutdown Implications
- State Final Proposal Results and NTIA Price Caps
- What Comes Next?

Legislative Updates from Representative Louis Riggs

- Non-deployment

BEAD Oversight

- State Enforcement of BEAD Projects

Digital Equity Act Update

Gigi Sohn, Benton Senior Fellow and Public Advocate

- **On October 8, The National Digital Inclusion Alliance filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration's repeal of the Digital Equity Act Competitive Grant Program.**
 - Argues that the administration's decision to terminate grant funding is unconstitutional and violates the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches.
- **The 22-state lawsuit alleging that the Trump Administration illegally cancelled billions of \$ in federal grant programs is still awaiting a hearing date.**

BEAD – News

- **Government Shutdown Implications**

- BEAD staff are not funded through annual appropriations, so work on the program will continue at NTIA

- **State Final Proposal Results Update**

Results*	Locations	Fiber	Satellite	Wireless	Cable	Deployment	Non-Deployment
National	3,599,598	66%	21%	11%	2%	\$18.3 billion	\$21.8 billion

State	Locations	Fiber	Satellite	Wireless	Cable	Deployment	Non-Deployment
Alabama	101,751	75%	21%	0%	4%	\$530,743,198	\$870,478,704
Alaska	44,764	53%	33%	13%	0%	\$776,848,805	\$240,290,867
Arizona	164,264	74%	7%	19%	0%	\$511,973,677	\$481,138,554
Arkansas	79,266	74%	16%	7%	3%	\$308,328,089	\$715,975,905
California*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado	96,065	48%	50%	3%	0%	\$409,140,940	\$417,381,710
Connecticut	1,790	78%	0%	0%	22%	\$7,216,501	\$136,964,292
Delaware	4,739	80%	0%	0%	20%	\$13,374,777	\$94,373,608
Florida	102,143	48%	25%	14%	13%	\$291,117,627	\$878,829,766
Georgia	119,545	76%	11%	0%	12%	\$309,602,817	\$997,611,554
Hawaii	7,124	81%	18%	0%	0%	\$95,659,050	\$53,825,444
Idaho	91,423	49%	26%	25%	0%	\$436,151,356	\$147,104,894
Illinois	159,838	76%	15%	9%	0%	\$990,645,134	\$49,775,618
Indiana	131,953	79%	14%	6%	0%	\$486,309,855	\$381,800,075
Iowa	43,001	51%	9%	41%	0%	\$221,282,630	\$194,048,683
Kansas	26,679	46%	3%	51%	0%	\$252,942,108	\$198,783,890
Kentucky	86,406	68%	25%	6%	0%	\$376,926,543	\$709,245,994
Louisiana	127,842	80%	9%	6%	5%	\$498,296,587	\$857,257,966
Maine	25,880	85%	15%	0%	0%	\$48,369,286	\$223,608,437
Maryland	9,785	37%	23%	0%	40%	\$78,106,623	\$189,631,778
Massachusetts	4,937	22%	25%	0%	53%	\$18,654,558	\$128,767,906
Michigan	221,779	85%	13%	1%	1%	\$919,106,714	\$640,255,765
Minnesota	74,653	56%	27%	17%	0%	\$380,681,114	\$271,158,254
Mississippi	97,609	86%	13%	0%	1%	\$567,165,372	\$636,396,191
Missouri	213,803	81%	14%	5%	0%	\$792,326,180	\$943,976,528

