American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in California.

Evaluation & Planning has expanded in recent years, it still fails to meet the demand for biking on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). California should ensure on a comprehensive update that prioritizes safety. Standards so that it can more effectively implement cultural change for safe streets and encourage more biking and walking.

Changes to the built environment as key to safer streets.

Considers the use of federal transportation funding, infrastructure in the state.

Considers bicycle mode share, advocacy, state goals to increase bicycling, and whether the state sponsors a traffic law enforcement.

Support for implementing bicycling improvements, 11% Safe Passing Law (3ft+)

Statewide bike plan last 10 years

Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area

States that has not adopted this type of law to reduce “dooring.” Ridership unless the motorist is able to do so safely. Indiana is one of only eight

Increase biking and walking by providing for connected networks of safe and progress. Planning and investment decisions should reflect goals to increase bicycling, and whether the state sponsors a traffic law enforcement.

The Indiana DOT should establish goals for the number or percent of programs as part of a comprehensive Safe System Approach. Automated

Allow municipalities to establish Automated Traffic Enforcement

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is based on a comprehensive survey—with BikeLeague.org/BFA/AWARDS

We’re building a bicycle friendly America for everyone • BikeLeague.org

Indiana

California

Michigan
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Introduction

The Bicycle Friendly State Report Card is intended to provide information about each state to compare states and serve as a reference for state efforts related to improving bicycling.

This guide will provide background information on each of the data points on the Report Card. It is our hope that this background information will answer questions about where this data comes from and how it should be interpreted.

It is important to note that the data on the Report Card do not necessarily reflect the totality of a state’s efforts related to bicycling. The Report Card also does not explicitly consider factors such as natural beauty, weather, or culture that may affect riding in a state. While the majority of data relate to actions by a state Department of Transportation, the data is not limited to things within the control or influence of a state Department of Transportation. Many states have undertaken efforts to improve bicycling that do not fit within the survey and public data used to create the Report Card.

Explanation of Ranking

The ranking for each state is based on a weighted score calculated by the state’s score in each of the five categories listed on the Report Card. The weighted category scores are supplemented by discretionary scoring that accounts for 10% of each state’s potential score. We include discretionary scoring to account for erroneous survey data, states with missing data, and other factors that do not easily fit within the survey data and public data used for the category scores.

- Infrastructure & Funding—20%
- Education & Encouragement—15%
- Traffic Laws & Practices—15%
- Policies & Programs—20%
- Evaluation & Planning—20%
- Discretionary Scoring—10%

History of Ranking

The Bicycle Friendly State program began in 2008. The primary output of the Bicycle Friendly State program since that time has been a semi-annual ranking of each state according to publicly available data and survey data completed by contacts at state Departments of Transportation or state advocacy organizations. Data on rankings over time is available at http://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/Historical_ranking_chart.pdf. Report cards were introduced to the program in 2012 and are available upon request.

The best way to explore data from the history of the program is by using the data produced in Bicycling and Walking in the United States: A Benchmarking Report. This report has been published since 2007 and has shared a common survey with the Bicycle Friendly State program since 2012. Over six editions, it has published the raw data that is analyzed to create our Bicycle Friendly State ranking without the editorial weighting used to create the ranking. The most recent Benchmarking Report can be explored at data.bikeleague.org.
What’s on the Report Card?

Bicycle Friendly America Participation
Each Report Card includes data on the percent of each state’s population that lives in Silver or better Bicycle Friendly Communities. The Bicycle Friendly State program is the only non-voluntary BFA program. All other BFA program participation depends upon participants to complete an application.

Bicycle Friendly Community—The Bicycle Friendly Community program is based upon a free application that is available to all communities. Since the creation of the Bicycle Friendly Community program in 1995 there have been over 1,900 community applications processed by League staff. As of December 2021, there were 496 recognized Bicycle Friendly Communities in all 50 states.

