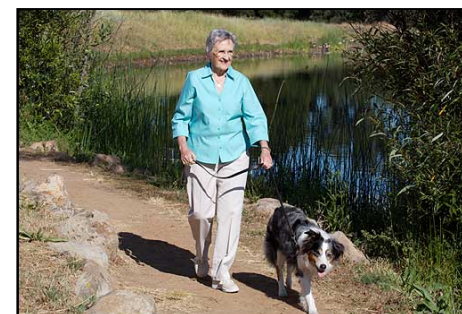# Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon - 2019

Independence, rural communities
& the stigma of social services

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Rebecca Arce, MPP, APD Service Equity Manager

May 2, 2019

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AGING & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Learning Objectives

- Overview of APD service delivery.
- Understand the perceptions of rural elders held by social services staff.
- Discussion of the perceptions of social services held by rural elders.
- Develop tools for collaboration and partnerships with rural organizations that serve rural elders and rural elders.

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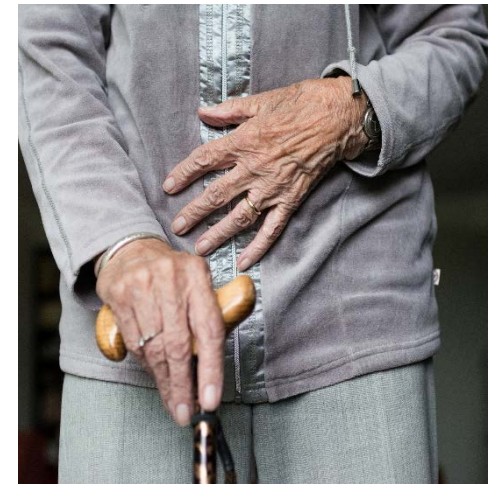
Oregon Revised Statute 410

The Legislative Assembly's leadership created a vision:

Older citizens of this state are entitled to enjoy their later years in health, honor and dignity, and citizens with disabilities are entitled to live lives of maximum freedom and independence (ORS 410).

Vision Statement

Oregon's older adults, people with disabilities and their families experience person-centered services, supports and early interventions that are innovative and help maintain independence, promote safety, wellbeing, honor choice, respect cultural preferences and uphold dignity.
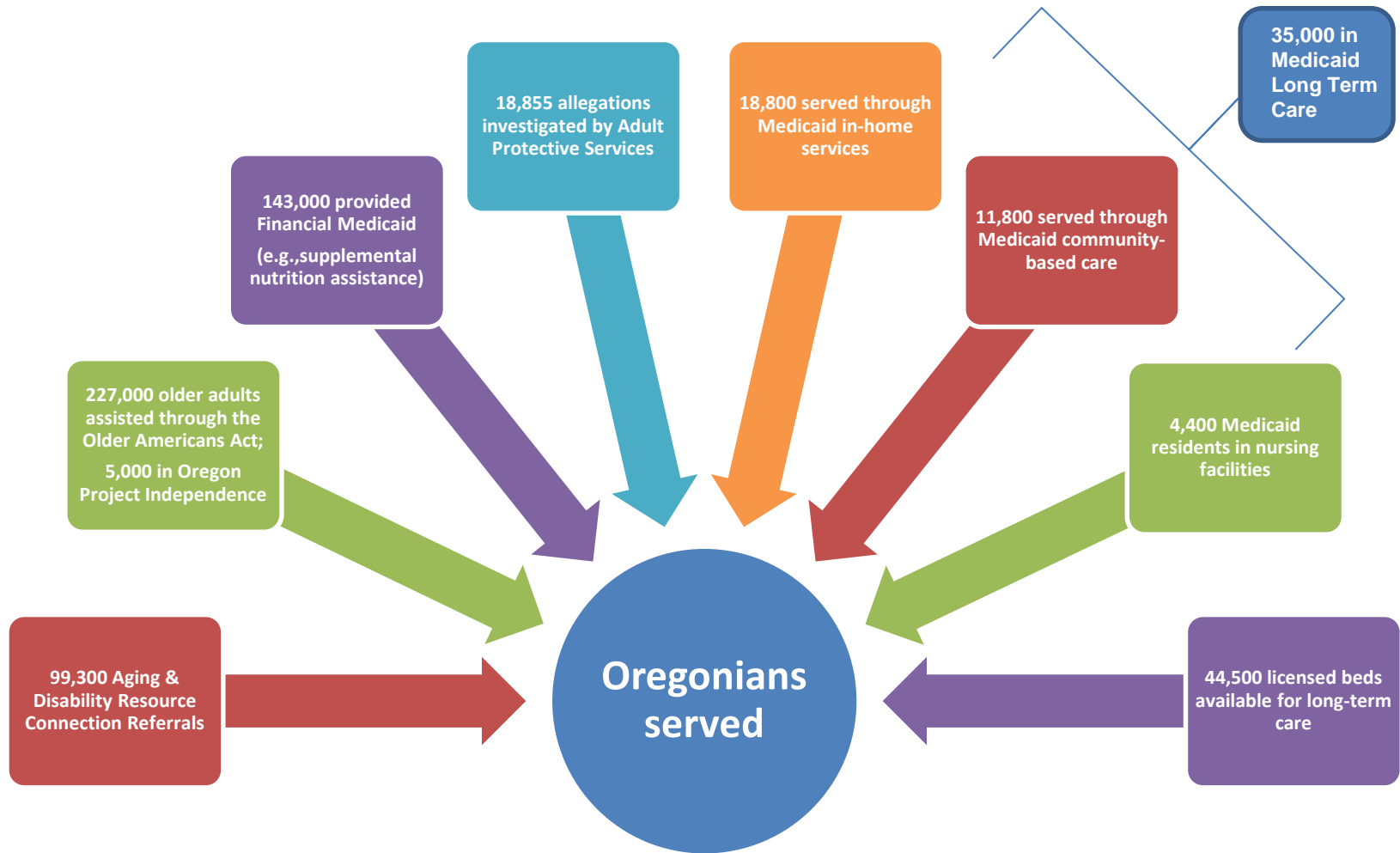
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Program Goals

