

50 Projects – 50 States: North Dakota

NMTC Allocatee

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Community Profile

- 31.1% poverty rate
- 7.7% unemployment rate



Project Highlights

- Non Real Estate: wireless towers
- Total Project Cost: \$14 million
- NMTC: \$10 million
- Investor: US Bank
- Jobs: 11 new high-paying jobs

Standing Rock Telecommunications

Fort Yates, ND

Standing Rock Telecommunications is a 100% tribally owned telecommunications company that constructed a wireless telecommunications system in Fort Yates, North Dakota. Through the use of New Markets Tax Credits (NMTCs), Standing Rock Sioux Tribe was able to fill a budget gap and expedite the construction of this highly-needed reliable telecommunications system, which will be in place in spring 2009. The CDE, Dakotas America LLC provided a \$10 million NMTC loan for this project to Standing Rock Telecommunications.

In the heart of 2.3 million acres of Native American reservation land spanning two counties in both North and South Dakota, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will use the 13 newly-constructed wireless towers to provide phone and internet service to customers on the reservation and outlying areas. The system will serve a population of 8,200 and offer much improved telecommunications service at a lower price than what is currently available.

By keeping services locally-owned, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sustains its mission of “promoting an environment for the self sufficiency of all tribal members”.

Currently, Standing Rock’s major economic occupations are cattle ranching and farming, and the operation of two casinos. The telecommunications network will provide a foundation for additional jobs in new businesses that could otherwise not exist without cellular and broadband service such as call centers, small technology firms and light manufacturing. The project will also create a new form of sales tax that will be used by the Tribe to fund other infrastructure projects and create more jobs.

This new communication infrastructure will also help to provide better health care services to the people of Standing Rock. Previously phone service had limited access for on-reservation phone calls including emergency calls to local fire, ambulance, police or hospitals. With the new, locally-owned telecommunications system, the health, safety, and economic well being of Standing Rock’s residents will be improved.