Bicycle Friendly Business—The Bicycle Friendly Business program is based upon a paid application that is available to all organizations. The application fee is based upon the size of the organization: http://bikleague.org/BFB_Fee_Deadline. There are more than 1,400 recognized Bicycle Friendly Businesses in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Bicycle Friendly University—The Bicycle Friendly University program is based upon a free application that is available to all communities. The application fee for universities is a flat fee regardless of university size. There are a variety of discounts available for certain types of universities, including historically black colleges and universities, women’s colleges, and community colleges: https://bicyclefriendly.secure-platform.com/a/page/university/BFUfee. There are more than 200 recognized Bicycle Friendly Universities in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

State Advocacy Group(s)
The group(s) identified on the report card is any group that is an organizational member of the League of American Bicyclists and has been identified as a statewide advocacy organization. Member organizations of the League of American Bicyclists are:

- Eligible to participate in the League’s insurance program;
- Listed in the League’s Cycling in Your Area Guide;
- Eligible to have events listed in the League’s Cycling in Your Area Guide;
- Eligible for discounted registration for the National Bike Summit, held annually in Washington, D.C.; and
- Invited to participate in Bicycle Friendly America local review processes.

Advocacy organizations identify themselves as state organizations. It is a membership type and the League did not review mission statements or actions by our organizational members before listing them on the report card. They are listed because they joined and/or renewed as a state advocacy organization.

Feedback
Feedback is generated by each state’s answers to the Bicycle Friendly State survey as well as input from state advocates as part of the local review process and discretionary decisions by League of American Bicyclists staff. Most feedback is generated from survey data and reflects areas where:

- A state has accomplished or updated a Bicycle Friendly Action;
- A state has taken a positive step toward a feedback point from a previous Bicycle Friendly State Report Card;
- A state does not have a policy, program, or law that is highly valued by the Bicycle Friendly State ranking;
- A state has a law or policy that is considered detrimental to bicycling by the League of American Bicyclists; or
- A state underperforms on an output metric based upon federal data.

Most feedback is not customized or minimally customized to reflect underlying state practices. The primary purpose of each feedback point is to clearly identify an area for improvement and suggest a possible solution. The solution most suitable to any given state may be different from the solution suggested by a feedback point.
Bicycle Friendly State Regions

The four regions used in prior report cards are provided below. States are listed in alphabetical order within their region.

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[Map showing regions]
Bicycle Friendly Actions

Each Bicycle Friendly State Report Card includes five Bicycle Friendly Actions (Actions). These Actions reflect input metrics that are entirely within the control of a state’s Department of Transportation, Governor, or legislature. They are labeled as “Bicycle Friendly Actions” because the League believes that these metrics are evidence of successful agency, executive, legislative, or advocacy actions that set the stage for improvements in the safety and mobility of people who bike within a state. In prior versions of the Bicycle Friendly State program these Actions were referred to as “Signs of Success.”

Each of the Bicycle Friendly Actions, and the way in which we determine whether a state has taken an Action, is explained below.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets, according to the National Complete Streets Coalition, are “streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities…. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.”

For our Bicycle Friendly State Report Cards, the League uses data from the National Complete Streets Coalition’s Inventory of all Complete Streets policies to determine whether a state receives the Complete Streets Law/Policy Bicycle Friendly Action. That Inventory identifies at least three ways in which states can adopt Complete Streets—through a resolution, policy, or law. In our scoring of the Complete Streets topic we differentiate between these methods, but for the Bicycle Friendly Action any method results in a checkmark.

In 2018, the League published a white paper to help states interested in taking this Bicycle Friendly Action.

Safe Passing law

Safe passing laws require vehicles to pass each other at a safe distance. In most states, legislatures have recognized that “safe distance” requires further definition, particularly for motor vehicles passing people on bicycles. The Safe Passing Law Bicycle Friendly Action recognizes states that have adopted a law that specifically defines a safe distance for a motor vehicle passing a person on a bicycle.

