



2025-26 REPORT

LGBTQ+ Program Report

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor



California
Community
Colleges

SONYA CHRISTIAN
Chancellor

April 1, 2026

Secretary of the Senate
Erika Contreras
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2025-2026 LGBTQ+ Program Legislative Report

Dear Secretary Contreras,

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 132 section 89(e), the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to release the 2025-2026 LGBTQ+ Program legislative report.

Pursuant to reporting requirements, the Chancellor's Office is required to report to the Legislature on fund usage, recipient colleges, allocation amounts, planned uses, and the impacts and outcomes of the three-year funding allocation.

This report illuminates the diverse range of activities implemented to support the success of LGBTQ+ students. These activities show how designing educational spaces with LGBTQ+ experiences in mind also benefit the entire student body.

For any questions regarding this report, please contact Dr. Haley Dillon, Dean of Educational Services and Support, at hdillon@cccco.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian".

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

CC:
Sue Parker
Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Office of Legislative Counsel

Chancellor's Office

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2025-26 LGBTQ+ PROGRAM LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Educational Services and Support Division

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INTRODUCTION

In fiscal year 2023-24, the Governor and State Legislature allocated \$10,000,000 in one-time funding with a three-year commitment, with the 2025–26 academic year serving as the final year of the funding period. This legislative report reflects final college allocations and spending priorities for the 2025–26 academic year, as well as key takeaways, improvements, and successes from the full three-year funding period.

Section 89 of Chapter 144 of the Statutes of 2021 directed this funding to support LGBTQ+ students through evidence-based practices, including:

- (1) LGBTQ+ centers.
- (2) Development of safe zones and providing safe zone training.
- (3) Mental health services.
- (4) Housing insecurity services.
- (5) LGBTQ+ learning communities.
- (6) Support for gay and straight alliance clubs.
- (7) LGBTQ+ curriculum development.
- (8) Lavender graduation.
- (9) Workshops or speaker series.
- (10) Other proven initiatives.

The California Community Colleges Vision 2030 centers on equity in access, equity in support, and equity in success. Each of these goals align with college commitments to foster an environment of unconditional belonging and support for our LGBTQ+ community. College research studies show that LGBTQ+ student success is correlated with campus cultures that welcome, affirm, and prioritize students, denounce discrimination, equalize disproportionate levels of homelessness, and support basic needs (Johnson, et al., 2022). Unconditional belonging—a powerful force that shapes the equitable higher education journey of every student in support of Vision 2030—transcends the confines of identity, reaching across all facets of education to create an environment where each student feels valued, respected, and empowered to excel. Creating safe and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ students contributes to the broader goal of ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, identity, or orientation, has equal access to educational opportunities and resources. This comprehensive approach enriches the educational experience for LGBTQ+ students; and in doing so, this approach bolsters the collective strength and resilience of the entire California Community Colleges system.

Within the past three allocation cycles, colleges have made a commitment to fostering an environment where LGBTQ+ students are welcomed, supported, seen, and feel safe on their campus. Through this commitment, colleges have hired dedicated staff, established LGBTQ+ centers, developed and provided LGBTQ+ specific training for faculty, classified

professionals, and administrators, provided direct support (e.g., supplies, food, clothes, etc.), campus workshops/ speaker series for the college community, established student clubs, and provided dedicated funding for mental health. Additionally, more than 100 colleges instituted lavender graduations, representing an increase of 30 colleges compared to the 2024–25 academic year. Celebrations like lavender graduations promote institutional efforts of acceptance and understanding by proudly celebrating the accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community (Ayala, 2022).

FUNDING ALLOCATION FORMULA AND DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS

Education Code mandates that grants of up to \$900,000 be provided to “community college districts based on the proportional share of students they serve and equity metrics to ensure that small rural colleges are able to access to the grants” (SB 108 Budget Act 2024). To that end, the Chancellor’s Office calculated community colleges allocations for this grant based on the formula detailed below:

- Allocations per district were capped at \$900,000;
- Baseline funding of \$20,000 for each college;
- 75% of the remaining appropriation calculated based on student headcount; and
- 25% of the remaining appropriation calculated based on the number of Pell Grant recipients.

