

**NENA ..... Nat'l Emergency Number Assoc.**

A national association promoting 9-1-1 research, standards development, training, education, outreach, and advocacy.

**NG9-1-1.....Next Generation 9-1-1**

Changing from today's legacy voice 9-1-1 system to a system of systems to bring voice and data to the emergency response system.

**NGA..... National Governors Association**

Bipartisan national organization of, by, and for the nation's Governors.

**NRG..... NDACo Resources Group**

NDACo for-profit subsidiary created in 2000. Allows tech staff to support state and other agencies.

**NRS .....Nationwide Retirement Solutions**

NACo Partner. Offers public employee financial programs and supplemental retirement products (457 retirement plans, IRAs, etc.).

**O**

**OAR..... Optional Adjustment Request**

An addition to a state agency's budget that was identified by the agency in the budgeting process but not included in the Executive Budget Recommendation from the Governor.

**OJJDP .....Office of Juvenile Justice for Delinquency Prevention**

U.S. Dept. of Justice office responsible for grant programs to states and local governments. NDACo provides the administrative contact with this agency, through a grant agreement with DJS.

**P**

**PASS...Public Administrator Support Services**

Program to provide reimbursement to County Public Administrators for indigent persons that the court has determined have need of a guardian, but for whom no family member is available. State funds were appropriated to those serving as public administrator for counties that have committed to matching the state funds. NDACo collects the county funds – through a joint powers agreement – and disburses both the state and county funds for guardianship services.

**PATH... Professional Association of Treatment Homes**

Not-for-profit social service agency that provides therapeutic foster care in ND.

**PSAP ..... Public Safety Answering Point**

Center that answers 911 calls and dispatches emergency services.

**S**

**SACCHO ..... State Association of City and County Health Officials**

Directors from the ND local public health units

**SAG..... State Advisory Group**

Governor appointed body to recommend federal juvenile justice grant funding.

**SIEC ..... State Interoperability Executive Committee**

Collaboration among state agencies and responder groups from across North Dakota for the purpose of continually improving communication between all emergency service providers critical for federal, state and local governments during an emergency.

**SIRN 20/20 ..... Statewide Interoperable Radio Network 20/20**

Statewide initiative to study and recommend a consensus solution for delivering, integrating and supporting mission critical interoperable radio systems, and training for first responders and the public safety community.

**T**

**TSOP..... Traffic Safety Outreach Program**

A partnership between NDACo and the ND Dept. of Transportation focused on ensuring the safety of our state's road network, primarily encouraging safety belt usage and sober driving.

**TSRP ..... Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor**

An attorney who is or becomes an expert in traffic and DUI laws and provides support to the state's prosecutors to prosecute traffic safety violations.

**U**

**USC ..... US Communities**

Nonprofit partnership co-sponsored by NACo that reduces the cost of purchased goods through pooling the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide.

**V**

**VOIP .....Voice Over Internet Protocol**

Telephone conversation conducted over an Internet connection.

**W**

**WIR..... Western Interstate Region**

NACo Affiliate dedicated to the promotion of Western interests. Its 15 members are: Alaska, Hawaii, Wash., Ore., Calif., Idaho, Nev., Ariz., Mont., Wyo., Colo., N.M., Utah, N.D., S.D.

**WSI.....Workforce Safety & Insurance**

**Y**

**YCC ..... Youth Correctional Center**

Formerly the ND Industrial School, this 100-bed facility accepts youth for treatment in the custody of the state, from the Juvenile Court for evaluations, and from local counties for short-term detention.



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# The Acronym Reference Guide (ARG!)

**ac · ro · nym**

Pronunciation [AK-ruh-nim] – noun  
a word formed from the initial letters or groups of letters of words in a set phrase or series of words. Example: **S**elf-**C**ontained **U**nderwater **B**reathing **A**pparatus = **Scuba**.



According to the strict definition, most of the items on this list are not true acronyms, but just initials. Nevertheless, the “short-hand” we use can get a little confusing, so this guide was developed to help make sense of it all.

The guide is updated annually, and all submissions are welcome. If we have missed any that you feel should be listed, or if any are not defined clearly, please don't hesitate to contact us.

This document is also available in Portable Document Format (PDF) on our website at:

www.ndaco.org/publications.

In other words, you can get a PDF of the ARG on the WWW!

**A****ABACUS ..... (Not an acronym)**

Consulting firm specializing in local government services, such as indirect cost accounting.

