



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA

*Quick
Connections*

An electronic news service of the PHFA Housing Services Department— May 2011

**2011 HOUSING SERVICES CONFERENCE:
Healthy Housing/Healthy Communities
June 21, 22, 23 – State College, PA**

The word is out and with more than a month to go, more than 300 people have registered for the 2011 Housing Services Conference! Don't miss this jam-packed event that boasts 36 great breakout sessions, 4 keynote addresses, the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination, display of the Common Thread Quilt Project that YOU generated, a Marketplace of Vendors, an evening reception with wine tasting, AND the Pennsylvania Supportive Housing Award presentation! The online brochure has all the details about the conference schedule, registration and hotel. View the conference brochure [here](#). [Click here](#) to register online and pay by credit card or check. We hope to see you in June in State College!

**Nominees for the 2011 Commonwealth of PA
Supportive Housing Award**

Congratulations to all who have been nominated for the 2011 Commonwealth of PA Supportive Housing Award, honoring the leadership and dedication of individuals and organizations who contribute to the supportive housing movement. The winner will be announced and the award presented at the 2011 PHFA Housing Service Conference in State College, June 22. While there will be only one award recipient, all of the nominees deserve recognition for their success in supportive housing. The nominees are:

- Allegheny County Housing Authority for Housing as Home Initiative
- Dainette Mintz for her work with City of Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing
- Pennrose Management Company for Overlook Park
- Fayette County Community Action Agency for Uniontown Family Homes
- YWCA of Greater Harrisburg for Section 8 SRO for Single Homeless Women
- Lehighon Elderly for Lehighon Elderly Homes
- Interstate Realty Management for Sharswood Townhouses I
- Interstate Realty Management for Sharswood Townhouses II
- Pennrose Properties and Hickman Friends Senior Community of West Chester for Mary Taylor House
- Philadelphia Housing Authority for Ridge Avenue Eldercare Services at Nellie Reynolds Gardens
- SeniorCare Network, Inc. for York Commons
- Westmoreland Community Action for Jeannette Revitalization Project
- Interstate Realty Management Company for Mallard Run Apartments
- Interstate Realty Management Company for Coal Township Elderly Housing
- Keith B. Key Enterprises for Garfield Commons
- HELP USA for HELP Philadelphia Home/Robert A. Brady Veterans Center.
- New Courtland for New Courtland Square
- Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS) for North Coast Place Apartments
- Community Basics, Inc. for Park Avenue Apartments
- PK Management, LLC for Pennsylvania Portfolio-Baldwin Towers, Connelly Manor, Grandview Manor, Lodge Run, Riverview Manor
- Presbyterian Senior Living for Schartner House
- Shirley Futch Plaza for Shirley Futch Plaza
- UCP/CLASS for Multiple Initiatives
- Interstate Realty Management for Regency Park Afterschool Program

PHFA Information and Trainings

2011 Housing Services Conference Call for Marketplace Vendors

There are just a few spots left-reserve yours to market your product or service to developers, housing management staff and service providers in State College on June 21. Deadline for application is May 15. [Click here for application.](#)

Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program

Register now! Registration for the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program (CESC) is taking place now through **June 10**. If you are interested in registering or if you have questions about the program, please contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org Don't miss out on this training opportunity!

2011 Conference Ride Share for 2011 PHFA Housing Services Conference

Want to save energy and \$\$\$ - [2011 Conference Ride Share](#). To use the Ride Share, if you're not already a member of the PA Service Coordinator Wiki, you'll need to set up a free user account and then login.

Common Thread Quilt Project-Request for Participating Resident Photos

160 Quilt Squares have been received! If your residents have participated in the Common Thread Quilt Project please take a photo of them and send electronically to schopek@phfa.org by May 31st.

2009-2010 PHFA Annual Report is Available Online

The 2009-2010 PHFA Annual Report is not available online. [View here.](#)

PHFA Partners to Launch New PAHousingSearch Website

PHFA and its partner agencies today announced the official launch of PAHousingSearch.com, an online housing search tool that lets Pennsylvanians easily find apartments best suited to their particular housing needs. A small number of homes associated with affordable housing initiatives and foreclosure prevention programs also will be available using the locator service. [Click here to view press release.](#)

HUD's Emergency Homeowner's Loan Program (EHLP)

If you are at least three months delinquent on your mortgage and the delinquency is due to involuntary unemployment, under employment, or medical reasons, you could be eligible for an EHLP loan. You must also be the owner and occupant of the property in foreclosure. [Check here.](#)

Other Trainings and Conferences

PA Behavioral Health & Aging Coalition Offers Multiple Training Opportunities

- "Understanding Depression, Anxiety and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults" will be presented on the following dates and locations- **May 11, Jefferson County**. Cost is \$75 per session. For information on all events, go to: www.olderpa.org or call 717.541.4219.
- "Understanding and Accessing Medicare Services for Mental Health Consumers", Working with Behavioral Health Issues in Older Adults", QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) A Suicide Prevention Training" a free one day training on **May 23, Chambersburg**. Register online at www.olderpa.org/bhc.