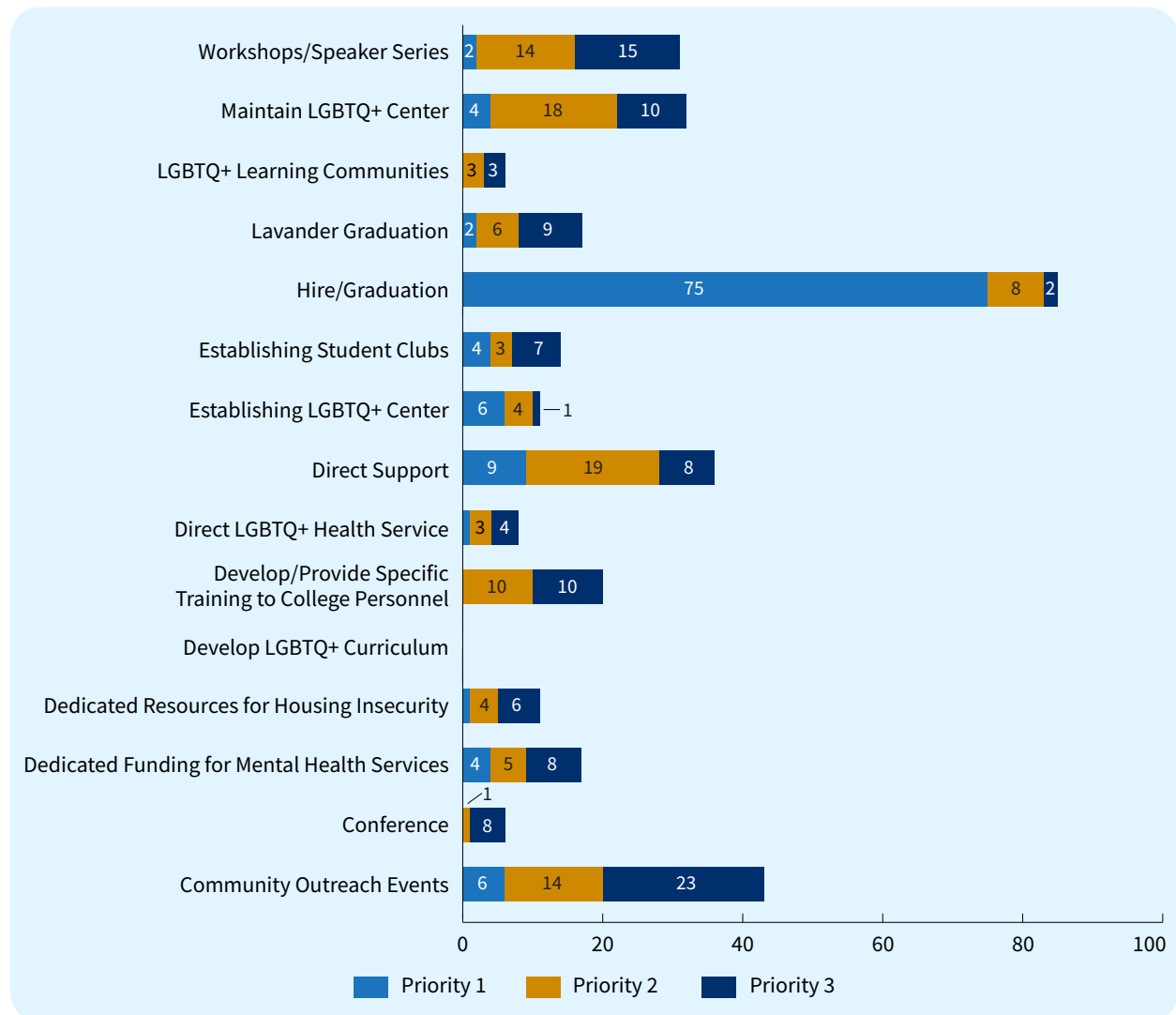
See Appendix A for details regarding the amount allocated to each college.