**APCO ..... Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials****ASAE.....American Society of Association Executives**

Enhances excellence in association management, and the effectiveness of associations to better serve members and society.

**B****BCI .....Bureau of Criminal Investigation****C****CAE..... Certified Association Executive**

Professional certification sponsored by ASAE.

**CEG..... County Employer Group**

County workers comp group managed by NDACo. Through CEG, all member county employees are treated as if having one employer, saving counties money in Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI) matters.

**CEUs.....Continuing Education Units****CHA..... Community Health Assessment**

A state, tribal, local, or territorial health assessment that identifies key health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis.

**CHIP .....Children’s Health Insurance Program**

Federal program known in ND as Healthy Steps.

**CJIS.....Criminal Justice Info. Sharing**

Framework that provides comprehensive data to the criminal justice community in ND.

**CJJ.....Coalition for Juvenile Justice**

National organization promoting funding for local government programs addressing youth.

**COG ..... Continuation of Government**

Resuming gov’t services after a disaster.

**CRIB....Coordinated Regional Interoperability Board**

Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (see SIRN 20/20) has a governance structure that relies on input from local government in the form of four regional CRIBs. Members are appointed by the governing boards of the state’s 911 jurisdictions which are either county commissions or joint multi-jurisdictional 911 Boards.

**D****DCN.....Dakota Carrier Network****DES ..... Dept. of Emergency Services****DHS.....Dept. of Human Services****DJS..... Division of Juvenile Services**

Division of the ND DOCR responsible for the delinquent youth committed to the custody of the state. In cooperation with NDACo, it administers various federal juvenile justice grant programs.

**DOCR.....Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation**

State cabinet level agency responsible for adult probation, the penitentiary, Roughrider Industries, the Division of Juvenile Services, and is responsible for the development and implementation of jail rules.

**DOT ..... Dept. of Transportation****E****EICG.....Excellence in County Government**

Awards given by NDACo annually to county government leaders nominated by their peers.

**EMS.....Emergency Medical Services****ESCCEmergency Services Communications Coordinating Committee**

Four person committee established by the legislature to study and make reports/suggestions relating to 9-1-1 and Emergency Services in ND.

**F****FEMA .....Federal Emergency Management Agency****FSC .....Financial Services Corporation**

NACo division which partners with businesses, such as Nationwide Retirement Solutions, to provide counties services at reduced costs.

**G****GASB.... Governmental Accounting Standards Board**

Establishes and improves standards of state and local governmental accounting and financial reporting.

**GIS ..... Geographical Information System****GPS..... Global Positioning System**

A space-based satellite navigation system that provides location and time information.

**H****HIPAA.....Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996**

Federal legislation with provisions to improve the portability of health insurance, but affects the Medicaid agencies of state government and private insurers by requiring a unified billing and accounting system nationwide.

**HOMER.. Handy Office Manager of Electronic Records**

Database system developed by NDACo to keep track of member information.

**I****ILG.....Institute of Local Government**

501(c)3 subsidiary of NDACo created in 2000, serves as the professional development program of the Association.

**IMD ..... Information Management Division**

This is the Dept. of Human Services’ information technology division.

**ITD..... Information Technology Dept.**

Cabinet level state agency responsible for setting computer standards for state & counties. Maintains the state backbone, which allows counties to access the Internet.

**J****JPA.....Joint Power Agreement****L****LPHU.....Local Public Health Unit****M****MAMA .....Member Association Management Agreements**

Agreements between NDACo and county member associations to provide various services.

**MOE ..... Maintenance of Effort**

Generally used in terms of new or increased federal funding – the requirement that states or local governments not reduce their own spending as a condition for receiving the federal dollars.

**N****NACo.....National Association of Counties****NASNA..... National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators****NCCAE.....National Council of County Association Executives****NCSL.... National Council of State Legislators**

Bipartisan organization dedicated to serving the nation’s state lawmakers and staffs.

**NDACE. ND Association of County Engineers****NDACo .....ND Association of Counties****NDCCA..... ND County Commissioners Association****NDIRF.....ND Insurance Reserve Fund**

Provides cost effective liability, automobile, and inland marine coverage to public entities.

**NDLC..... ND League of Cities**

The association serving cities as NDACo serves counties.

**NDTOA..... ND Township Officers Association**

The association serving townships as NDACo serves counties.