State	Locations	Fiber	Satellite	Wireless	Cable	Deployment	Non-Deployment
Montana	72,209	20%	65%	15%	0%	\$308,194,874	\$320,778,925
Nebraska	14,086	9%	33%	58%	0%	\$43,844,548	\$361,436,522
Nevada	26,869	64%	29%	4%	3%	\$169,749,806	\$246,916,424
New Hampshire	5,136	68%	22%	0%	11%	\$19,305,223	\$177,255,056
New Jersey	11,472	45%	0%	20%	35%	\$63,551,464	\$200,138,085
New Mexico	43,364	44%	16%	40%	0%	\$432,974,698	\$242,397,614
New York	53,918	31%	25%	44%	0%	\$391,097,992	\$273,520,259
North Carolina	93,482	68%	30%	1%	1%	\$408,511,175	\$1,124,488,306
North Dakota	301	93%	0%	0%	7%	\$6,770,073	\$123,392,742
Ohio	74,112	46%	46%	8%	1%	\$242,397,568	\$551,290,540
Oklahoma	44,568	49%	12%	16%	0%	\$493,318,564	\$304,117,127
Oregon	105,644	53%	46%	1%	0%	\$620,728,287	\$68,186,645
Pennsylvania	129,926	65%	18%	14%	4%	\$793,169,689	\$368,608,583
Rhode Island	2,688	79%	4%	15%	0%	\$16,137,983	\$92,580,838
South Carolina	20,480	48%	49%	0%	3%	\$41,358,389	\$510,177,594
South Dakota	6,993	60%	38%	3%	0%	\$72,816,060	\$134,411,464
Tennessee	44,345	75%	13%	0%	12%	\$203,311,189	\$610,008,491
Texas*	242,979	51%	27%	22%	0%	\$1,271,233,724	\$2,041,382,731
Utah	32,256	55%	25%	20%	0%	\$231,292,922	\$86,106,820
Vermont	14,549	91%	6%	0%	3%	\$118,993,040	\$109,919,979
Virginia	85,264	80%	13%	1%	6%	\$545,170,411	\$936,319,162
Washington	69,801	46%	32%	22%	0%	\$849,894,572	\$377,847,494
West Virginia	73,701	94%	6%	0%	0%	\$624,671,277	\$586,129,693
Wisconsin	175,249	74%	13%	13%	0%	\$691,929,792	\$363,893,782
Wyoming	38,933	33%	40%	26%	0%	\$198,442,261	\$149,435,660

BEAD – News (cont.)

- In a leaked memo (now confirmed by Asst. Sec. Roth), NTIA revealed that it is imposing price caps on BEAD projects during the review process
 - If a project's costs cannot be brought down below the state's unique price cap(s), the state must re-award the project to a lower bidder (likely a satellite ISP) or designate the locations ineligible for BEAD (meaning they will not get broadband service).
- **Estimated price caps on the next two slides.**
 - *Data from Broadband.io*