PLANNING PRIORITIES AND USE OF FUNDS

Since the inception of the program, campus LGBTQ+ program coordinators have focused on: (1) intentionally improving all aspects of campus culture to strengthen a sense of unconditional belonging, and (2) providing targeted direct support for LGBTQ+ students.

Figure 1 summarizes the priorities the 115 brick and mortar community colleges have either engaged in or plan to dedicate their resources to advance the outcomes of LGBTQ+ students.

Figure 1: College Top Three Planning Priorities and Use of Funds



Hiring/salaries is and has been the primary expenditure for colleges utilizing this dedicated funding, and the number of colleges with dedicated personnel has significantly increased each year. Colleges continue to prioritize hiring, acknowledging that dedicated personnel are crucial in student support and success.

Establishing and maintaining LGBTQ+ campus centers represents the second-highest combined expenditure among colleges. The number of colleges with a dedicated center has increased from 50 campuses when funding began in 2023 to 77 campuses in the final year of the funding period, with an additional 13 colleges currently in development and expected to open in late spring 2026, out of 115 campuses systemwide. Colleges continue to build and invest in LGBTQ+ centers, which provide a variety of services, resources, and a sense of belonging for our LGBTQ+ students to feel safe and supported.

Community outreach, engagement, and programming were elevated to the third-highest priority in 2025-2026. Targeted programming including community pride festivals, drag prom, and pride month celebration act as essential co-curricular pillars that signal a deep

institutional commitment to inclusive excellence. The college recognizes that such robust programming is a critical component of a holistic student support framework and that facilitates students' sense of belonging which is key to persistence and student success.

MAXIMIZING PROGRAM IMPACT AND ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

This one-time investment has resulted in fundamental infrastructure change. Over the three-year commitment colleges were able to hire personnel including student staff, temporary classified professionals, permanent classified professionals, part-time adjunct faculty, full-time Tenure track faculty, and administrators to support the community with respect to LGBTQ+ efforts. Institutions made a commitment to foster an environment where LGBTQ+ students received support and resources. In year one, 48 colleges reported having personnel dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ students; by year three, more than 90 colleges reported having identified personnel supporting LGBTQ+ students.

The number of LGBTQ+ centers increased substantially, from 50 colleges with dedicated or shared space in year one to 77 colleges in the final year, with an additional 13 centers in development and expected to open at the end of spring 2026. This is a 54% increase from year one to year three. Again, showing the colleges unwavering commitment to unconditional belonging.

This one-time investment has resulted in fundamental infrastructure on college campuses that supports Vision 2030 alignment and strengthens DEIA-affirming culture across our system. During Fall of 2024, the Chancellor's Office successfully launched a California virtual campus course that offers LGBTQ+ professional development for classified professionals, faculty, and administrators. The course offered two sections in fall 2024 (60 participants) and three sections for Spring 2025 (90 participants). The course continues to offer three sections each semester during the 2025-26 academic year. The progress achieved through this investment, which continues to propel LGBTQ+ student success forward, hinges upon strategic and sustained measures. To ensure the enduring presence of critical resources and system progress for LGBTQ+ students, a commitment to ongoing funding is crucial.

The following key strategies/recommendations will sustain and amplify the positive outcomes of this program:

1. LGBTQ+ SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

LGBTQ+ support infrastructure, including dedicated personnel, LGBTQ+ centers, and evidence-based interventions, plays a critical role in fostering an inclusive educational environment for LGBTQ+ students. LGBTQ+ centers serve as vital hubs for community-building, providing a haven where students can find understanding, acceptance, and the resources they need to thrive. These centers with dedicated personnel facilitate networking, offer educational programs, and provide mental health support, all of which contribute to improved academic success and overall well-being. Although there has been an increase in colleges hiring and salaries dedicated for personnel and establishment of LGBTQ+ centers, it remains the largest challenge due to fluid funding and physical space on campuses.

