



## Amazing Early Childhood Experiences

Rethinking our approach to early childhood

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NORTH  
**Dakota** | Human Services  
Be Legendary.™

# **HB1416 | 19-21 Legislative Session**

## Transitioning DPI Office of Early Learning to DHS

*Legislative Sponsors:*

Representatives Weisz, Devlin, J. Nelson, Westlind

Senators Hogan, Lee, K. Roers



During the **first 5 years** of life, emotionally nourishing relationships lay the **foundation** for lifelong health and well-being.

The caring adults who touch the lives of infants, toddlers and preschoolers can maximize our long-term impact in ensuring all children have an **opportunity to realize** their **full potential.**





# EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES – WHY NOW?

Childcare licensing | Workforce Dev & training | Head Start | Best in Class | Quality rating | Part B, 619 | Part C, Early Intervention

## 73%

### Parents in workforce

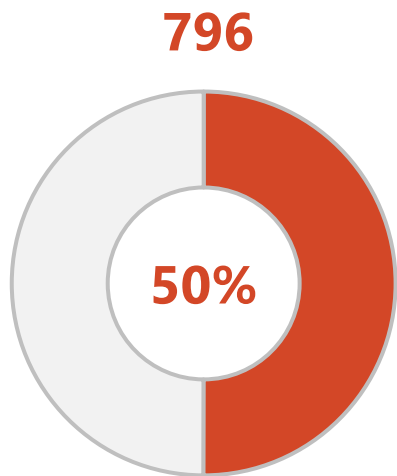
73% of the 44,237 North Dakota households who have children younger than age 5 likely have at least some need for child care as all available parents are in the workforce





# EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES – WHY NOW?

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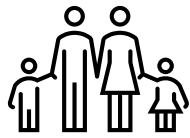


## 1 in 2 age 0-7

Half of the 1,591 children in foster care in North Dakota are age 7 or younger. (2020)



# DHS 2021-2025 KEY PRIORITIES



## Strong Stable Families

- Maintain family connections
- Improve stability and prevent crises
- Promote and support recovery and well-being



## Early Childhood Experiences

- Support workforce needs with improved access to childcare
- Help kids realize their potential with top quality early experiences
- Align programs for maximum return on investment



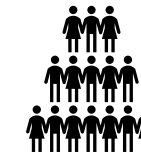
## Services Closer to Home

- Create pathways that help people access the right service at the right time
- Engage proactively with providers to expand access to services



## Efficiency Through Redesign

- Embrace process redesign to find efficiencies in our work
- Leverage technology to support greater efficiency, quality and customer service