State	BSLs	NTIA's 65% Excessive Cost Threshold	Average Cost/Location	NTIA's 85% Excessive Cost Threshold	Total BEAD Amount Allocated	% Spent
Connecticut	724	\$5,500	\$9,968	\$11,000	\$7,216,501	5.01%
Hawaii	7,128	\$9,500	\$13,420	\$19,000	\$95,659,050	63.31%
Maryland	10,173	\$6,500	\$7,678	\$12,000	\$78,106,623	29.17%
Massachusetts	2,538	\$6,000	\$7,350	\$11,500	\$18,654,558	12.65%
Mississippi	97,630	\$5,500	\$5,809	\$10,500	\$567,165,371	47.12%
New Jersey	11,015	\$6,000	\$7,091	\$11,500	\$78,106,623	29.62%
New Mexico	43,274	\$9,000	\$10,005	\$25,000	\$432,974,698	64.11%
North Dakota	301	\$19,000	\$22,492	\$46,500	\$6,770,073	5.20%
Oklahoma	44,006	\$10,000	\$11,211	\$20,500	\$493,345,081	61.87%
Rhode Island	2,622	\$3,000	\$6,155	\$4,500	\$16,137,983	14.84%
South Dakota	6,992	\$9,500	\$10,414	\$21,000	\$72,816,060	35.14%
Vermont	15,570	\$7,000	\$7,642	\$11,500	\$118,993,039	51.98%
Washington	69,801	\$6,000	\$12,016	\$12,500	\$838,729,752	68.31%
West Virginia	73,701	\$6,500	\$8,476	\$12,500	\$624,671,277	51.59%
Alabama	102,294	not reported	\$5,042	not reported	\$515,761,990	36.81%
Alaska	44,734	\$22,500	\$17,365	\$58,500	\$776,818,806	76.37%
American Samoa	7,630	\$3,500	\$1,266	\$5,500	\$9,657,239	25.71%
Arizona	163,444	\$3,500	\$3,133	\$9,000	\$512,129,677	51.57%
Arkansas	79,268	\$6,000	\$3,890	\$11,500	\$308,328,089	30.10%
Colorado	96,065	\$8,000	\$4,035	\$19,000	\$387,602,204	46.90%
Delaware	4,739	\$4,500	\$2,822	\$8,000	\$13,374,777	12.41%
Florida	78,997	\$4,000	\$3,685	\$7,500	\$291,117,627	24.88%
Georgia	119,545	\$4,500	\$2,590	\$8,000	\$309,602,817	23.68%
Guam	1,358	not reported	\$1,340	not reported	\$1,820,271	1.16%
Idaho	91,864	\$8,500	\$4,751	\$19,500	\$436,468,077	74.83%
Illinois	161,569	\$8,000	\$6,131	\$16,000	\$990,645,134	95.22%
Indiana	131,953	\$5,500	\$3,685	\$9,500	\$486,309,855	56.00%
Iowa	42,933	\$10,000	\$5,154	\$18,000	\$221,282,630	53.28%
Kansas	26,484	\$15,500	\$9,463	\$34,500	\$250,622,564	55.48%
Kentucky	86,406	\$6,000	\$4,362	\$11,000	\$376,926,543	34.70%

Yellow = Average connection is over 65% threshold

Red = Average connection is over 85% threshold

Blue = broadband.io approximate cost/location

Louisiana	127,842	\$4,500	\$3,904	\$8,500	\$499,079,587	36.82%
Maine	23,260	\$9,500	\$2,080	\$19,000	\$48,369,285	17.78%
Michigan	221,452	\$4,500	\$4,150	\$8,500	\$919,106,704	58.94%
Minnesota	73,052	\$10,000	\$4,888	\$20,000	\$357,109,811	54.78%
Missouri	213,803	\$8,000	\$3,706	\$15,500	\$792,326,180	45.63%
Montana	72,209	\$11,000	\$4,268	\$29,000	\$308,195,174	49.00%
Nebraska	14,376	\$15,500	\$3,312	\$30,000	\$47,619,312	11.75%
Nevada	20,419	\$8,500	\$8,313	\$22,000	\$169,749,806	40.74%
New Hampshire	5,136	\$7,000	\$3,759	\$12,500	\$19,305,222	9.82%
New York	53,918	\$8,000	\$7,254	\$14,500	\$391,097,992	58.85%
North Carolina	93,482	\$4,500	\$4,369	\$7,000	\$408,453,717	26.64%
North Mariana Islands	9,568	\$8,000	\$3,278	\$14,500	\$31,365,218	38.82%
Ohio	73,052	\$4,500	\$3,793	\$7,000	\$277,114,388	34.91%
Oregon	92,650	\$7,500	\$5,883	\$18,500	\$620,728,286	90.10%
Pennsylvania	129,933	\$7,000	\$6,107	\$12,500	\$793,494,747	68.30%
South Carolina	20,480	\$9,500	\$2,019	\$9,000	\$41,358,389	8.11%
Tennessee	44,317	\$5,000	\$4,588	\$8,500	\$203,311,189	25.00%
Utah	32,661	\$7,500	\$7,169	\$22,000	\$231,292,922	72.87%
Virginia	127,216	\$6,000	\$4,821	\$10,500	\$613,277,638	41.40%
Wisconsin	175,249	\$7,000	\$3,948	\$12,500	\$691,929,792	65.53%
Wyoming	38,933	\$17,500	\$5,097	\$55,000	\$198,442,261	57.04%
California		\$9,000		\$20,500		
District of Columbia		\$4,000		\$8,000		
Texas		\$6,000		\$14,000		