There are three common ways that states have chosen to define a “safe distance” in a way recognized by the League of American Bicyclists:

- A safe distance is defined as a specific distance in terms of feet, as in “no less than three feet;”
- A safe distance is defined as a variable distance in terms of feet, with a minimum safe distance that may increase based upon factors such as the speed or size of a passing vehicle; and
- A safe distance is defined as “a distance sufficient to prevent contact with the person operating the bicycle if the person were to fall into the driver’s lane of traffic.”

Some states also provide exceptions to their law that requires a minimum safe passing distance for a motor vehicle passing a person on a bicycle. The League of American Bicyclists believes that these exceptions undermine the educational and enforcement aspects of a Safe Passing law. For the Bicycle Friendly Action, any law that includes one of the definitions above results in a checkmark.

The League of American Bicyclists has a model safe passing law for states or communities within states that would like to adopt a strong safe passing law to protect people who bike. A list of all current safe passing laws is available as part of our Bike Law University series.

In 2018, the League published a white paper to help states interested in taking this Bicycle Friendly Action.
Statewide Bike Plan
According to the Federal Highway Administration, “State DOTs provide leadership regarding walking and bicycling in many ways. For example, some State DOTs use their pedestrian and bicycle plans to describe policies for how they will improve conditions for walking and bicycling through their transportation investments.” While there is no one format for a statewide bicycle plan, all states can benefit from a plan that serves as a basis for collaboration between the state DOT and local authorities, as well as the development of state DOT built projects and institutional competencies that will improve bicycle planning and conditions for bicycling over time.

In our scoring of the State DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan topic we differentiate between plans based upon a variety of aspects, but for the Bicycle Friendly Action any plan adopted within the last 10 years results in a checkmark.

Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area
According to the Federal Highway Administration, “A Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a major component and requirement of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (23 U.S.C. § 148). It is a statewide-coordinated safety plan that provides a comprehensive framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.” In addition, “SHSP goals must be consistent with the safety performance measures. As such, FHWA expects SHSP goals to consider reductions in serious injuries and fatalities for all road users on all public roads. States could also adopt SHSP goals that correspond to each of the safety performance measures, [including the] number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.”

Each SHSP has Emphasis Areas, which identify safety topics within the state, and strategies, which identify actions meant to address the topic identified in an Emphasis Area. This Bicycle Friendly Action is based upon Emphasis Areas and not strategies. While each state is required to set a safety performance measure that includes non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries, according to 23 U.S.C. 150, states are not required to identify bicyclist safety as an emphasis area.

The League of American Bicyclists is aware that some strategies include actions that we disagree with, such as adopting mandatory all rider bicycle helmet laws, but for the Bicycle Friendly State Report Card, our analysis is based on Emphasis Areas only. We believe this is appropriate because the Emphasis Areas provide insight into whether bicyclist safety is a priority for the state regardless of the actions that the state is considering as strategies to improve bicyclist safety. We disagree with actions such as mandatory all rider bicycle helmet laws because we believe that there is compelling evidence that those actions do not reduce the risk of bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries at the population level. We believe that a state that has chosen bicyclist safety as a priority is likely to make the same determination over time.

For the Bicycle Safety Emphasis Bicycle Friendly Action, we use State Strategic Highway Safety Plan data provided by the FHWA’s SHSP Community of Practice. The Community of Practice maintains a database that includes searchable Emphasis Area categories, including “Ped/Bike.” We include the results of that search as well as a more comprehensive keyword search of all Emphasis Areas in the database. Any state that has at least one Emphasis Area that includes the keyword “bicycle” or a derivative of “bicycle” receives a checkmark for this Bicycle Friendly Action.

In 2018, the League published a white paper to help states interested in taking this Bicycle Friendly Action.
2% or more Fed Funds on Bike/Ped

According to the Federal Highway Administration, “pedestrian and bicycle projects are eligible for funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program, Surface Transportation Program (STP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Programs (FLTTP) and [Transportation Alternatives Program] TAP.” While this guidance does not reflect the conversion of TAP to the STP Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside under the Fixing American’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, it still reflects the broad eligibility for biking and walking projects provided by federal transportation funding.