WELL BEING
Older adults and people with disabilities feel safe and experience their best quality of life.

ACCESSIBILITY
Oregonians can readily and consistently access services and supports to meet their needs.

SERVICE EQUITY
Oregonians experience programs, services and supports that are designed, improved and responsive to historical inequities, current disparities, and individual experiences.

GOALS

ENGAGEMENT
Consumers are empowered by information, communication and advocacy through strong, collaborative partnerships with stakeholders and rich community dialogue.

QUALITY OUTCOMES
Oregonians engage in services and supports that are preventive, evidence-informed, and lead to quality outcomes.

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Services We Offer

Oregon's Long-Term Care System

35,000 in Medicaid Long Term Care

18,855 allegations investigated by Adult Protective Services

18,800 served through Medicaid in-home services

143,000 provided Financial Medicaid (e.g.,supplemental nutrition assistance)

11,800 served through Medicaid community-based care

227,000 older adults assisted through the Older Americans Act; 5,000 in Oregon Project Independence

4,400 Medicaid residents in nursing facilities

99,300 Aging & Disability Resource Connection Referrals

Oregonians served

44,500 licensed beds available for long-term care

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Long Term Care Settings

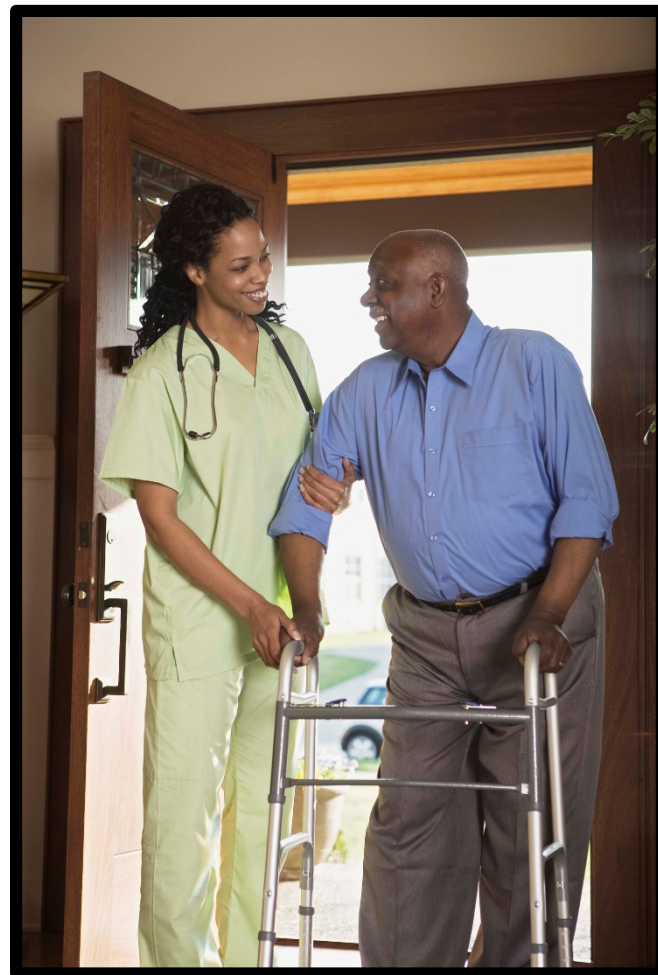| Settings	Number of facilities	Memory Care Endorsed
Nursing Facilities	136	11
Assisted Living and Residential Care Facilities	538	191
Adult Foster Homes	1,566	N/A

