

Alphabet Soup

Government Acronym Guide



August 2010

Alphabet Soup

Government Acronym Guide



Updated by
Kathryn Murphy
Research Associate

August 2010



About NACO – The Voice of America's Counties

The National Association of Counties (NACO) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACO provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACO advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACO, visit www.naco.org.

Do you know what CAVE, LULU and WDB mean? Would you be able to tell someone what CERCLA and FMLA, two important federal laws, stand for? Have you ever felt like you needed a dictionary or translator just to attend a government meeting? Are you a newly elected official who is baffled by the language of government? Well, do not panic, NACo's Research Division has developed this guide to help you decipher the secret code of government.

A

AAA	Area Agency on Aging - agency	ADEA	Age Discrimination in Employment Act - legislation
AAPCC	Adjusted Average Per Capita Cost – legislation (program of Medicare)	ADH	Adult Day Health - program
ABE	Adult Basic Education– legislation (program of COABE)	ADL	Activity of Daily Living– legislation (tool of measurement)
ACF	Administration for Children and Families- agency	ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution– legislation (technique)
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation - agency	ADT	Average Daily Traffic– legislation (tool)
ACYF	Administration for Children, Youth, and Families - agency	AFH	Adult Family Home – legislation (program)
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 - legislation	AFIS	Automated Fingerprint Identification System – legislation (tool)
ADD	Administration on Developmental Disabilities - agency	AFO	Animal Feeding Operations – legislation (program)
		AFV	Alternative Fueled Vehicle - program

AHCPR	Agency for Health Care Policy and Research - agency	AWT	Advanced Wastewater Treatment – legislation (process)
AHERA	Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act - legislation	AYL	Arbitrage Yield Limit – legislation (tool)
AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - agency		
AIP	Airport Improvement Program – legislation (program)	BABs	Build America Bonds – program
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge - agency	BACT	Best Available Control Technology – legislation (program)
ANA	Administration for Native Americans - agency	BAN	Bond Anticipation Note – legislation (program)
AOA	Administration On Agency - agency	BAT	Best Available Technology - legislation
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs – legislation (program)	BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis - agency
APA	Administrative Procedures Act - legislation	BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs - agency
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – legislation	BJA	Bureau of Justice Assistance - agency
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms - agency	BJS	Bureau of Justice Statistics - agency
ATOD	Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs - agency	BLM	Bureau of Land Management - agency
AUM	Animal Unit Month - legislation	BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics - agency
		BMP	Best Management Practice - legislation

B

BNA	Bureau of National Affairs - agency	CAD	Computer-Aided Dispatch or Computer-Assisted Drafting - legislation
BOP	Federal Bureau of Prisons - agency	CAMA	Computer-Assisted Mass Appraisal - legislation
BOS	Balance Of State – legislation (program)	CAVE	Citizens Against Virtually Everything - agency
BTOP	Broadband Technology Opportunities Program - program	CBD	Central Business District - area

C

CA	Comprehensive Assessment - legislation	CBO	Community Based Organization - agency
CAA	Clean Air Act - legislation	CCBDG	Child Care Development Block Grant - legislation
CAB	Community Action Board - agency	CCD	Census County Division - area
CABO	Concentrated Animal Breeding Operation - legislation	CCF	Congregate Care Facility – legislation (program)
CAER	Community Awareness and Emergency Response – legislation	CCR	Commission on Civil Rights- agency
CAFO	Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation - legislation	CDBG	Community Development Block Grant - legislation
CAFR	Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - legislation	CDCU	Community Development Credit Union - agency
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer - agency	CDFI	Community Development Financial Institution – legislation (program)

CDL	Commercial Drivers License – legislation (program)	CHAS	Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy - legislation
CD-ROM	Compact Disc-Read Only Memory – legislation (tool)	CIC	Consumer Information Center - agency
CEO	Chief Elected Official or Chief Executive Officer – agency (single official)	CIO	Chief Information Officer – agency (single officer)
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (a.k.a. Superfund) - legislation	CIP	Community Improvement Plan - legislation
CES	Cooperative Extension Service - legislation	CM	Case Management – legislation (type of practice)
CEU	Continuing Education Units - agency	COB	Close Of Business – legislation (type of practice)
CFO	Chief Financial Officer – agency (single officer)	COBRA	Comprehensive Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act - legislation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations - legislation	COCS	Cost of Community Service - legislation
CFSAN	National Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition - agency	COG	Council Of Government - agency
CHAMPVA	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration - legislation	COLA	Cost-Of-Living Adjustment - legislation
		COP	Certificate Of Participation - legislation
		COPS	Community Oriented Policing Services – program

CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission - agency	DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration - agency
CRA	Community Reinvestment Act - legislation	DHS	Department of Homeland Security - agency
CRL	County Reinsurance Limited - agency	DINC	Double Income No Children - program
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program - legislation	DMS	Dispatch Management System – program (system)
CSB	Community Services Board - agency	DOA	Department Of Agriculture - agency
CSE	Child Support Enforcement - legislation	DOC	Department of Commerce - agency
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow – legislation (program)	DOD	Department of Defense - agency
CWA	Clean Water Act - legislation	DOE	Department Of Energy - agency
CY	Calendar Year – legislation (program)	DOI	Department Of Interior - agency
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act - legislation	DOJ	Department of Justice - agency
		DOL	Department of Labor - agency
		DOS	Department of State - agency
		DOT	Department Of Transportation - agency
DARE	Drug Abuse Resistance Education – legislation (program)	DSF	Delivery Sequence File – legislation (service)
DD	Developmental Disability or Dually Diagnosed – legislation (tool)		

D

DUI Driving Under the Influence (of AOD) – legislation (term, practice)

DWI Driving While Intoxicated – legislation (term, practice)

E

EAP Employee Assistance Program – legislation (program)

EAS Essential Air Service – legislation (service)

EBT Electronic Benefit Transfer – legislation (program)

EC Enterprise Community - agency

ECA Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs - agency

ECAB Employees' Compensation Appeals Board - agency

ECOSOC Economic and Social Council - agency

EDA Economic Development Administration - agency

EDI Electronic Data Interchange - legislation

EECBG Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant -program

EEO Equal Employment Opportunity - legislation

EIS Environmental Impact Statement - legislation

EITC Earned Income Tax Credit - legislation

E-Mail Electronic Mail - legislation

EMS Emergency Medical Service - legislation

EMT Emergency Medical Technician – agency (single person)

EOC Emergency Operations Center – legislation (program)

EOP Emergency Operation Plan - legislation

EPA Environmental Protection Agency – agency

EPP Environmentally Preferable Purchasing - legislation

EQIP Environmental Quality Incentive Program – legislation (program)

ESA Endangered Species Act - legislation

ESL English as a Second Language – legislation (program)

ETI Economically Targeted Investment - legislation

EZ Empowerment Zone - agency

F

FAA Federal Aviation Administration - agency

FACA Federal Advisory Committee Act - legislation

FAIR Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act - agency

FAST Families Achieving Self-Sufficiency Together – legislation (program)

FCC Federal Communications Commission - agency

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency - agency

FFS Fee For Service – legislation (service)

FGDC Federal Geographic Data Committee - agency

FHA Federal Housing Administration - agency

FHWA Federal Highway Administration - agency

FIC Federal Information Center – legislation (service)

FIFO First In First Out – legislation (service)

FIFRA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act - legislation

FIPS Federal Information Processing Standards - legislation

FJC Federal Judicial Center - agency

FLPMA Federal Land Policy and Management Act - legislation

FLSA Fair Labor Standards Act - legislation

FMAP Federal Medical Assistance Percentages

GED	General Equivalency Diploma – legislation (program)	HHS	Department of Health and Human Services - agency
GIS	Geographic Information System – legislation (system)	HIS	Hospital Information System – legislation (system)
GNMA	Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) - agency	HMDA	Home Mortgage Disclosure Act - legislation
GO	General Obligation (Bond) – legislation	HMTA	Hazardous Materials Transportation Act - legislation
GPERF	General Purpose External Financial Statement - legislation	HMO	Health Maintenance Organization - agency
GPFS	General Purpose Financial Statement - legislation	HOME	HOME Investment Partnerships – legislation (program)
GPO	Government Printing Office - agency	HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS – legislation (program)
GPRA	Government Performance Results Act - legislation	HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle – legislation (system)
GPS	Global Positioning System – legislation (system)	HR	Human Resources or Home Relief - agency
		HTML	Hypertext Markup Language – legislation (tool)
		HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol - legislation
		HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development - agency

H

HazMat	Hazardous Material - legislation
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration - agency

I

IADL	Instrumental Activity of Daily Living – legislation (tool)
IAP	Indoor Air Pollution - legislation
ICF	Intermediate Care Facility – legislation (program)
IDB	Industrial Development Bond - legislation
IFB	Invitation For Bid - legislation
IFP	Invitation For Proposal - legislation
I/M	Inspection/ Maintenance - legislation
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service – legislation (service)
IPA	Independent Practice Association - agency
IRCA	Immigration Reform and Control Act - legislation
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act - legislation
IT	Information Technology – legislation (system)

ITA	Individual Training Account - legislation
IVHS	Intelligent Vehicle Highway System – legislation (system)

J

JAG	Justice Advocate General - agency
JAG	Byrne Justice Assistance Grants - program
JCSC	Joint Center for Sustainable Communities - agency

