

# Elephant and Castle Community Fund

Online Application Form Guidelines

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# Guidance notes

## Please print these off and read before starting your online application

These are guidance notes to help you complete some of the key questions in the online application form for The Elephant & Castle Community Fund at The London Community Foundation.

### Tips:

- You can also hover over the ⓘ symbol next to each question on the online form for help on how to respond.
- Text boxes/fields marked with a red line need completing – without an answer you will not be able to submit your form.
- It is a good idea to draft your responses using a word processing programme such as Microsoft Word, so that you can check your spelling and word count as you go along. Please note: Word and the application form treat word counts in different ways. For example Word counts B&YC as one word and the application form as three words.
- As you enter your information on the online form, remember to save your progress periodically by clicking on the 💾 symbol on the right hand side, to prevent you from losing your work in case of internet issues.

## Section 1: About your organisation

### Organisation Name, Address and general contact information

Please provide details of your organisation as it appears on any governing documents. If you are known by another name, please tell us about this as well. (Please put in *Name known as other name* in the answer box). Please include details of your website if you have one.

### Main Contact Person

Please provide details for the main person who we should contact in relation to this application. If you are shortlisted we will contact you to arrange a phone call to discuss your application, so please ensure that we have correct contact details, preferably a mobile number and email. We will contact you within one month of the closing date. If there is a chance you might be away during this time, please attach a document with an alternative contact person and their details.

Using the selection buttons you can indicate where correspondence relating to the grant should be directed. If your organisation has an independent address but you wish correspondence to be directed to an alternative address, un-tick the option "Use organisations address" for correspondence and you will be presented with the opportunity to enter different/additional contact details.

### Organisation start date

Please let us know the month and year that your group was set up or formally established.

### What type of organisation are you?

Please select all types of organisation which apply. If you are a registered charity please supply your charity number, if you are a registered company please provide your company number. If you check 'other' please specify what type of organisation you are.

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### **Are you part of a larger regional or national organisation?**

Please tell us if you are part of a larger regional or national organisation. If you are not please leave this blank.

If you are a sub-group or committee of a larger group, or a local branch of a national charity, we can only fund you if you can demonstrate that you operate independently. This usually means you have separate rules & regulations, an independent committee, a separate bank account and are responsible for generating your own income. Please explain this in the question on aims and objectives of your organisation.

### **What was your organisation's income during your last financial year or last 12 months?**

Please let us know your organisation's income over the last financial year. If you are a new organisation, enter your income to date from your management accounts.

### **Staffing and volunteers**

Please let us know how many full and part time staff your organisation employs. If applicable let us know how many members and volunteers your organisation has. Your Management Committee may be known as your Trustee Board. (We recommend there is a minimum of 3 people on it).

### **What are the aims of your organisation and what activities or services do you provide? How is your organisation run and managed? Do you have any local networks or partnerships?**

Please give a short description of what your organisation does at the moment. What are your usual activities and who are they for? What geographical area do you operate in? How are key decisions made? Do you work with partners or networks? It is particularly worth highlighting partners that work in the Opportunity Area, especially if your organisation is not local to the area.

### **Bank Account Details**

Please provide the names and addresses of all authorised signatories on your bank account, please indicate if any signatories are related. Bank accounts should have at least two unrelated signatories and preferably three.

## **Section 2: About Your Grant Application**

### **Project name**

If your project has a name please put it here, if it has no name please leave this box blank.

### **Project funding start/end**

Successful applicants will have a maximum period of 12 months to spend the grant – your project start date should not be before July 2021.

### **Which area (estate/town/region/borough) do most of the people who benefit come from?**

Please tell us which specific area or estate that most of the people in the project are from.

### **Which local authority will the activity mainly take place in?**

Please enter details of the local authority area where the activity will mainly take place (for the Elephant & Castle Community Fund, this should be Southwark).