Our 2% threshold is based upon the historical funding level for the Transportation Alternatives Program, as set in the federal transportation bills that preceded the FAST Act between 1991 and 2015. While the League of American Bicyclists would prefer more federal funding for biking and walking, this baseline is a useful shorthand for whether or not a state Department of Transportation is making an effort to at least spend transportation funding on bicycling and walking projects in proportion to the programmatic priorities set by Congress.

For the 2% or more Fed Funds on Bike/Ped Bicycle Friendly Action, we use data provided by FHWA’s Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS). Our determination of spending is based upon three fiscal years (FY2018-20) of data on obligations. An obligation is a legal commitment by the Federal government to pay a State for the Federal share of a project’s eligible cost. It is not “spending” as a normal person would understand it, but it is the legal commitment to transfer cash at a later date and those funds are considered “used” as soon as they are obligated.

In our scoring of the Use of Federal Transportation Funding topic we use a formula that looks at per capita bicycling and walking spending, and bicycling and walking spending as a percentage of all federal transportation spending. For this Bicycle Friendly Action, states with 2% or more of its federal spending coded as bike/ped spending results in a checkmark.
**Federal Data on Biking**

The Federal government collects and requires states to collect a variety of data related to bicycling, in addition to directly funding research on bicycling and walking. The Federal Data on Biking table presents data from three federal data sources that provide updated data on an annual basis. These data reflect output metrics that are not entirely within the control of a state’s Department of Transportation, legislature, or other state agency.

**Ridership**

This figure is based upon the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 5-year estimate.

The American Community Survey was created after the 2000 Census as an alternative to the previous “long-form” Census. Each year about 1 in 38 U.S. households receive an invitation to participate in the ACS. Data on bicycling to work comes from Question 31, which asks “How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK? If this person, usually used more than one method of transportation during the trip, mark (X) the box of the one used for most of the distance.” Bicycle is one of 12 potential answers to that question.

According to the once-a-decade National Household Travel Survey, travel to and from work comprises about 16 percent of daily trips. The use of data only on this subset of trip types for all estimates of state bicycle ridership is problematic because it misses variations between states in any other type of bicycling. There are also numerous other issues with ACS data.

The League uses ACS data because it is the only nationwide data set available on an annual basis that allows state-to-state comparisons. We look forward to the day when better data that allows annual state-to-state comparisons is available. Due to disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, no bike to work estimates are currently available for 2020.

**Safety**

This figure is based upon fatalities reported over a five-year period according to the National Highway Administration (NHTSA)’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the 2019 5-year ACS estimate of the number of bicycle commuters.

The League of American Bicyclists believes that providing fatality data in the context of the number of bicycle commuters is the best currently possible way to adjust for differences in rates of bicycling between states. While bicycle commuting only represents about 20% of all bicycling trips according to 2017 National Household Travel Survey data, it is the only type of bicycling with nationwide publicly available data on an annual basis.

FARS is based upon a census of fatal traffic crashes. To be included in FARS, a crash must involve a motor vehicle traveling on a public roadway and must result in the death of at least one person within 30 days of the crash. FARS data is provided to NHTSA by an agency in each state government according to a cooperative agreement which specifies that the state will take state data and code it into the standard FARS format. Since states are responsible for the underlying data, FARS is not based upon one uniform source of data, but may be based on a combination of information from police accident reports, death certificates, State coroners and medical examiners, State driver and vehicle registration records, and emergency medical services records.
Spending

FHWA spending is based upon obligations coded using any of three project types associated with bicycling and walking projects through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)’s Fiscal Management Information System. To calculate per capita spending, we used a three-year average for fiscal years 2018-2020 and the 2019 5-year ACS state population estimate.

Our determination of spending is based upon three fiscal years (FY2018-20) of data on obligations. An obligation is a legal commitment by the Federal government to pay a State for the Federal share of a project’s eligible cost. It is not “spending” as a normal person would understand it, but it is the legal commitment to transfer cash later and those funds are considered “used” as soon as they are obligated.