May 17-18 PA Office of Financial Education-5th Annual Common Wealth Symposium

The Pennsylvania Office of Financial Education is hosting the 5th Annual Common Wealth Symposium May 17-18 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey, Grantville. Cost is \$60 per person, includes meals and conference materials. For info or to register please call 717.783.2498 or email hollychase@state.pa.us.

May 19 PCA's Clergy - Aging Interfaith Coalition Free Spring Clergy & Seniors Day-Phila

PCA's Clergy-Aging Interfaith Coalition will hold a free conference May 19 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM at the Four Points by Sheraton, 9461 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia. **Strengthening Bonds: Connecting**

Interfaith Communities with Senior-Friendly Services,” recognizes the integral role faith communities play in the lives of seniors. Register by Friday, May 13 by contacting Lisa Cottman at 215.765.9000, ext. 4464, or email to lcottman@pcaphl.org.

June 15-17 PennDelAHMA Training Opportunity

Certified Professional of Occupancy, June 15-17, Crowne Plaza, Philadelphia Bucks County, Trevoese. For information call 856.786.2183 or go to www.penndelahma.org

Jul 23 CILCP Walk' n Roll

Don't miss this year's event on Saturday, July 23 at Carousel Pavilion, City Island, Harrisburg. For more information, email events@cilcp.org or call 717.731.1900 x238.

Resources/News – General

Apply for SNAP/Food Stamp Benefits Over the Phone

PA Hunger Action Center assists PA residents with applying for SNAP over the phone at 1.800.634.2033. They conduct screenings, submit applications, and assist with any needed follow up. More people than ever before are now eligible for benefits. For more information, including income guidelines and promotional materials visit: [Visit here for details](#).

Bringing Healthy Foods to Urban Areas

Growing Power's website discusses emerging efforts to grow fruits and vegetables in parks and vacant lots in low-income urban areas. Learn more about [Growing Power](#).

Deadline May 9 Nominations for Caregiver Friendly Awards 2011

Today's Caregiver magazine and caregiver.com are seeking nominations for this year's Caregiver Friendly Awards. The deadline for submission of nominations is May 9. Award entry applications are online at <http://www.caregiver.com> or by call 1.800.829.2734.

Due Jun 10 Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest

The U.S. EPA, Generations United, the Dance Exchange, National Center for Creative Aging, and the Rachel Carson Council, Inc., announce a poetry, essay, photo and dance contest. Entries must be a team of two or more persons, a young person and an older person. The creative work should express the "Sense of Wonder" that your team feels for the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, or wildlife. [Click here for info](#).

EnergyPlusHealth

EnergyPlusHealth, is an effort to make healthy and energy efficient housing more accessible across all income levels. The program will provide training, tools, and technical materials for the volunteers performing the rehabilitation and repair work. [Visit here for info](#)

Enterprise Green Communities' New Training Tools

Enterprise Green Communities recently launched a series of new training tools and templates to provide residents, housing staff and property managers with new resources to promote green resident education. The tools are available at: [Resident Engagement Cards](#) and [Resident "Training in a Box"](#). Go to for tools: <http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/tools/>.

Federal Benefits Go Electronic May 1

As of May 1, Federal Benefits are going electronic. New applicants must select an electronic payment method. For more info: www.GoDirect.org or call 1.800.333.1795.

Gardening Resources

With the arrival of spring, gardening may soon be on your to-do list. Visit [USA.gov's Gardening page](#) for resources on a variety of topics, including: [Organic crops and gardening](#), [Composting](#), [Gardening with children](#), [Plants database](#).

Health Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) Website

[Want to know more about health-related quality of life?](#) The Health Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) program has just released its new Web site. Visit the [HRQOL Web site](#).

Healthy Community Design

Community design directly affects your health. Choose to live in communities that encourage physical activity as part of your daily routine. Join with neighbors to make your community as healthy as possible. The way communities are designed and built can affect our physical and mental health. <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HealthyCommunities/?source=govdelivery>

LGBT Resources

For a list of resources, information and new training opportunities go to : <http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/about/training.cfm>

Mastering the Local Farm Market

For tips on mastering the local farm market and eating locally: [Visit here](#).