### **Please provide a postcode which represents the geographical area you will benefit.**

Please provide the postcode where most of your beneficiaries reside. Please note that this should be within the Elephant & Castle Opportunity Area.

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### **What are the problems or issues that this project will address and how do you know?**

What can you tell us about the need for the work that you do? Have you done surveys, had feedback? Is there a gap in provision? Is there is nothing else in the area? Is it in response to local demand? Who will benefit and why are you focusing on them?

For example: "The majority of the people we support are refugees and asylum seekers who have been separated from their families, are bereaved, have been imprisoned and are seeking refuge. They are living on minimal allowances and do not have a permanent place to reside. They are not allowed to work so have low means and are in a state of limbo waiting for a decision on their status. We know from a recent survey of our service users that 75% would like additional support with English language and 85% would welcome local volunteering opportunities. We also know that transport is a real barrier, with 64% of our client base spending over £16 per week on transport. We are the only refugee and migrant organisation in Harrow that provides a range of courses to improve the life chances, opportunities and quality of life for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. With 15 years' experience, a number of our service users feed in to our decision making via regular discussion groups.

### **What would you do with the grant?**

Tell us about what you need the money for and what you will do. Please describe the activities that you plan to deliver, including specifics about the number of sessions, over what period, and how long each session is. If your budget includes capital equipment, you will need to tell us what you want to buy and what benefit it will have i.e. what you will use it for.

For example: "We are requesting funding to train 10 new volunteers to deliver support to people who have experienced domestic violence. Each volunteer will complete an OCN accredited 6 day training course 'volunteering with survivors of domestic violence' which will equip them with increased knowledge and understanding of DV and increased skills provide practical and emotional support to survivors. Each volunteer will use their training to provide regular tailored support for an individual DV survivor, helping them to live a safe and healthy lives. Each volunteer will work with up to three individuals."

### **What would the benefits and outcomes be as a result of this project?**

What difference will this project make? How is this directly related to the issues you have identified? List the benefits or changes that will directly result from this project. An outcome describes the benefits or changes that will happen as a result of your work i.e. the impact your work is having. Please provide outcomes for beneficiaries, and also consider outcomes for your organisation, partner organisations, and the area. Outcomes begin with 'change' words such as 'improve', or 'reduce'.

Examples of outcomes for beneficiaries include:

- improved mental and health wellbeing
- increased confidence and independence
- improved skills and knowledge
- decrease in risky behaviour

Examples of outcomes for your organisation might include:

- improved governance
- improving the quality of service delivery
- expansion of service provision
- increased skills amongst staff and volunteers

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It's likely you'll have a number of benefits or changes that you're aiming for – you can list them if you prefer.

**How would you measure and report the benefits and impact this project is having?**

Please explain how you plan to track and measure the change that you hope to achieve through your project. You might plan to have informal discussions with staff or participants, ask participants to complete questionnaires, or gather people together in one place to feedback on the project. Using a variety of methods will enable you to gather detailed and rich information that will help you to know how well your project is doing. All the information you collate should therefore enable you to report on your progress towards achieving your outcomes, so make sure that for everything you want to measure you have a method of gathering information as evidence.

**Please tell us about your organisation's past experience of delivering similar work and its impact.**

This is about your organisation's track record in delivering the proposed project or similar work you have delivered in the past. We are particularly interested in any experience you have of delivering projects within the Opportunity Area. If you are new to delivering this type of work, please tell us about the skills you have in your organisation, that will help to ensure the project will achieve the intended impact.

A strong answer will include clear evidence of the outcomes and success that your previous work has had. For example: for a project working with NEET young people (those Not in Education, Employment or Training) – "In the last year 30 out of 50 beneficiaries have gone back into full time education, 95% of beneficiaries reported an increase in confidence, etc..."

**Please tell us what you will do to ensure the work is Covid-safe, and whether you are able to deliver remotely if restrictions persist or tighten.**

Have you considered what you will do if Covid-safe measures continue to be required by the time the project starts? Have you undertaken a risk assessment? What measures will you put in place? This may include holding work outside, ensuring social distancing, using PPE, undertaking deep cleans, and being able to deliver online or remotely through other methods if needed.