## High-Performing Team

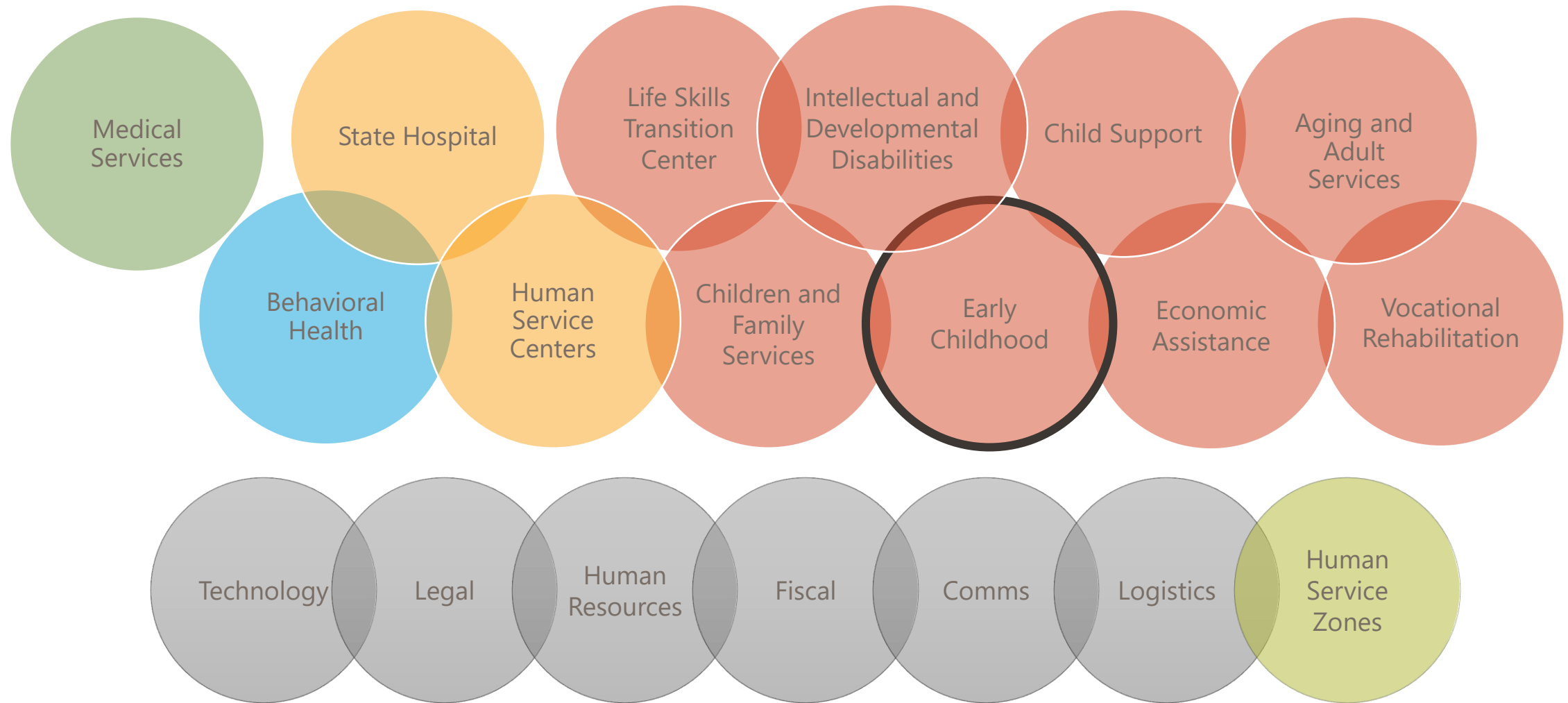
- Develop a One DHS Team culture
- Engage team with opportunities for learning and development
- Implement fiscal scorecard to drive efficiency and effectiveness