L

LAN	Local Area Network – legislation (system)
LEA	Local Education Agency - agency
LEO	Locally Elected Official – agency (single person)
LEP	Limited English Proficiency - legislation
LIFO	Last In First Out – legislation (method)
LIFT	Leveraged Investments For Tomorrow - agency

LIHEAP	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – legislation (program)	MBDA	Minority Business Development Agency- agency
LIS	Land Information System – legislation (system)	MBE	Minority Business Enterprise - legislation
LMI	Labor Management Information System and Labor Market Information - legislation	MCH	Maternal and Child Health - legislation
LPR	Lawful Permanent Resident - legislation	MCL	Maximum Containment Level - legislation
LTC	Long Term Care - legislation	MEP	Maximum Extent Practicable - legislation
LUCC	Large Urban County Caucus - agency	MH	Mental Health - legislation
LULU	Locally Unwanted Land Use - legislation	MICA	Mentally Ill Chemical Abuser - legislation
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank - legislation	MIS	Management Information System – legislation (system)
LVR	Low-Volume Road - legislation	MOA	Memorandum Of Agreement - legislation
		MOE	Maintenance Of Effort - legislation
		MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding - legislation
MA	Medical Assistance - legislation	MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization - agency
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology - legislation	MRB	Mortgage Revenue Bond - legislation
MAF	Master Address File - legislatio		

M

MR	Mental Retardation - legislation	NACCA	National Association of County Civil Attorneys - agency
MRF	Materials Recovery/ Recycling Facility – legislation (program)	NACCED	National Association for County Community/ Economic Development - agency
MS4	Municipal Separate Stormwater System – legislation (system)	NACCHO	National Association of County and City Health Officials - agency
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area - legislation	NACE	National Association of County Engineers - agency
MSAG	Master Street Address Guide - legislation	NACHFA	National Association of County Health Facility Administrators - agency
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste or Masters in Social Work - legislation	NACHRA	National Association of County Human Resources Administrators - agency

N

NABCO	National Association of Black County Officials - agency	NACHSA	National Association of County Human Services Administrators - agency
NACA	National Association of County Administrators - agency	NACIO	National Association of County Information Officers - agency
NACAP	National Association of County Aging Programs - agency		
NACBHD	National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors - agency		

NACIRO	National Association of County Intergovernmental Relations Officials - agency	NAHCO	National Association of Hispanic County Officials - agency
NACITA	National Association of County Information Technology Administrators - agency	NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration - agency
NACo	National Association of Counties - agency	NATAT	National Association of Towns and Townships - agency
NACo FSC	National Association of Counties Financial Services Center - agency	NAVPLG	National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government - agency
NACP	National Association of County Planners - agency	NCCAE	National Council of County Association Executives - agency
NACPRO	National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials - agency	NCECE	National Council of Elected County Executives - agency
NACRC	National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks - agency	NCGA	National Council on Government Accounting - agency
NACS	National Association of County Surveyors - agency	NCRCO	National Conference of Republican County Officials - legislation
NACTFO	National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers - agency	NDCO	National Democratic County Officials - agency
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement - legislation	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act - legislation
		NFMA	National Forest Management Act - legislation

NHS	National Highway System – legislation (system)	NRDC	National Rural Development Council - agency
NII	National Information Infrastructure – legislation (program)	NRDP	National Rural Development Partnership - agency
NIMBY	Not In My Back Yard – legislation (program)	NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure - legislation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - agency	NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration - agency
NOBCO	National Organization of Black County Officials, Inc. - agency	NVRA	National Voter Registration Act (a.k.a. motor voter) - legislation
NOFA	Notice Of Funds Available - legislation	NWA	National Workforce Association - agency
NOI	Notice Of Intent - legislation		
NOPE	Nowhere On Planet Earth - legislation		
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System – legislation (system)	OAA	Older Americans Act - legislation
NPS	Nonpoint Sources - legislation	OALJ	Office of Administrative Law Judges - agency
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission or National Recycling Coalition - agency	OAS	Organization of American States - agency
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service - agency	OBEMLA	Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs - agency

O

OCS	Office of Community Services - agency	OMB	Office of Management and Budget - agency
OCSE	Office of Child Support Enforcement - agency	OPHS	Office of Public Health and Science - agency
OD	Organizational Development - legislation	ORHP	Office of Rural Health Policy - agency
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - agency	OSDBU	Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization - agency
OERI	Office of Educational Research and Improvement - agency	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act - legislation
OFA	Office of Family Assistance - agency	OVC	Office of Victims of Crime - agency
OIG	Office of the Inspector General - agency	OWBO	Office of Women's Business Ownership - agency
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - agency	OWCP	Office of Workers' Compensation Programs - agency
OJP	Office of Justice Programs - agency		
OJT	On-the-Job Training – legislation (practice)	P2	Pollution Prevention - legislation
OLMS	Office of Labor Management Standards - agency	PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness - legislation
O/M	Operations/ Maintenance - legislation	PALS	Program for Address List Supplementation - legislation