**Lendlease may be able to offer additional support through staff volunteering. Please state any areas in which this may be of benefit to you.**

You can name anything that may be of use to your organisation although help in this area cannot be guaranteed. Examples may include help with website, policies and procedures, finance and many others.

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## Section 3: Impact

In this section we want you to think about the long term impact that this funding will have on your organisation's beneficiaries rather than the immediate internal impact for your organisation. You can help us to achieve our vision and mission by delivering projects that make a difference and – importantly – by gathering evidence to show how your project has made an impact. This information is essential if we are to encourage more donors to support our future work.

To help you collect the kind of evidence we need, we have created a framework that measures the impact of our grants. There are six themes for this IMPACT framework:

- **Improve people's life skills, employability and enterprise** - We want to support a thriving city that creates opportunities for people to fulfil their potential, to become more self-sufficient and to build their confidence.
- **Maximise people's ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity** - We want to strengthen and connect local organisations and improve local facilities so that people can live happier lives alongside each other.
- **Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to services** - We want people to be connected in their local communities and to their local services, so everyone has a chance to be included.
- **Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety** - We want people to feel safe and connected in their communities, and to have more opportunities to improve their physical and mental health.
- **Connect people with the arts culture and heritage** - We want to create a city that values and takes pride in the excellence and diversity of arts and culture, where everyone feels encouraged to participate, and their efforts create a lasting legacy.
- **Transform people's access to, and engagement with, their environment** - We want to create a city that promotes and creates a safer, healthier, and more sustainable environment, where people in urban areas feel free and welcome to access community spaces.

When applying you have to choose **two outcomes** to report on. You will also have to choose **up to three indicators** per outcome to report on and set targets that you think you will achieve over the life of the project.

### To complete the impact section on the form

1. Select the theme from the drop down list – this will give you the range of outcomes in the drop down list attached to the impact theme.
2. Then select your 1st outcome from the drop down list
3. This will then open up the available indicators – select the indicators and fill in the anticipated numbers. **Please remember to tick the indicators that you have selected**
4. Then select your 2nd outcome from the drop down list
5. This will then open up the available indicators – select the indicators and fill in the anticipated numbers. **Please remember to tick the indicators that you have selected**

For an example see the picture below:

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Section 3 - Impact". It contains several sections for data entry:

- Which category best describes the impact your project will have?** (Dropdown menu: Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise)
- Select the primary outcome for your project or activity** (Dropdown menu: Improve economic wellbeing)
- Primary Outcome Metrics:**
  - Number of new employment opportunities as a result of the project: 20
  - Number of new volunteer opportunities as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of people becoming self-employed as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of people coming off work related benefits: 2
  - Number of people who accessed benefits for the first time as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of people who are able to remain in housing as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of people who gained sustainable employment as a result of the project: 5
  - Number of people who reported a reduction in debt as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of people who started on the path to employability as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of volunteer opportunities as a result of the project: 0
  - Number of work placement/experience opportunities available as a result of the project: 0
- Select the second outcome for your project or activity** (Dropdown menu: Increase in beneficiary training, education, accreditation and employment)
- Second Outcome Metrics:**
  - Number of people coming off work related benefits: 0
  - Number of people who attended training as part of the project: 20
  - Number of people who attended training for the first time as part of the project: 0
  - Number of people who gain new skills as part of the project: 0
  - Number of people who gain new skills for the first time as part of the project: 0

On the right side of the form, a navigation menu lists: Section 1 - Organisation, Section 2 - About your grant application, Section 3 - Impact (highlighted), Section 4 - Project Budget and Consent, Attachments, and Save Application.

### How many people will directly benefit from this funding?

Please estimate how many people will directly benefit from any changes to your organisation as a result of this funding, throughout the funding period. We realise that you cannot give exact figures but please estimate as accurately as possible. This information is important and will be used to evaluate the project at the end of the grant period.