Myths About Bedbugs

There's no doubt that you've heard a story about a friend or coworker fighting bed bugs. But storytelling, of course, can sometimes be paired with misconception spreading or exaggeration. Here, some commonly discussed bed bug myths set straight. Myths about Bedbugs: <http://www.dermatologychannel.net/bed-bugs/myths.shtml>.

Recycling Carpet

Is it time to change the carpet in your building? Learn how you can keep carpet out of local landfills, at www.carpetrecovery.org.

Today In Energy

Visit [Today in Energy](#), a new resource from the U.S. Energy Information Administration that provides timely articles on energy news. In these brief articles, experts explain data, reports, and trends to help build general understanding of current energy issues.

Resources/News - Senior Sites

ACA Webinars Posted to Website

Missed any of the Affordable Care Act webinars? The recordings, slides and transcripts for all of the webinars are available in the Updates section of the Health Reform page of the Administration on Aging website. To access webinars, www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx

Grandparenting Tips

Grandparenting tips are available at: <http://www.aarp.org/relationships/grandparenting/>

Deadline May 31 Exemplary Senior Housing Agencies Recognized

MetLife Foundation Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing, is to recognize nonprofit organizations that show exemplary leadership, innovation, and quality service delivery in affordable senior housing. Program goals are to showcase models of excellence in the design, operation, and property management of affordable, green senior housing; increase understanding of how to achieve success in providing high-quality independent living for seniors; provide financial support for agencies that exhibit excellence in green and service-enriched senior housing; and disseminate models of exemplary green, senior independent living. Four grants of \$50,000 will be awarded. For details and online application at [click here](#).

Due May 9-May is Older Americans Month for Senior Opportunities

To celebrate Older Americans Month: [stop in here](#). Older Americans Month Opportunities – “Connecting Generations Video Challenge” is an intergenerational video challenge. Due May 9. [Click here for Video Challenge details](#). “The Community Connection Video Game Tournament” is an

opportunity for senior centers all across the country to compete in this fun activity designed to encourage health and exercise while also promoting connections among seniors in the community. For details: [Visit here for Wii Community Connection Tournament details.](#)

New and Updated Watch Your Step Program from American Trauma Society

To access the new and updated [Watch Your Step program](#) from the American Trauma Society.

Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) Coupons

Information about the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), which [provides low-income seniors with coupons](#) that can be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs. In FY 2009, 809,711 people received SFMNP coupons. https://www.disability.gov/benefits/temporary_assistance_programs/food_%26_nutrition.

The Lifeline Program through Assurance Wireless

[The Lifeline Program through Assurance Wireless](#) provides free cell phones and 250 free voice minutes each month to PA residents who receive government assistance. There is no annual contract, activation fee, surcharge or bill. Phones have nationwide coverage on the Sprint network, voicemail, call waiting and caller ID. Additional voice minute and text message plans are available for a low monthly fee. For information or to see if you qualify, call 1.888.898.4888.

Resources/News - Family Sites

101 Fun Things for Teens to Do This Spring

Believe it or not, spring cleaning is on the list! Even our teens feel better when we help them create order. <http://parentingteens.about.com/od/activitiesorteens/a/springfunteenstodo.htm?nl=1>

New Educational Brochure on "The Choking Game" is Available

American Trauma Society Pennsylvania (ATSPA's) new brochure "*The Choking Game*" helps explain why adolescents are participating in the dangerous activity often called "choking." Download [the brochure](#) here or contact ATSPA. http://www.atspa.org/the_choking_game.pdf

Signs of Child Abuse

For signs of child abuse: [click here for information.](#)

StopBullying.gov

The site provides information from government agencies on how kids, teens, young adults, parents, educators, and others in the community can prevent or stop bullying. It also provides information on [finding help](#) if you, or someone you know, is being bullied. [Click here for info.](#)

Youth Violence

Youth violence is a public health crisis in the United States. Based on the most recent data available, approximately 20 percent of high school students report being bullied at school, and over 30 percent report being in a physical fight. <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/YouthViolence/?source=govdelivery>

The Colors of the Rainbow

Kids love colors and some of the most nutritious foods comes in all the colors of the rainbow. Help kids learn the fun of coloring their plate with all the healthy and tasty colors of fruits and vegetables. [Click here for details.](#)

Crafty Ideas for the Kids at your Property

Next time you are stuck in the house with nothing to do, check out this list of fun rainy day craft projects. Of course, you can also [search for a craft project](#) keeping the kids' ages, interests, and even gender in mind. [Click here.](#)

Resources/News - People with Disabilities

Applying for Disability Benefits for Children-Child Disability Starter Kit

The [steps involved in applying for disability benefits for children](#) are explained here. The Child Disability Starter Kit answers questions about applying for SSI for children and includes a worksheet that can help you gather the information you need to apply.

https://www.disability.gov/benefits/social_security_disability_benefits/children_with_disabilities.