Yellow = Average connection is over 65% threshold

Red = Average connection is over 85% threshold

Blue = broadband.io approximate cost/location

NTIA May Claw Back BEAD Non-Deployment Funds

- **What are non-deployment funds?**
 - Exactly what they sound like: BEAD funds not used for deploying broadband infrastructure
- **What can non-deployment funds be used for?**
 - Workforce development, streamlining permitting and pole attachments, broadband adoption and affordability programs, middle mile and cell service infrastructure, improving maps and data collection, and more
- **The median amount of non-deployment funds available for each state is \$350m**
- If you want your state to retain these funds, advocate for non-deployment funds to remain with the states, as the IIJA demands.

BEAD – Oversight

Janie Dunning

- **Will BEAD have the same issues as the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)?**
 - How did ISPs who defaulted on RDOF projects fare in BEAD?
- **READ: From Promises to Performance: BEAD Enforcement Tools States Need Now**



Updates from Rep. Louis Riggs

(MO-HD-5)

BEAD Memo

- All the BEAD information we have covered in this meeting is detailed in a memo!

[Read the Memo Here!](#)

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BEAD Memo: State Results and Key Issues

BEAD Results

All states, except for California and Texas, have submitted their draft BEAD Final Proposals to NTIA. These proposals show which ISPs won funding and which locations will receive broadband service. The proposals must still be approved by NTIA, so all results are provisional.

The table below shows national results; the table on page 2 and 3 shows results by state.

Results*	Locations	Fiber	Satellite	Wireless	Cable	Deployment	Non-Deployment
National	2,941,801	68%	20%	10%	2%	\$18.9 billion	\$18.8 billion

Amazon Kuiper and SpaceX Starlink have won the most locations (305k and 297k, respectively), while Comcast and Charter Spectrum have won the most funding (roughly \$2 billion and \$1 billion, respectively). For a full list of winning ISPs in your state, see this [dashboard](#) (note: the dashboard may not reflect the most up-to-date data).

Issue 1: Price Caps — NTIA Will Cut (Mostly Fiber) Projects that Exceed Cost Thresholds

NTIA is requiring states to renegotiate any awards above a certain cost threshold. If costs cannot be brought down, the state must re-award the project to a lower bidder (likely a satellite ISP) or designate the locations ineligible for BEAD (meaning they will not get broadband service). Unlike previous rounds of awards, this process will disregard a state's judgement about a project's suitability for the area (e.g. whether satellite can provide reliable service in forested or mountainous areas, where obstructions block signal).

Impact: The effect on states will vary widely, with some states seeing major shifts from fiber to satellite while others see minimal change.