P

PC Personal Computer or Politically Correct - legislation

PEPNET Promising and Effective Practices Network – legislation (program)

PERS Public Employee Retirement System - legislation

PHA Public Housing Authority - agency

PHS Public Health Service - legislation

PILT Payment In-Lieu of Taxes - legislation

PIO Public Information Officer – agency (single representative)

PMS Pavement Management System - legislation

POTW Publicly Owned Treatment Works – legislation (program)

PPO Preferred Provider Organization – agency (type of agency)

PRIA Public Rangelands Improvement Act - legislation

PRP Potentially Responsible Party - legislation

PSA Planning and Service Area or Public Service Announcement - legislation

PSE Public Service Employment - legislation

PUD Planned Urban Development - legislation

PY Program Year - legislation

R

RAC Rural Action Caucus - agency

RACT Reasonably Available Control Technology - legislation

RAN Revenue Anticipation Note - legislation

RATB The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board - agency

RAW Replenishment Agricultural Worker – agency (single representative)

RCF Residential Care Facility – legislation (program)

RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act - legislation	RZEDBs	Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds - program
RECD	Rural Economic and Community Development - legislation		
RFA	Request For Agreement - legislation	SAM	State Association Meeting - legislation
RFI	Request For Information - legislation	SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act - legislation
RFP	Request For Proposal - legislation	SAS	Substance Abuse Services - legislation
RFQ	Request For Qualifications - legislation	SAW	Seasonal Agricultural Worker – agency (single representative)
RHS	Rural Housing Service - legislation	SD	Sustainable Development - legislation
RICHS	Rural Information Center Health Service - legislation	SDA	Service Delivery Area - legislation
RIF	Reduction In Force - legislation	SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act - legislation
RLF	Revolving Loan Fund - legislation	SES	Socio-Economic Status - legislation
RRTF	Rural Renaissance Task Force - agency	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office - agency
RSVP	Retired and Senior Volunteer Program - legislation	SIP	State Implementation Plan - legislation
RUS	Rural Utilities Service - legislation		

S

SLAPP	Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation - legislation	TDR	Transfer of Development Rights - legislation
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility – legislation (program)	TEA21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century - legislation
SRDC	State Rural Development Council - agency	TEL	Tax or Expenditure Limitation – legislation
SRF	State Revolving Fund - legislation	TIF	Tax Increment Financing - legislation
SSBG	Social Services Block Grant - legislation	TIGER	Topographically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing - legislation
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance - legislation	TIGER	Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grants – program
SSI	Supplemental Security Income - legislation	TIP	TIGER Improvement Program – legislation (program)
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow - legislation	TISE	Take It Somewhere Else - legislation
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease – legislation	TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Loads - legislation
T			
TAN	Tax Anticipation Note - legislation	TOD	Transit Oriented Development - legislation
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families – legislation (service)	TPS	Temporary Protected Status - legislation
TDD	Telephone Device for the Deaf - legislation	TQM	Total Quality Management - legislation

TSI	Transportation Safety Institute - agency	USGS	United States Geological Survey - agency
TRAN	Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note - legislation	UST	Underground Storage Tank - legislation
TRI	Toxic Release Inventory - legislation		
TTY	Telecommunications Device for the Deaf - legislation	VA	Department of Veterans Affairs - legislation

U

UC	Unemployment Compensation - legislation	VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration - agency
URL	Uniform Resource Locators - legislation	VDT	Video Display Terminal - legislation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture - agency	VETS	Veterans' Employment and Training Service - legislation
USDA-	United States Department of Agriculture - agency	VHA	Veterans Health Administration - agency
CSREES	Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension - agency	VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled - legislation
USDA-REE	United States Department of Agriculture - Research, Education and Economics - agency		

W

WAN	Wide Area Network - legislation
WARN	Worker Readjustment and Retraining Notification - legislation

WB	Women's Bureau - agency	WIR	Western Interstate Region - legislation
WBE	Women Business Enterprise – legislation (program)	WON	Women Officials in NACo - agency
WIA	Workforce Investment Act - legislation	WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program - legislation
WIB	Workforce Investment Board - agency	WTE	Waste to Energy - legislation
WIC	Women, Infants and Children Program - legislation	WWW	World Wide Web - legislation
WIN	Women In Nutrition - legislation	YTD	Year To Date - legislation

Y

Need a definition of an acronym not included in this guide? Search the online acronym and abbreviation database at www.AcronymFinder.com.



25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW / Suite 500 / Washington, DC 20001
202.393.6226 / fax 202.393.2630 / www.naco.org