## Reinforce the Foundations of Well-being

Economic Health | Behavioral Health | Physical Health

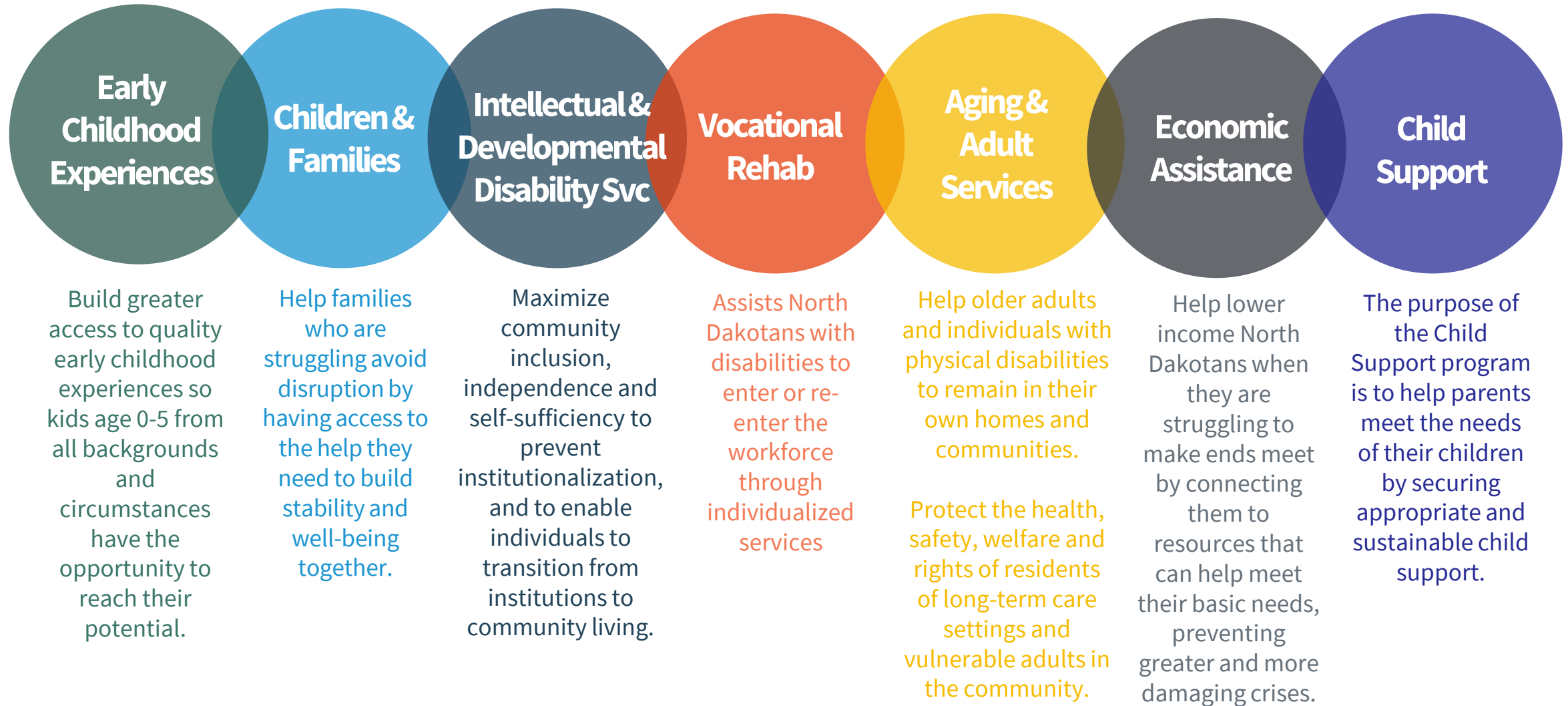
# EARLY CHILDHOOD IN DHS

A team built to embody the interconnectedness of human services work, who through their work will emphasize the essentialness of a two-gen approach



# EARLY CHILDHOOD IN DHS

How does the work of this new division fit together with the broader work of Family Stability and Community Inclusion?





# EARLY CHILDHOOD DIVISION

## Purpose

The purpose of the Early Childhood division is to build greater access to quality early childhood experiences so kids age 0-5 from all backgrounds and circumstances have the opportunity to reach their potential.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD

In ND early childhood is a mixed delivery system, involving both public and private partners using both federal and state funds



## Dept of Human Services

- Early Childhood division
- Children and Family Services – home visiting, child protection, abuse prevention
- Dev Disabilities – early intervention, in-home supports
- Economic Assistance – child care assistance program

## Private Training and Early Childhood Supports

- Training providers
- Coaches, mentors and consultants
- Health and wellness consultants
- Business success and quality improvement consultants
- Consumer education resource and referral

## Public Schools and Head Start Programs

- Public Pre-K programs
- Early Childhood Special Education services
- Head Start and Early Head Start