Please note this is the total number of beneficiaries supported by your organisation and its activities, and should not include staff or volunteers unless volunteers are also beneficiaries.

### Other people benefiting

Tell us about other people who will benefit from your project or service. For example, family members who are not taking part in the project.

### Percentage of beneficiaries that live, work or study within the Opportunity Area

We normally ask for a **minimum of 75%** of beneficiaries to be from within the Opportunity Area, but the higher the better. We understand that it is difficult to turn away people from outside the area, however we expect you to have a clear plan for how you will engage with residents, for example through targeted publicity, or by taking referrals from partner organisations within the area.

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### **Primary Beneficiary**

From the drop down list, please click on the one group that best reflects the majority of the beneficiaries of your organisation. This will then be entered in the selection box. On doing this you will then be presented with a series of check boxes, tick any other relevant groups that will be affected. Please don't tick them all if they don't apply, just think about who the primary beneficiaries will be. This doesn't have to be 100% accurate, you're just giving an indication.

### **Ethnicity**

From the drop down list, please select one ethnic group that best reflects the majority of the users of your organisation and enter it in the box provided. Then, using the check boxes, tick any other ethnic groups that will be involved. Please don't tick them all if they don't apply, just think about who the primary groups will be. Again, this doesn't have to be 100% accurate, you're just giving an indication.

### **Issues**

We are interested in the Issues that will be addressed by this grant. From the drop down list, choose the primary issue that will be addressed by this grant. Then, using the check boxes indicate any other issues that will be addressed.

### **Age groups**

Finally we would be interested in knowing which Age groups would benefit from this grant. Please enter in the text box/dropdown the age group that represents the majority of the beneficiaries of your organisation. Then, using the remaining check boxes indicate any other age groups that will benefit.

## **Section 4 – Project budget and additional information**

### **Project Budget**

This section asks you to provide details regarding the amount of money you are applying for and what type of items you will be spending it on.

#### **What is the total cost of the project?**

If you are asking us to fund part of a staff salary, for instance, what is the total salary each year? If you are asking us to contribute towards a project or activity, what are the total costs?

#### **How much has been raised so far?**

If you are not asking us to fund the full costs, how much have you raised already through other fundraising, secured grants and income generation? If you have not raised anything yet please enter 0.

#### **How much money are you applying to us for?**

Please enter the amount of funding you are requesting from us.

#### **Are you seeking other funding towards this project?**

Tell us here if you are applying to other funders for funding towards the work. If yes, please provide details. If no, please tell us how the shortfall is being covered.



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## Living Wage

Have you budgeted all staff costs at or above the real Living Wage? Please provide any comments on any difficulties or positive impact this will have on your organisation (enter N/A if not applicable i.e. you are not applying for salary costs)

LCF is a Living Wage Funder. The real Living Wage is currently £10.85 in London. We are asking groups to make their applications for any staff costs at or above the Living Wage rates, so please budget for this in the staff costs section below. We understand that for some groups paying a Living Wage can be difficult for a number of reasons, and we would like to work with groups to see how we can support you to enable you to pay a Living Wage. Also if there are any general comments on what you think about us paying a Living Wage through our grants please put them in here! More info on the real Living Wage can be found here: <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

## Budget breakdown

Here you itemise the costs that will be incurred in running your project. The headings (staff cost, volunteer costs etc.) are examples of types of costs and the amount – you do not have to put a cost in each heading if it does not apply but there may be others that you need to include.

There are two cost boxes, one for the **total project cost for that type of cost** and one for the **amounts you are applying to us under that cost heading**.

The cost breakdown also allows you to enter the details behind the cost summary. Please give us a full breakdown of the costs as shown in the example below.