Older Americans Act (OAA)

- Delivered through Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

- Keep older adults safe and independent

- Federal funds

- Not means-tested

- 2.6 million meals (home-delivered and congregate)

- 477,000 hours homemaker/personal care services

- 25,000 sessions of nutrition education

- 23,000 trips with assisted transportation

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Oregon Project Independence (OPI)

- State funded program
- Reduces risk of more costly, out-of-home placements
- Only 12% of those served ended up on Medicaid services
- Average cost-per-case
  - ➢ 60+: $244
  - ➢ People with disabilities: $393

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How Oregonians Navigate the System

adrcoforegon.org   1-855-ORE-ADRC   1-855-673-2372

Adult Protective Services

Specializes in investigating and preventing abuse of older adults and adults with disabilities.

The staff has expertise in:

- Financial Exploitation
- Domestic Violence
- Diminished Capacity
- Self-Neglect
- Guardianships

Enhanced focus on:

- Outreach to banks, real estate professionals, credit unions, and community organizations to increase awareness of how to prevent and identify signs of abuse.
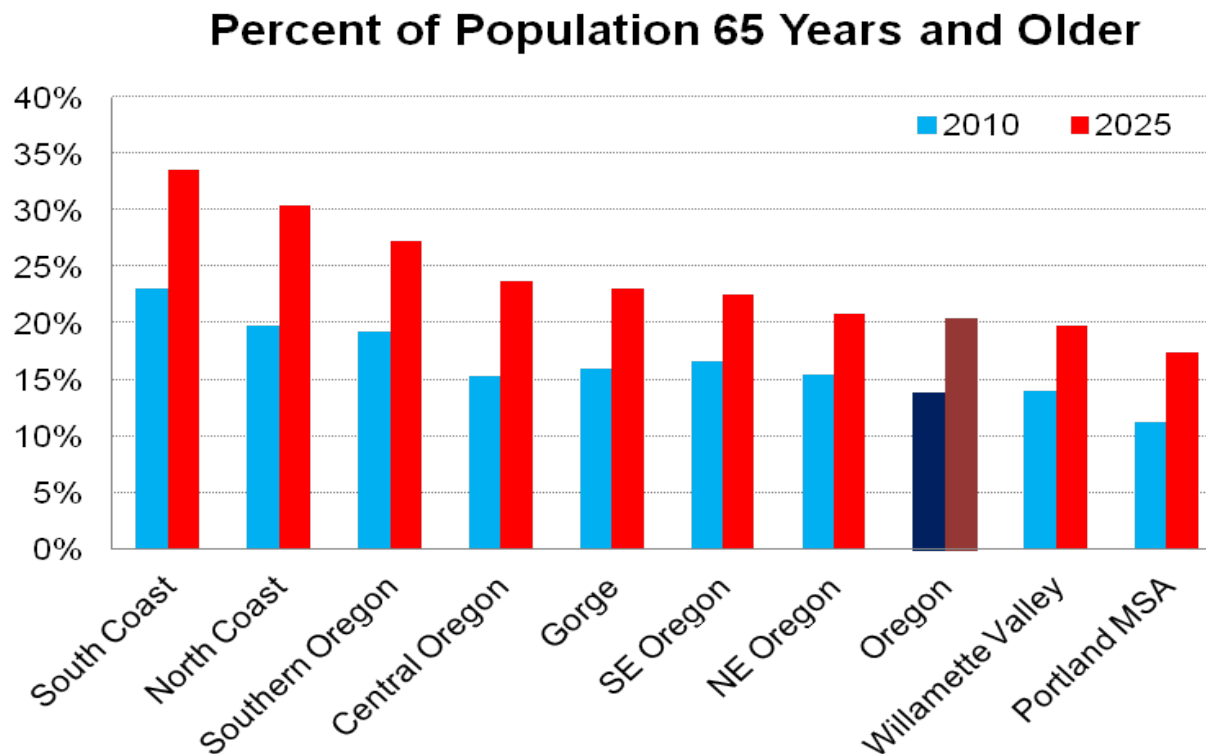
Oregon's Safeline:
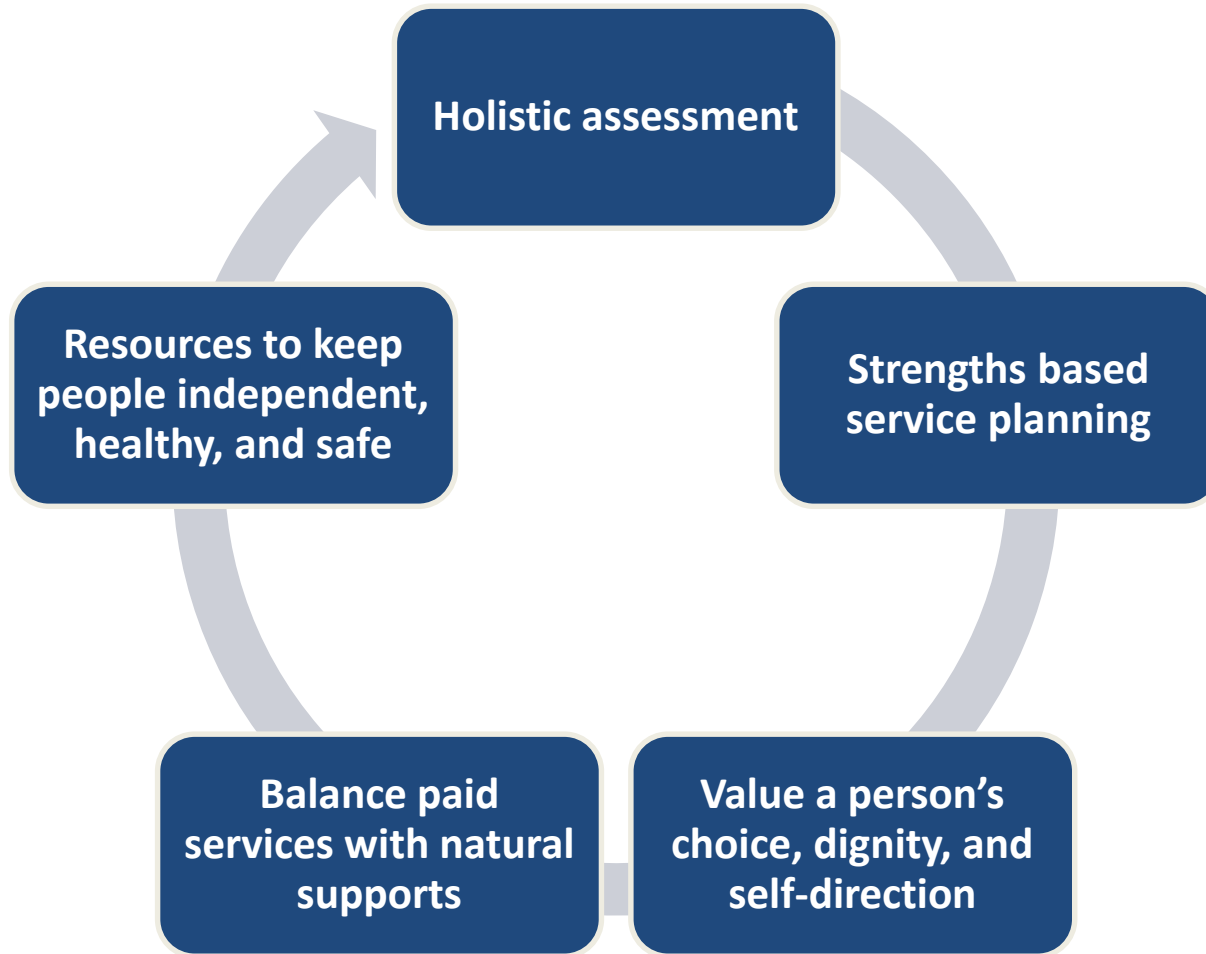Since 2014, a reliable, easy resource to report abuse:

1-855-503-SAFE

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Oregon's Population Is Growing Older

Percent of Population 65 Years and Older

Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

A Social Model of Services

Holistic assessment

Strengths based service planning

Value a person's choice, dignity, and self-direction

Balance paid services with natural supports

Resources to keep people independent, healthy, and safe

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Protecting Community Access

- Home and community based care is the bedrock of Oregon's system of long term services and supports.