Nationwide, our analysis of FMIS data shows that $2.87 of federal transportation funding per person is spent on bicycling and walking projects. FMIS data does not, and cannot, distinguish between spending on biking and walking. For this reason, FMIS data likely over-estimates the amount of federal funding for bicycling. When asked to distribute $100 of taxes on transportation, American voters on average allocated $26.90 to expand and improve walking and biking paths, and sidewalks.

For comparison’s sake, here are what some other countries spend per capita on bicycling:

- **England** spends $5.28 per capita on bicycling;
- **Netherlands** spends $29.48 per capita on bicycling; and
- **Hungary** (whose GDP per capita is more than 4 times less than the U.S.) spends $4.45 per capita on bicycling.
Category Scores and Grades

The Bicycle Friendly State Report Card provides scores from each category. Each score is based upon one or more questions in the 2021 Bicycle Friendly State survey. The entire Bicycle Friendly State survey is 32 questions long, including questions that are completed by the League of American Bicyclists using publicly available data and reviewed by state Departments of Transportation. The full survey is available here.

For 2022, we are presenting category and sub-category scores as letter grades. Grades were assigned based on points earned in each category and sub-category. The grading was based on a curve—as the highest scoring state earned less than 75% of available points.

In grading, we attempted to make it easy to understand tiers of scoring through differentiation while balancing the reality that many states score very close to each other. The underlying score that resulted in an “A” in one category is not necessarily correlated with an “A” in another category. For example, the Policies & Programs category had several states score more than 90% of available points in that category, but no state scored more than 90% of available points in the Evaluation & Planning category.
Infrastructure & Funding

The Infrastructure & Funding category is intended to provide insight on the level of investment in bicycling in each state. This includes questions about funding levels, funding programs, and the creation of bicycle infrastructure in the state.

This category often suffers from data-related issues. In particular, there are two issues that should be noted that may affect the comparability of states:

**Determining the amount of state funding spent or allocated to bicycling and walking can be very difficult.** Our historical survey data shows reported state funding can vary widely from year-to-year. Several reasons are given for why it is difficult to determine state funding for biking and walking, with three of the most common being:

- For states with complete streets policies, bicycling and walking infrastructure may not be reported when it is created within a larger road project. Several states have made the argument that the cost of documenting these projects is prohibitive.
- States often create significant bicycling and walking facilities through Departments of Natural Resources or other state agencies. These various agencies do not share reporting mechanism or funding legislation, so it is difficult to aggregate funding.
- States may or may not report the state funds used to match federal funding when they report state funding spent on bicycling and walking. Generally, a 20% match is required for federal funding.

States often do not have processes in place to report on the planned and built bicycle infrastructure on a yearly basis. Based upon comments from survey respondents, it does not appear that most states have databases that allow easy reports on the lane miles and types of bicycle infrastructure in a state. This may be an issue of multiple state agencies often being involved in the creation of bicycling infrastructure.

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**SPOTLIGHT: HOW WE SCORE FEDERAL FUNDING DATA**

We assign 10 points based on a formula that considers federal transportation obligations to biking and walking projects as a percentage of all obligations and obligations to biking and walking projects per capita.

There are 7 points assigned based on the percentage of obligations going to biking and walking projects in each state and the change over time of that percentage.

There are 3 points assigned based on each state’s per capita obligations divided by the highest state per capita obligation.
Education & Encouragement

The Education & Encouragement category is intended to provide insight into the level of bicycling in a state and public education efforts related to bicycling. This category has the fewest questions of any category and has high level of verification through linked public education materials. However, it should be noted that driver licensing is often done by an agency separate from the state Department of Transportation. This means that our survey respondents, most often state DOT bicycle staff, may not be able to answer those questions with the same specificity as other questions. While we have attempted to minimize the number of questions that ask about issues outside of the control of a state DOT, the potential value of driver licensing questions was high enough that we did not feel comfortable eliminating them.