### Example

#### Staff Costs

Requested amount	1260
Total amount	1260

#### Breakdown

3 workers @ £15/hour (14 weekly sessions of 2 hours)
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#### Volunteer Costs

Requested amount	280
Total amount	500

#### Breakdown

£10/volunteer x 28 volunteers
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#### Operational/Activity Costs

Requested amount	200
Total amount	300

#### Breakdown

4 travel passes for 2 volunteers at £7 each
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#### Capital Costs (Equipment)

Requested amount	800
Total amount	5,000

#### Breakdown

Outdoor play equipment (quotes attached)
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Note for volunteer expenses - Only out-of-pocket expenses can be paid to volunteers, who should submit receipts and/or proof of payment such as bus/rail tickets for your records. Volunteers should not be paid a flat rate as they will be classed as employees of your organisation.

### **Declaration - For all applicants**

Please read each statement carefully and check the box if you agree with the statement. Please confirm your name and role.

#### **How did you find the application form?**

Please let us know how challenging you found the application form to complete and any comments that you have on the application process.

### **Supporting Documents**

Please click on the 'attachments' button at the bottom of the form to upload your supporting documents. You will need to upload:

- A copy of your governing document (e.g. constitution, memorandum & articles or set of rules)
- A copy of your most recent annual accounts or a spending plan and recent bank statement if you are a new group.
- A copy of your safeguarding policies if you will be working with children or vulnerable adults (please contact us if you need help to develop one). For guidance please see our website.
- A diversity improvement strategy (if you have one)
- A sustainability policy (if you have one)
- A list of the names and addresses of your management committee

If for any reason you are not able to provide one of the required document please upload a document explaining why you do not have it.

If you have previously submitted an application using the new online system – you do not have to provide the supporting documents. Please attach a document explaining which programme you applied to. Please ensure that you always submit you latest accounts or any amended documents.

Please clearly label each document with a name and a short description of what it is:

- e.g. Name - The Music House – Safeguarding Policies  
Description – Vulnerable Adult and Child Protection Policies for The Music House

### **When you have completed your application**

Once you have completed the form please ensure that you save and then click on the 'submit' button at the bottom of the page to send the application through to us. Once you have clicked submit **do not navigate away from the page** until you receive a confirmation of submission message. You should also receive an email with a pdf version of your form after submitting your application. If this email does not arrive within two hours, and you have checked your junk folder, please call us.

If you have not completed all of the required fields (shown by a red line) you will not be able to submit your form. If you attempt to submit an incomplete form the incomplete fields will be highlighted in red, once these are filled you should be able to submit the form.

Once your form is submitted you will no longer be able to access and edit it.

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If you're still not sure about anything when completing the form, please contact The London Community Foundation on 020 7582 5117 or email [applications@londoncf.org.uk](mailto:applications@londoncf.org.uk)  
If you have any issues with accessibility please contact us and we will discuss other options for completing the form.

### **What happens next?**

We will assess your application against the fund criteria. You should expect to hear the result of your application in mid-July 2021.

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## Appendix A

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### A guide on how to choose the outcomes and indicators for your application

The London Community Foundation's vision is of a strong and generous London where residents, business, government and civil society are inspired to act for the benefit of all who live in the city, leading the way in social action and philanthropic activity. Our mission is to make a difference to the lives of Londoners by connecting people who need help with those who are willing to give. We are dedicated to improving the lives of London's most disadvantaged. Child poverty, unemployment, isolation, homelessness, domestic violence and gang crime are just some of the issues we are tackling through our grant making.