Due Jun 27 U.S. Access Board Seeks Public Comment

The U.S. Access Board seeks [public comment](#) to develop accessibility guidelines for shared use paths which provide a means of transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. Comment deadline is June 27.

Free Online Behavioral Health Learning Center for Providers, Consumers & Family

Magellan's 'Resiliency and Recovery e-Learning Center' provides a variety of educational resources on addiction, mental health and related topics. The information is useful to a wide variety of audiences, including professionals, such as social workers, counselors, and psychologists; consumers of mental health services; and caregivers and family members. All information is provided free of charge in a self-paced, e-course format. [Read more here.](#)

May 7 - 2011 Disability Awareness Celebration Baseball Game

The Pittsburgh Pirates will host a special day to honor and acknowledge those individuals and families of people with disabilities! Come to the pre-game resource fair and event starting at 4:30 PM on Federal Street. Saturday, May 7, game starts at 7:05 PM, PNC Park at North Shore. Contact: Chaz Kellem, 115 Federal Street, Pittsburgh. Call 412.325.4731 or email: chaz.kellem@pirates.com

New and Enhanced VA Benefits Provided to Caregivers of Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching the first of a series of new and enhanced services supporting family caregivers of seriously ill and injured Veterans. One of these new services is a toll-free line, the National Caregiver Support Line – 1.855.260.3274. This toll-free number connects to a referral center that assists in providing referrals and information.

[Click here.](#)

OVR Draft State Plan

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Draft State Plan is available: [click here.](#)

Toolkit for Responding to Critical Incidents Involving a Person with Mental Illness

Recently released publication, *Responding to a High-Profile, Tragic Incident Involving a Person with a Serious Mental Illness: A Toolkit for State Mental Health Commissioners*, combines practical tips, supported by relevant research, to manage tragedies involving a person with a history or current diagnosis of serious mental illness. Available free at: http://consensusproject.org/jc_publications/tragic-incident.

What is Sittercity?

Sittercity connects families with quality local in-home caregivers. With over 1 million caregivers nationwide. Sittercity membership gives you online access to local caregivers with profiles that include pictures, parent reviews, references, background checks and more. Memberships are funded by the DoD. Sittercity helps you find local sitters and military subsidized child care providers. http://www.sittercity.com/?pc=gbrd&gclid=CJ2l6uf_IKgCFYje4AodDWpmCw.

Funding Opportunities

Due May 16 OJJD FY 2011 Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities Initiative

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) are seeking applicants for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities Initiative. This program furthers DOJ's mission by supporting the development and enhancement of mentoring initiatives that serve youth with disabilities.

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2011/MentoringDisabilities.pdf>.

Due May 23 Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is seeking applications for funding under its Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program. This program furthers DOJ's mission by reducing violence involving youth in targeted communities. [Click here.](#)

Due Jun 7 Grants to Enhance Older Adult Behavioral Services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2011 for Grants to Enhance Older Adult Behavioral Health Services. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to expand existing Older Adult Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) programs to include a focus on the prevention of suicide and prescription drug misuse and abuse among the older adult population. The deadline June 7. Go to: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=HLthN1jZKsxJQ0Cpj4TM>

Due Jun 24-Family and Youth Services Bureau Street Outreach Program

The Street Outreach Program funds community-based programs that provide services to youth living on the streets and in unstable situations by reaching out to them. These projects aim to increase young people's safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency, and to help them build permanent connections with caring adults, with the goal of getting them off the streets. [SOP Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) Due: June 24, 2011

Due Jun 24-Family and Youth Services Bureau Basic Center Program

The Basic Center Program funds community-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Basic center projects aim to increase young people's safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency, and to help them build permanent connections with caring adults, with the goal of reuniting them with their families (as appropriate). Youth in crisis receive emergency shelter, counseling, and aftercare services. In addition, projects work to strengthen family relationships, and, in the absence of family reunification, help youth find safe and appropriate alternative living arrangements where they can become independent, self-sufficient, contributing members of society. [BCP Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) Due: June 24, 2011.