SPOTLIGHT: HOW WE SCORE FEDERAL MODESHARE DATA

We assign 30 points based on 5-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS).

Twenty points are based upon each state’s 2019 5-year bike to work modeshare estimate. We assign those 20 points by taking each state’s estimate and dividing that estimate by the second highest state estimate plus one standard deviation. The highest state estimate in every year of ACS data is Oregon and as of 2019 the estimate for Oregon is more than two standard deviations above the second highest estimate. Oregon gets full points, but does not get scored by the same formula.

Ten points are based upon the percentage change between each state’s 2015 5-year estimate and their 2019 5-year estimate. We assign those points by taking each state’s percentage change and dividing it by the highest percentage change in the data set. When states have negative percentage changes, we allow negative points to be assigned.
Traffic Laws & Practices
The Traffic Laws & Practices category is intended to provide insight into the legislation that governs traffic in each state. Generally, these questions look at the existence or non-existence of specific types of traffic laws. Data in this category is often produced by the League of American Bicyclists as part of our state bike law resources. At times the issues for specific laws identified in our Bike Law University series are used to grade a particular type of law.

Policies & Programs
The Policies & Programs category is intended to provide insight into the policies and programs that govern project development at a state Department of Transportation. The major focus of this category is complete streets, meaning that bicycle infrastructure will be routinely planned and built as part of bicycling being a legitimate mode of transportation in the state and on state roadways. This means that the focus is often on whether the state’s policies are likely to create an extensive bicycle network, rather than attempting to determine the quality of the state’s bicycle network.

Evaluation & Planning
The Evaluation & Planning category is intended to provide insight into the transportation planning framework of a state, including the development of processes that improve planning such as data collection. While a state bike plan is often a major contributor to the state’s score in this category, states can fulfill aspects associated with a state bike plan without having a plan in place or having a plan that meets the criteria of our Bicycle Friendly Action associated with statewide bike plans.
The Benchmarking Report: Bicycling and Walking in the United States

Since 2012 the Bicycle Friendly State survey has been used as part of the Benchmarking Report: Bicycling and Walking in the United States. The Benchmarking Report was first created by the Alliance for Biking & Walking in 2003 on a trial basis and became a biennial report in 2007. The 2017 Bicycle Friendly State survey was used to create the 2018 Benchmarking Report, which was the first edition of the report published by the League of American Bicyclists. Since the publication of the 2018 Benchmarking Report, data has been updated as it becomes available at data.bikeleague.org.

The use of the Bicycle Friendly State survey for the Benchmarking Report should be understood from the perspective that each project is intended to accomplish something different.

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is intended to provide a quick summary of each state with action items to improve the state’s ranking. Historically, the Bicycle Friendly State ranking has not included much reporting of the survey data, whether aggregated or for each state. The focus is on providing a comparative framework for advocacy efforts and action.

The Benchmarking Report is intended to promote data collection, measure progress, and support efforts to increase bicycling and walking. Historically, the Benchmarking Report has included extensive reporting of survey data. The focus is on providing a basis for comparison between states and over time.

**STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**
The Bicycle Friendly States ranking is based on a comprehensive survey completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states or contact Ken McLeod at (202)-822-1333 or ken@bikeleague.org.
ABOUT THE LEAGUE

For generations past and to come, THE LEAGUE represents bicyclists in the movement to create safer roads, stronger communities, and a Bicycle Friendly America. Through education, advocacy and promotion, we work to celebrate and preserve the freedom cycling brings to our members everywhere.

WE BELIEVE
— Bicycling brings people together.
— When more people ride bikes:
— Life is better for everyone;
— Communities are safer, stronger and better connected;
— Our nation is healthier, economically stronger, environmentally cleaner and more energy independent.

OUR VISION
is a nation where everyone recognizes and enjoys the many benefits and opportunities of bicycling.

OUR MISSION
is to lead the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change.