You can help us to achieve our vision and mission by delivering projects that make a difference and – importantly – by gathering evidence to show how your project has made an impact. This information is essential if we are to encourage more donors to support our future work. To help you collect the kind of evidence we need, we have created a framework that measures the impact of our grants. There are six themes for this IMPACT framework:

- **Improve people's life skills, employability and enterprise** - We want to support a thriving city that creates opportunities for people to fulfil their potential, to become more self-sufficient and to build their confidence.
- **Maximise people's ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity** - We want to strengthen and connect local organisations and improve local facilities so that people can live happier lives alongside each other.
- **Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to services** - We want people to be connected in their local communities and to their local services, so everyone has a chance to be included.
- **Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety** - We want people to feel safe and connected in their communities, and to have more opportunities to improve their physical and mental health.
- **Connect people with the arts culture and heritage** - We want to create a city that values and takes pride in the excellence and diversity of arts and culture, where everyone feels encouraged to participate, and their efforts create a lasting legacy.
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There is a lot of information about impact assessment and the outcomes approach to project evaluation. You may find the following websites helpful:

<http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/>

<http://www.evaluation.org.uk/>

<http://mande.co.uk/>

<http://network.youthmusic.org.uk/learning/youth-music-evaluation-builder>

There are a number of outcomes – or changes – we want to measure for each theme, and a series of indicators to show evidence of change in a measurable way. When you apply for a grant you will need to choose the theme, outcomes and indicators that you will report against, once you have completed your project.

What do we mean by:

An **Outcome?**

Outcomes are the changes, benefits, learning and other effects that you can attribute to your projects activities they`re the difference your project makes (CES, 2005)

An **Indicator?**

Indicators are the evidence you collect to show your progress in achieving the outcomes of your work. They may be about the number of people who have achieved something or feel different.

**Collecting evidence**

In order to provide the numbers etc. for your report it is best to plan before you start the project how you will collect the evidence. You could consider taking registers of people who attend for example a training course, carry out interviews, and provide questionnaires for people to complete.

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## Monitoring and Evaluation

When your funding comes to an end you will have to complete an online monitoring report in which you will have to tell us about how well you did in achieving your chosen outcomes and indicators. It's therefore very important for you to plan how you will collect the evidence to support your report. If you are successful in getting your work funded we will send you details of the reporting requirements with the offer letter.

### Why do we ask you to report?

Simply, we would like to know how the project has gone including what worked and what didn't. The report is both beneficial for you and us, The London Community Foundation.

### What does The London Community Foundation use the information for?

We require monitoring for various reasons. Firstly we have a responsibility to ensure grants are used properly to deliver high-quality projects that achieve relevant outcomes.

The London Community Foundation takes pride in gathering evidence from the information reported that allows us to make informed decisions when developing future funding programmes. By deciphering results we obtain from your monitoring we have the ability to identify gaps in provision and develop our knowledge about different types of work and the impact they're capable of having, building our expertise as grant maker. We're also able to tell the story of your work to other potential donors.

We use this impact assessment framework to collate relevant outcomes and indicators enabling us to evidence the positive difference the groups we have funded are making.

### How will the report help you?

The report will allow for you to develop your practice from reflecting on work carried out. As an organisation your monitoring will act as evidence amplifying your ability to deliver a project effectively and efficiently for prospective funders, investors, etc. Your monitoring report has the ability to generally feed into the improvement of your organisation. It's down to you as to how much you put into your process of monitoring and evaluating and subsequently how much you benefit from it.

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## What is the difference between monitoring and evaluation?

### Monitoring

Monitoring is about collecting information that will help you answer questions about your project. It is important that this information is collected in a planned, organised and routine way. You can use the information you gather to report on your project and to help you evaluate' (Charities Evaluation Services).

Monitoring is an on-going task that would have already started at the planning stages of a project. You would have collected key information on a variety of things relating to your project. Before you started the project you chose various outcomes and indicators to measure your work against – these are what you have to monitor your work against.

Monitoring allows results, procedures and practices to be recorded and eventually acts as a catalyst to direct, develop and learn. The information obtained from monitoring is then used for evaluation purposes.

### Evaluation

'Evaluation is about using monitoring and other information you collect to make judgements about your project. It is also about using the information to make changes and improvements' (Charities Evaluation Service).

A good evaluation should be an objective assessment. The evaluation is in essence an appraisal of your findings, looking into themes as such relevancy, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

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