Due Jul 13 Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) NOFA

Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) - Service Coordinators Program due July 13. For more information, see [Service Coordinators - ROSS NOFA](#)

Due Aug 1 HUD Releases FY 2011 Grant Extension Procedures for MF Housing SC's

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released the Notice announcing the fiscal year (FY) 2011 grant extension guidelines for multifamily service coordinator and Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) grants. This provides HUD's guidance on the process for extending Service Coordinator and CHSP grants whose funds will be expended and whose grant term will end on or before December 31, 2011. [Click here for info.](#)

Due Jun 9 Asthma Interventions and Assisted Multifamily Housing

Asthma Interventions in Public and Assisted Multifamily Housing due June 9. For more information, see [Asthma Intervention - PH and Assisted MF Housing NOFA](#).

PHFA Press Release Launching PAHousingSearch.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2011

Contact: Scott Elliott
717-780-3916 (office)
717-649-6522 (cell)
sellott@phfa.org

New, high-powered Web site helps Pennsylvanians easily find affordable housing that fits their specific needs

PAHousingSearch.com will be most appreciated when disaster housing is needed

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and its partnering agencies today announced the launch of PAHousingSearch.com, an online housing search tool that lets Pennsylvanians easily find apartments best suited to their particular housing needs. A small number of homes associated with affordable housing initiatives and foreclosure prevention programs also will be available using the locator service.

The new Web resource at www.PAHousingSearch.com replaces the earlier Pennsylvania Apartment Locator that previously was available on the PHFA Web site. This new Web-based housing locator service is easier for consumers and landlords to use, offers much more functionality, and is backed by a vendor with extensive experience that also provides a call center to help people using the site.

“Anyone looking for affordable housing in Pennsylvania should start by first visiting PAHousingSearch.com,” said PHFA executive director and CEO Brian A. Hudson Sr. “Not only is the site easy to use, but a bilingual call center is available to help the state’s residents find affordable housing – and to help landlords list their properties. This enhanced housing locator service is a wonderful new resource that lets the state’s residents more quickly and easily research their affordable housing options.”

PAHousingSearch.com is being funded jointly by PHFA, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This housing locator service is being managed by Socialserve.com, a not-for-profit that oversees 46 housing locator Web sites in 29 other states.

Features now available through the new housing locator site include basic, advanced and accessible searches to help people find housing best suited to their specific needs. Another tool– a proximity search – helps people find properties within a selected distance from work, school or other family members. The site includes a variety of helpful tools, such as a rental checklist, a rental calculator and a moving calculator. People who need assistance using the site can contact a bilingual call center by phone, mail, fax and e-mail. Best of all, searching for affordable housing is free.

For anyone with special housing needs, such as the elderly or people with physical challenges, PAHousingSearch.com lets them perform an “accessible” search to look for housing that has the features they need to continue living independently.

The site is just as simple for landlords to use for posting available units, and free for them, as well. The site’s ease of use by landlords is important so that people who are searching for housing are provided the most accurate data on the variety of housing that is available in their area. Landlords can easily describe their units’ amenities, neighborhood features, and distance from places like schools and public transportation. Map links and up to 10 pictures can be posted, helping fully describe available units to potential tenants. The PAHousingSearch.com call center also is available to help landlords list their vacancies.

Another benefit of PAHousingSearch.com is its usefulness after disaster strikes, when housing may be needed quickly by large numbers of people. PEMA’s involvement in this initiative was undertaken in large part because of this project’s usefulness for listing available housing for disaster victims. The call center connected with PAHousingSearch.com updates the housing listings every two weeks and manages the listing daily. This ensures accurate information anytime shelter is urgently needed for displaced families.

Currently, more than 62,000 housing units have been listed at PAHousingSearch.com, and 1,200 of those units are vacant and available. Nearly 600 landlords have active listings on the site. Additional listings are being added daily.

Most of the listings on PAHousingSearch.com are for available apartments, but a small number of

for-sale homes are included. Homes that are available for purchase are limited to those that are a part of an affordable housing initiative, a foreclosure prevention program, or other specific community development or stabilization efforts. General for-sale housing is not available on this Web site.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reporters wanting a live Web demo of PAHousingSearch.com are asked to please call Scott Elliott to schedule a demonstration.

About PHFA

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency works to provide affordable homeownership and rental apartment options for older adults, low- and moderate-income families, and people with special housing needs. Through its carefully managed mortgage programs and investments in multifamily housing developments, PHFA also promotes economic development across the state. Since its creation by the legislature in 1972, it has generated \$10.1 billion of funding for nearly 144,000 single-family home mortgage loans and 83,000 rental units, while saving the homes of more than 45,600 families from foreclosure. PHFA programs and operations are funded primarily by the sale of securities with the exception of its Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program, which it receives a state appropriation to administer. PHFA is governed by a 14-member board of directors.

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