Through the three years, there has been significant growth in personnel and dedicated space. This continues to be a struggle for colleges to maintain without dedicated funding. Many colleges have resulted in hiring temporary staff which causes high turnover, and unstable center hours. Many colleges reported that much of their allocations go towards funding personnel and with current funding levels, the centers are unable to maintain resources for programming.

2. STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE DESIGN AND DELIVERY FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

The mental health journey of LGBTQ+ students is often marked by distinct challenges that require tailored approaches to design and deliver mental health services. When navigating environments that may not fully affirm their identities, these students may experience stigma, discrimination, and internalized shame, which can negatively affect psychological well-being and academic persistence and success. Therefore, it is imperative that mental health services are thoughtfully designed to cater to the unique needs of LGBTQ+ students.

By embracing the unique needs of LGBTQ+ students in the design and delivery of mental health services, California community colleges are taking a crucial step towards addressing mental health inequity and fostering a sense of unconditional belonging for LGBTQ+ students. It is critical to intentionally collaborate between campus LGBTQ+ organizations, public and non-profit mental health partners, and other support providers to ensure that mental health services are inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ+ students, including cultural competency training, creating visible and welcoming spaces within mental health facilities, tailored support groups, culturally relevant services, and LGBTQ+ inclusive resources. Although colleges report that mental health support for LGBTQ+ students is a priority, many are relying on other campus mental health allocations to fund these services.

3. UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TOWARD UNCONDITIONAL BELONGING

In the journey toward creating a truly inclusive and equitable learning environment for LGBTQ+ students, the concept of intersectionality emerges as a crucial lens through which our system and campuses must view the experiences of LGBTQ+ students. Addressing intersectionality is pivotal, as it acknowledges the interconnectedness of various identities—gender, sexual orientation, race, socioeconomic status, and more—which collectively shape an individual’s experiences. LGBTQ+ students often face unique and compound challenges due to their intersecting identities.

While targeted investments in the LGBTQ+ program are essential to providing specific resources and support, it is equally important to address systemic barriers and promote a culture of unconditional belonging. These efforts include cultivating a campus climate that removes inequitable barriers and student friction points, ensuring a culturally relevant curriculum that celebrates diversity and empowers students to see themselves reflected in their education, and strengthening robust professional development activities that deepen the California Community Colleges system’s competency to deliver culturally competent services that resonate with diverse student populations. By focusing resources and efforts on sustaining the LGBTQ+ population we can support students toward success and graduation. Community Colleges have a unique opportunity to build a comprehensive strategy that will ensure the success of LGBTQ+ students

IMPACT, IMPROVEMENTS, AND SUCCESS

The primary objective of the \$10,000,000 annual non-recurring investment for LGBTQ+ students has been to move from a fragmented support landscape to a robust, holistic statewide framework aligned with Vision 2030 priorities: equity in access, support, and success. Colleges have focused on ensuring students feel supported, safe, and seen both inside and outside the classroom. Three key successes from the three-year investment are infrastructure growth, hiring and salaries, and a sustained commitment to holistic student support.

HIRING AND SALARIES

Hiring and salaries remained the primary fiscal expenditure across 115 colleges. Staffing levels expanded from 48 colleges with dedicated personnel in year one to over 90 colleges by year three, an 87.5% increase. This growth included a diverse range of roles, enabling personnel to provide multi-layered support—from program development and curriculum design to direct student aid, outreach, and mental health services.

INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH

The investment drove a significant expansion of campus infrastructure, with LGBTQ+ centers increasing from 50 in year one to 77 by year three, and an additional 13 centers in development, a 54% increase. This growth demonstrates colleges' unwavering commitment to creating safe, inclusive spaces where students feel valued and empowered to succeed.

UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HOLISTIC STUDENT SUPPORT

Colleges used LGBTQ+ program funds to implement an integrated, holistic support system addressing the diverse needs of students. This approach recognizes that student success depends not only on academic instruction but also on a campus environment that fosters a sense of belonging. A key component is direct student support, which includes providing gender-neutral and trans-affirming clothing, essential supplies, textbooks, school materials, and transportation assistance to ensure equitable access. Support also extends to housing and nutrition, including food vouchers and referrals for housing insecurity services to address the disproportionate rates of homelessness among LGBTQ+ students. Finally, mental health services are designed and delivered to meet the unique psychological needs of LGBTQ+ students.

While the funding has enabled historic achievements and expanded support, the conclusion of the one-time funding cycle poses a risk to the progress made. Current staffing models rely on temporary personnel and limited center hours; additional funding could support permanent roles, reduce turnover, and stabilize center operations. Sustained investment is critical to institutionalize equity, advance the long-term goals of Vision 2030, and ensure that identity-affirming resources become permanent fixtures within the community college system.

REFERENCES

Ayala, S. Z. d. (2022). Finding your inner drag: How drag culture helped form freedom of expression for the LGBTQ community. Scholar Commons. https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/engl_176/55/

Johnson, J., Mitchell, E., & Watson, L. (2022). Queer and trans advocacy in the community colleges. In J. Johnson, E. Mitchell, & L. Watson (Eds.), *Queer and trans advocacy in the community colleges* (pp. 29–49). Information Age Publishing.

APPENDIX A: AMOUNT ALLOCATED PER COLLEGE

District	College	Allocation
Allan Hancock	Allan Hancock College	\$82,271
Antelope Valley	Antelope Valley College	\$94,441
Barstow	Barstow College	\$43,991
Butte	Butte College	\$74,569
Cabrillo	Cabrillo College	\$71,383
Cerritos	Cerritos College	\$144,969
Chabot-Las Positas	Chabot College	\$82,632
Chabot-Las Positas	Las Positas College	\$54,447
Chaffey	Chaffey College	\$137,744
Citrus	Citrus College	\$76,661
Coast	Coastline Community College	\$70,030
Coast	Golden West College	\$79,813
Coast	Orange Coast College	\$100,329
Compton	Compton College	\$45,529
Contra Costa	Contra Costa College	\$54,514
Contra Costa	Diablo Valley College	\$97,963
Contra Costa	Los Medanos College	\$63,311
Copper Mountain	Copper Mountain	\$30,069
Desert	College of the Desert	\$86,774
El Camino	El Camino College	\$134,951
Feather River	Feather River College	\$28,758
Foothill - De Anza	De Anza College	\$107,115
Foothill - De Anza	Foothill College	\$89,441
Gavilan	Gavilan College	\$53,949
Glendale	Glendale College	\$104,145
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	Cuyamaca College	\$66,445
Grossmont-Cuyamaca	Grossmont College	\$86,925
Hartnell	Hartnell College	\$71,458
Imperial	Imperial	\$71,781
Kern	Bakersfield College	\$187,105
Kern	Cerro Coso College	\$50,037
Kern	Porterville College	\$46,839

District	College	Allocation
Lake Tahoe	Lake Tahoe Community College	\$47,893
Lassen	Lassen College	\$29,674
Long Beach	Long Beach City College	\$165,063
Los Angeles	East Los Angeles College	\$209,313
Los Angeles	Los Angeles City College	\$107,114
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Harbor College	\$67,097
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Mission College	\$78,408
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Pierce College	\$109,205
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Southwest College	\$53,666
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Trade-Tech College	\$91,757
Los Angeles	Los Angeles Valley College	\$108,478
Los Angeles	West Los Angeles College	\$74,962
Los Rios	American River College	\$174,060
Los Rios	Cosumnes River College	\$99,522
Los Rios	Folsom Lake College	\$70,810
Los Rios	Sacramento City College	\$124,604
Marin	Marin, College of	\$46,612
Mendocino-Lake	Mendocino College	\$45,862
Merced	Merced College	\$89,877
MiraCosta	MiraCosta College	\$93,447
Monterey	Monterey Peninsula College	\$55,740
Mt. San Antonio	Mt. San Antonio College	\$258,583
Mt. San Jacinto	Mt. San Jacinto College	\$122,840
Napa Valley	Napa Valley College	\$39,753
North Orange	Cypress College	\$92,850
North Orange	Fullerton College	\$111,830
Ohlone	Ohlone College	\$64,332
Palo Verde	Palo Verde	\$36,397
Palomar	Palomar Community College	\$111,932
Pasadena	Pasadena City College	\$161,261
Peralta	College of Alameda	\$49,657
Peralta	Berkeley City College	\$53,635
Peralta	Laney College	\$70,721

