



broadband association of north dakota

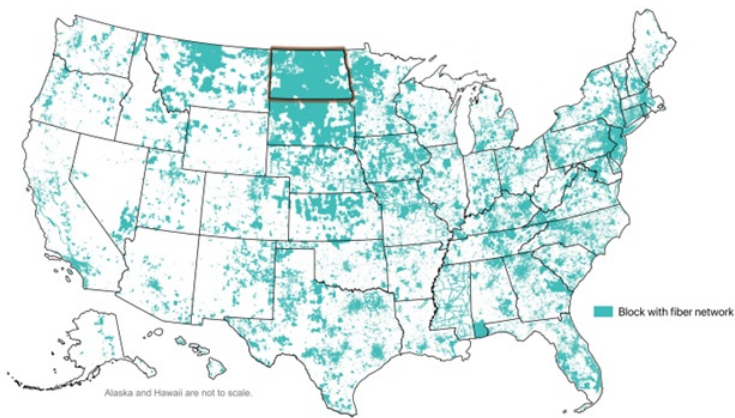
BAND Together Newsletter

Executive Director Report: BAND's Commitment to Fiber for Rural ND

As broadband takes center stage in today's economic and political climate, BAND and its members remain steadfast in delivering fiber internet to rural North Dakotans. Our focus on fiber isn't just a choice—it's a necessity for a state that powers the nation's energy and agriculture sectors. With 99% of North Dakotans already enjoying high-speed wireline broadband, our locally owned providers have invested millions, leveraging USDA loans and Universal Service Fund (USF) support to transform copper lines into a robust fiber network over the past two decades.

Access to Fiber Networks

By Census Blocks (June 2019)



Data: FCC Form-477 June 2019
By Omri Razafindrabe | Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Fiber's unmatched speed—up to 1 Gbps and beyond—and reliability make it the backbone of modern life, supporting remote work, education, and innovation. It's future-proof, ready for emerging demands like 8K streaming and smart technologies, ensuring rural communities thrive in a digital economy. While satellite options exist, BAND's mission prioritizes fiber's low-latency, high-capacity advantages, built by providers who understand North Dakota's unique needs. In a sparse landscape where competition is scarce, USF-backed fiber investments keep connectivity affordable and accessible. We're close to connecting every resident—and we won't stop until we do.

BAND Member Spotlight: NCC

NCC's Expansion with Acquisition of ND Assets from Neighboring MT Coop is a Win for All in Northwest ND

BAND member [Northwest Communications Cooperative](#) (NCC), has successfully acquired the North Dakota wired telecom assets from Montana-based Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Nemont), bringing NCC's 100% fiber-to-the-home services to new communities in northwest North Dakota. Finalized following FCC approval in February 2025, this acquisition marks an exciting chapter for NCC and—most importantly—the customers in Williston, Trenton, Fortuna, Ambrose, and East Westby.

A Positive Step for All Involved

For NCC, the acquisition was an opportunity to grow its footprint and bring its cutting-edge

network to more homes and businesses. As a cooperative, owned by its members, NCC's expansion strengthens its mission to deliver reliable, high-speed internet and communication services tailored to rural needs. "We're thrilled to welcome these communities into the NCC family," said [Jeremy Becker](#), CEO of NCC. "This is a chance to deepen our impact and showcase what hyper-local, fiber-powered service can do."

Why It's Great for North Dakota Customers

The benefits are crystal clear for residents and businesses in the acquired areas. NCC's expansion of its fiber infrastructure means lightning-fast internet speeds, unmatched reliability, and future-proof connectivity—perfect for everything from remote work and streaming to smart home innovations. This acquisition also brings service closer to home. With NCC's headquarters in Ray, North Dakota, and an office in Williston, customers gain a provider that understands their unique needs and is committed to personalized support. "Being hyper-local is our strength," Becker added. "We're not just a service provider—we're neighbors investing in our region's future."

A Bright Future Ahead

As NCC integrates these new communities, customers can expect a smooth transition backed by clear communication and dedicated support. The cooperative's track record of excellence, paired with Nemont's legacy of care, sets the stage for a seamless shift to NCC's fiber-powered services. The acquisition is more than a business deal—it's a celebration of collaboration and progress. Nemont's trust in NCC ensures continuity for its former customers, while NCC's growth promises innovation and opportunity. Most of all, it's a win for the people of Williston, Trenton, Fortuna, Ambrose, and East Westby, who now have a 100% fiber cooperative in their corner, ready to connect them to the world like never before.

From Rural Roots to Fiber Future: NCC's Journey of Connection

Roots in Rural Resilience

NCC was born in 1951 out of a grassroots effort to bring reliable telephone service to northwest ND.

Pioneering Fiber Optics

In 1985, NCC became the first telephone company in ND and the first U.S. REA borrower to operate a single-mode fiber optic cable system.

Wireless Trailblazer

In 1990, they became the first U.S. tel. co. to own and operate a wireless cable TV system.

100% Fiber Future

By 2020, NCC completed an ambitious fiber build-out, bringing state-of-the-art, fiber-to-the-home service to every corner of their service area.

Community Heartbeat

Beyond tech, NCC is woven into the fabric of its communities. They participate in community organizations, donate to good causes, and help sponsor local events, while offering scholarships and grants.

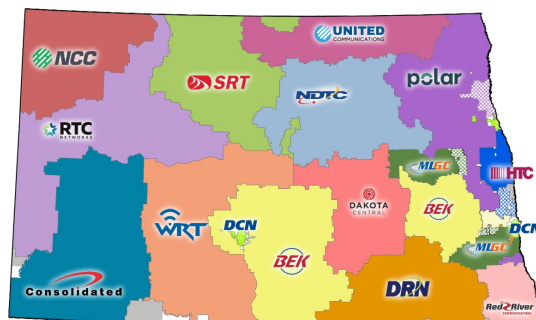
Growing Footprint

Now, NCC is expanding by acquiring Nemont's ND wired assets – highlighting their focus on staying hyper-local and keeping service close to home.

BAND 101

The Broadband Association of North Dakota (BAND) is a trade association made up of 15 rural internet service providers and a statewide network provider in North Dakota.

[Learn More](#)



Upcoming Events

April 27-29
NTCA Legislative and Policy Conference
(Washington, DC)

Get in Touch &
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**Carissa Swenson,
Executive Director**

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