

NDTOA ND Township Officers Association

The association serving townships as NDACo serves counties.

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.

NHTSA.....National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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.).

NTIA.....National Telecommunications Service

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.

OJJDPOffice 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.

PSAPPublic 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.

SIECState 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.

STEPS.....Strategic Technology Planning Subcommittee

ND 911 Association committee that researches 911 related technologies.

T

TSRP Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

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

V

VoIPVoice Over Internet Protocol

Telephone calls conducted over an Internet connection.

VZOPVision Zero 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.

W

WIR Western Interstate Region

NACo Affiliate dedicated to the promotion of Western interests. Its 15 members are: Alaska, Hawaii, Wash., Ore., Calif., Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota.

WPSWireless Priority Service

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.



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!



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A

ABACUS(Not an acronym)

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

APCO Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials

ARPA..... American Rescue Plan Act

Act that created a variety of new federal programs to address continuing pandemic-related crises, including a direct allocation to counties.

ASAE..... American Society of Association Executives

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

C

CAE..... Certified Association Executive

Professional certification sponsored by ASAE.

CARES....Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

Act that addressed the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

CEG County Employer Group

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

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.

CJISCriminal Justice Information 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.

D

DCN..... Dakota Carrier Network

DHHS Dept. of Health & 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, and the Division of Juvenile Services.

DOTDept. of Transportation

E

EICGExcellence in County Government

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

EMSEmergency Medical Services

ESC3....Emergency 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

FEMAFederal 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.

GETS Government Emergency Telecommunications Service

GISGeographical 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.

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

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

I

ILGInstitute of Local Government

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

ITD See NDIT 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

LMS..... Learning Management System

Online system of self-paced learning. CEG uses WSI's LMS for safety training with counties and NDACo employees.

LPHU.....Local Public Health Unit

M

MAMA..... Member Association Management Agreements

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

MOEMaintenance 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

NCSLNational 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

NDIRFND Insurance Reserve Fund

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

NDIT ND Information Technology Dept.

NDLC..... ND League of Cities

Organization that serves cities as NDACo serves counties.