District	College	Allocation
Peralta	Merritt College	\$54,676
Rancho Santiago	Santa Ana College	\$206,292
Rancho Santiago	Santiago Canyon College	\$104,451
Redwoods	College of the Redwoods	\$46,791
Rio Hondo	Rio Hondo College	\$128,753
Riverside	Moreno Valley College	\$76,076
Riverside	Norco College	\$73,383
Riverside	Riverside City College	\$138,208
San Bernardino	Crafton Hills College	\$47,870
San Bernardino	San Bernardino Valley College	\$88,332
San Diego	San Diego City College	\$93,624
San Diego	San Diego Mesa College	\$113,028
San Diego	San Diego Miramar	\$87,774
San Francisco	San Francisco City College	\$146,899
San Joaquin	San Joaquin Delta College	\$112,457
San Jose-Evergreen	Evergreen Valley College	\$69,240
San Jose-Evergreen	San Jose City College	\$67,019
San Luis Obispo	Cuesta College	\$72,668
San Mateo	Cañada College	\$50,550
San Mateo	San Mateo, College of	\$62,316
San Mateo	Skyline College	\$67,368
Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara City College	\$96,862
Santa Clarita	College of the Canyons	\$134,471
Santa Monica	Santa Monica College	\$146,046
Sequoias	College of the Sequoias	\$90,542
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity	Shasta College	\$69,843
Sierra	Sierra College	\$105,875
Siskiyou	College of the Siskiyou	\$31,760
Solano	Solano College	\$63,592
Sonoma	Santa Rosa Junior College	\$114,536
South Orange	Irvine Valley College	\$90,138
South Orange	Saddleback College	\$136,639
Southwestern	Southwestern College	\$125,593

District	College	Allocation
State Center	Clovis Community College	\$68,521
State Center	Fresno City College	\$161,414
State Center	Madera College	\$53,350
State Center	Reedley Community College	\$70,904
Ventura	Moorpark College	\$88,193
Ventura	Oxnard College	\$63,635
Ventura	Ventura College	\$82,409
Victor Valley	Victor Valley College	\$105,552
West Hills	Coalinga College	\$37,216
West Hills	Lemoore College	\$45,884
West Kern	Taft College	\$44,928
West Valley-Mission	Mission College	\$56,208
West Valley-Mission	West Valley College	\$59,203
Yosemite	Columbia College	\$33,802
Yosemite	Modesto Junior College	\$114,057
Yuba	Woodland Community College	\$41,854
Yuba	Yuba College	\$51,781
Total		\$10,000,000

APPENDIX B

Figure 1: College Top Three Planning Priorities and Use of Funds

Activities and Programs	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Workshops/Speaker Series	2	14	15
Maintain LGBTQ+ Center	4	18	10
LGBTQ+ Learning Communities	-	3	3
Lavander Graduation	2	6	9
Hire/Graduation	75	8	2
Establishing Student Clubs	4	3	7
Establishing LGBTQ+ Center	6	4	1
Direct Support	9	19	8
Direct LGBTQ+ Health Service	1	3	4
Develop/Provide Specific Training to College Personnel	-	10	10
Develop LGBTQ+ Curriculum	-	-	-
Dedicated Resources for Housing Insecurity	1	4	6
Dedicated Funding for Mental Health Services	4	5	8
Conference	-	1	8
Community Outreach Events	6	14	23

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