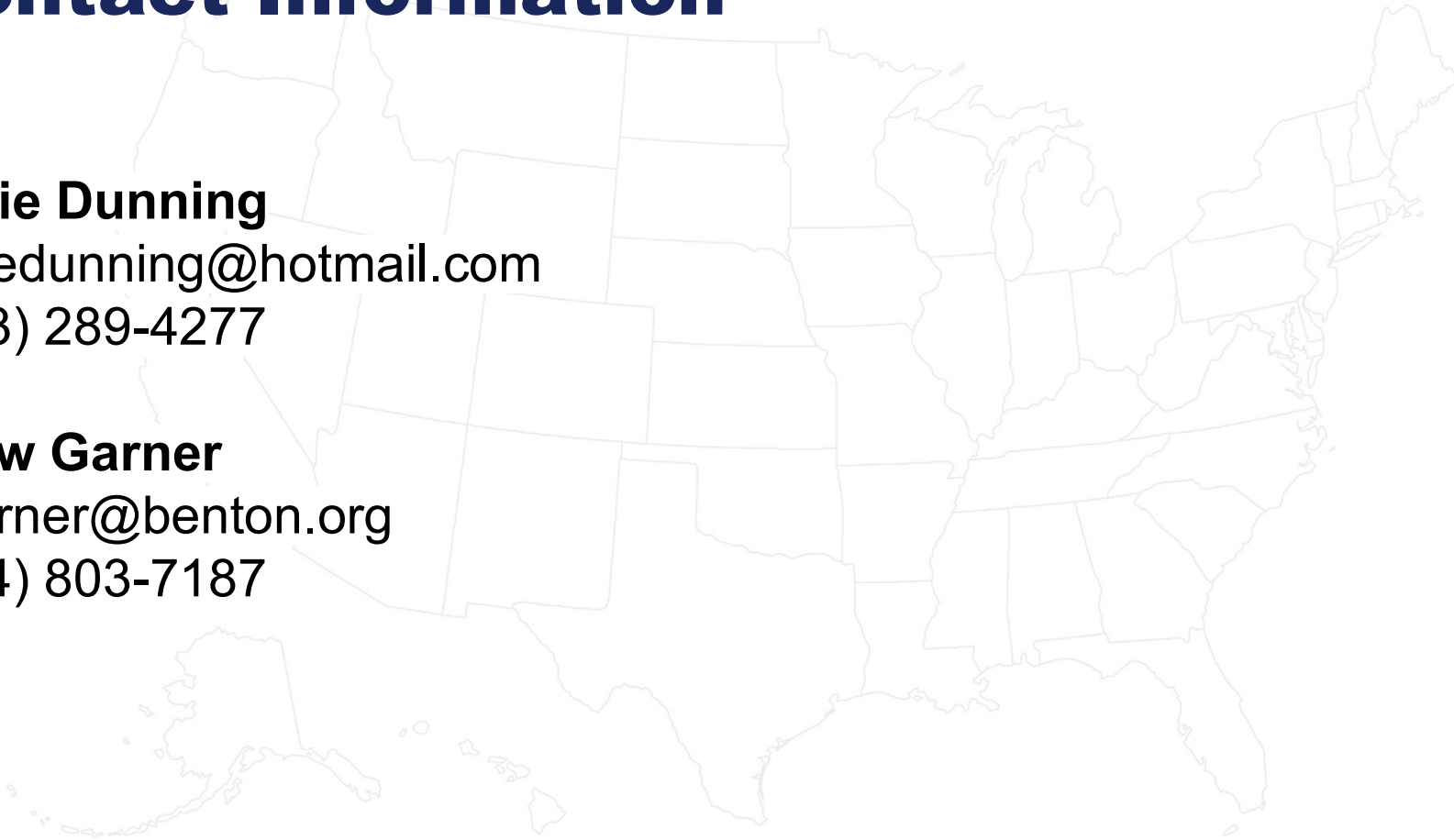
Issue 2: Non-Deployment Funding — NTIA May Claw Back Remaining BEAD Allocations

By law, states that do not use their full BEAD allocation on infrastructure deployment may use their remaining funds for other connectivity projects. This remaining funding is known as "non-deployment" (see following table for amounts per state). Non-deployment uses may include workforce development, streamlining permitting and pole attachments, broadband adoption and affordability programs, middle mile and cell service infrastructure, improving maps and data collection, and more.

Impact: NTIA appears poised to claw back non-deployment funding, effectively cutting BEAD in half and denying states billions in statutorily-mandated funding for connectivity projects. For amounts at risk per state, see the non-deployment column on page 2 and 3.

* "Locations" refers to homes, businesses, and institutions that will receive service through BEAD-funded projects. "Fiber," "Satellite," "Wireless," and "Cable" refer to the type of service locations will receive. "Deployment" refers to amounts awarded to build rural networks. "Non-Deployment" refers to the amount of BEAD allocations remaining after deployment.

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