## Dept of Public Instruction

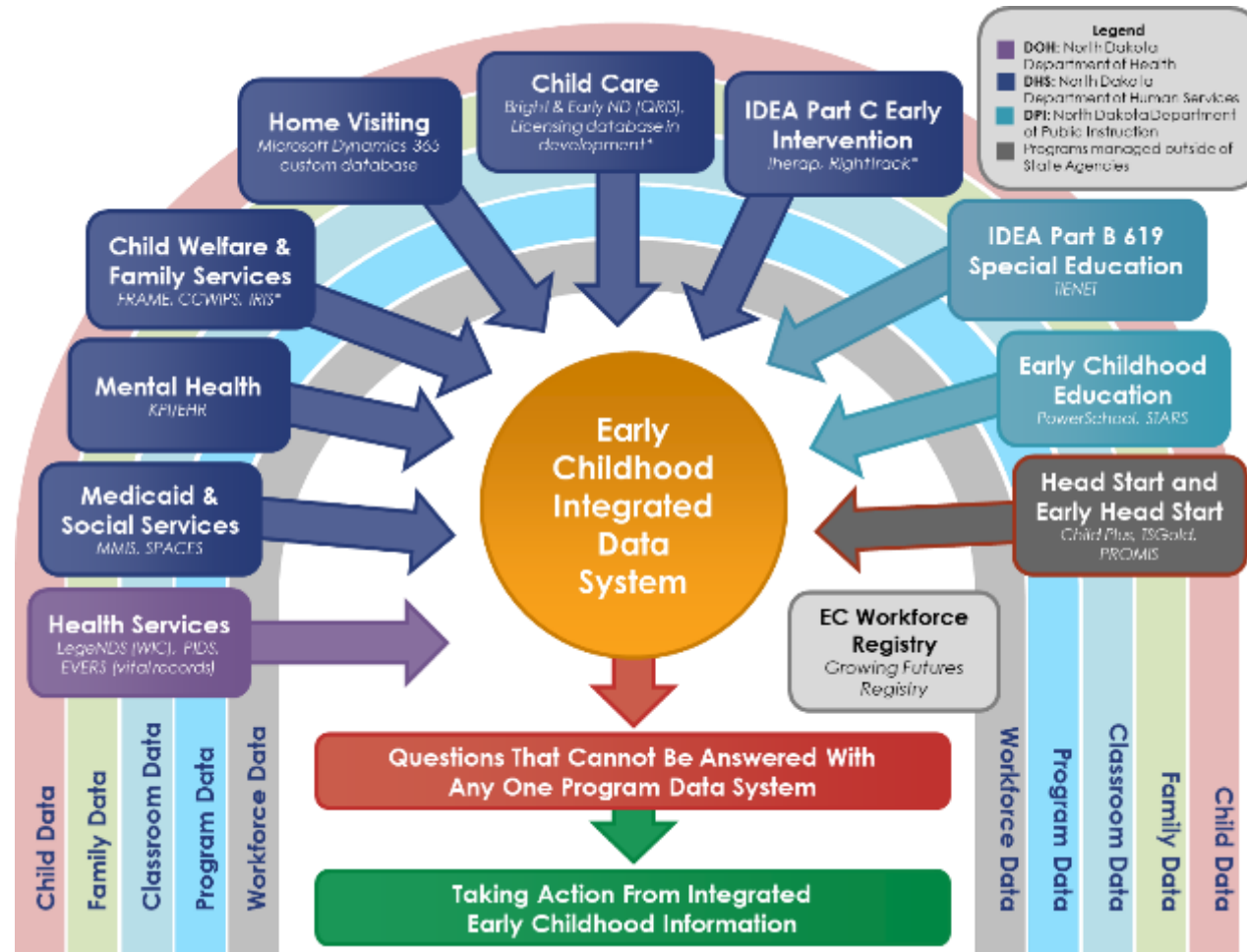
- Office of Special Education
- K-12 Coordinating Council
- Comprehensive State Literacy program

And then there's our data...



# EARLY CHILDHOOD TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

A host of opportunities to better integrate the complex array of systems that support Early Childhood Experiences in ND



# EARLY CHILDHOOD INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM

Collects, integrates, maintains, stores, and reports information from early childhood programs



|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Integrate | Integrate data from various early childhood programs and services                         |
| Enable    | Enable decision making to improve the coordination among and quality of services          |
| Support   | Support collaborative thinking between service providers, state agencies and policymakers |
| Improve   | Improve efficiency of data management and reporting for stakeholders                      |
| Maximize  | Maximize return on resources invested in collecting quality data                          |
| Inform    | Inform policies and practices that support better outcomes for children and families.     |

Launching a new initiative...  
**Best in Class**



# **HB1466 | 19-21 Legislative Session**

## Best in Class Program

*Legislative Sponsors:*  
Representatives Weisz, Rohr, Westlind  
Senators Dever, Lee

# BEST IN CLASS PROGRAM

Quality early childhood experiences for children in the year before they enter kindergarten

First cohort will provide grant funding to 20 groups / rooms

\$120,000 per classroom;  
\$20,000 match required

Assure maximum access and inclusion, creating settings inclusive of household income and children with special needs

Applications open week of June 21, 2021



# BEST IN CLASS PROGRAM

Quality early childhood experiences for children in the year before they enter kindergarten

Participating in a Best in Class cohort means a program will receive:

- Higher-touch supports for in-room staff – including in-room coaching and inclusion supports
- Connection to health and development screenings
- Thorough evaluation of quality components of the environment
- Opportunity to help inform how we measure impact of early childhood investments





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