- Maintaining access for Medicaid consumers is the cornerstone for equity.

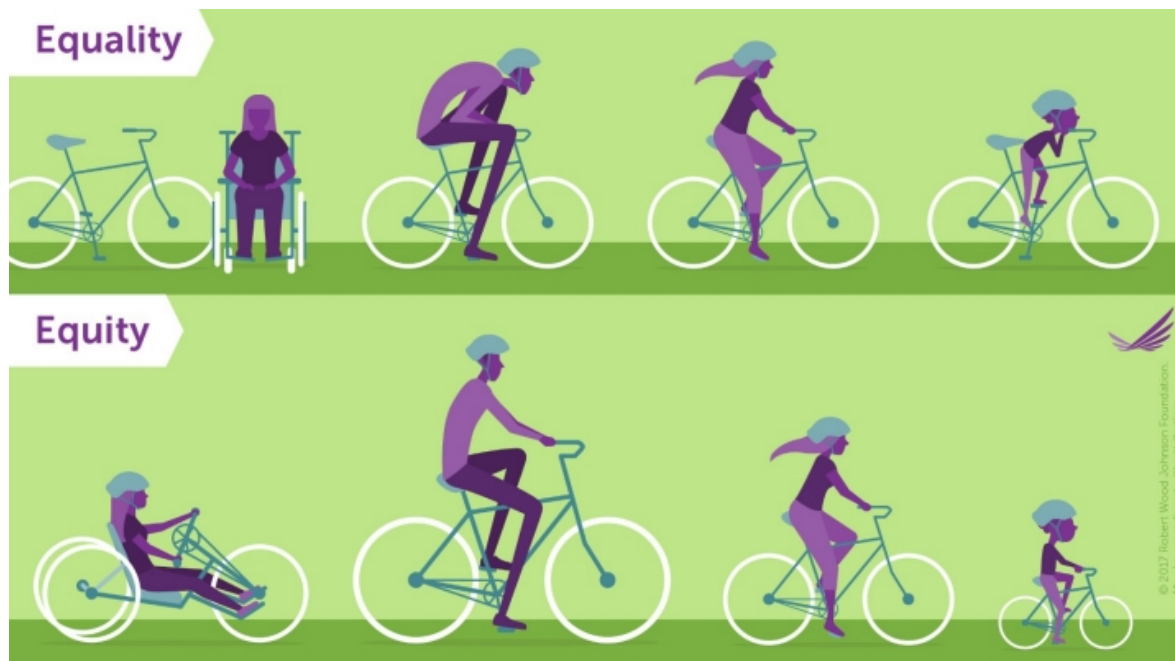- Adequate surveyor staff to ensure safety and compliance.

Why This Matters

Culture of Safety with values of Independence, Choice and Dignity

Service Equity

Oregonians experience programs, services and supports that are designed, improved and responsive to historical inequities, current disparities and individual experiences.

Culture

Usually refers to the knowledge and shared characteristics of a group, including race, ethnicity, language, religions, traditions, food, and social habits.

Race/Ethnicity

Religion

Food

Socio-economic status

History

Traditions

Language

Social habits

Age

Gender

Sexual-orientation

Geographical placement

Veteran status

Ability

Generation

Educational attainment

People may shift cultures and adopt new ones as they move throughout the stages of their lives. Cultures may also overlap, giving depth to a person's identity that can result in increased barriers to health parity.

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Rural and Frontier

The Oregon Office of Rural Health defines rural as all geographic areas in Oregon 10 miles or more from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 or more. Frontier counties are defined as those with six or fewer people per square mile.

Perceptions

1. What are some perceptions that you have of state workers?
2. Why do you think these perceptions exist?
3. Are any of these perceptions true?
4. What are some perceptions that you have of clients?
5. Why do you think you have these perceptions?
6. Are any of these perceptions true?
7. Why might it be important to recognize these perceptions?
8. How might these perceptions create barriers to outcomes?

Oregon Trail and Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny – the philosophy of independence and patriotism that drove pioneers to settle the west.

The 1840's-1860's saw 500,000 individuals set out on the Oregon Trail. They were seeking a better life. 1 in 10 did not make the journey to Oregon.

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Social services and social stigma

- Challenges the spirit of independence
- Far removed from the sources of government which create distrust and feelings that policy-makers are out of touch
- Misconceptions about the program or agency
- Navigating the bureaucracy can seem overwhelming and not worth the time

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Tools to overcome stigma

- Understand your community
- Get involved
- Allocating time and resources
- Make this a priority

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Questions?

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Thank you

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