



Newsletter



FirstNet is committed to growing coverage in rural, tribal communities — specifically for public safety

Expanding rural and tribal coverage is a priority for FirstNet – the only communications tool dedicated to providing prioritized connectivity to those who risk everything. FirstNet is committed to helping first responders by providing communications that help make their jobs simpler, safer, faster and more effective.

FirstNet will increase the ability of first responders in rural and tribal communities to access the voice, data, and video services they need to improve collaboration and communication, including:

- Reliable access to high-speed data so rural and tribal law enforcement agencies have the information they need at their fingertips

- Interoperability between FirstNet subscribers within different public safety agencies and jurisdictions
- Deployable assets for firefighters battling blazes in remote locations
- Connectivity to give EMS the telemedicine tools they need when transporting patients long distances
- A dedicated IP core with priority and, for primary users, preemption capabilities
- Specially trained and dedicated 24/7 security and helpdesk operations
- A highly secure app ecosystem
- Network disaster recovery resources

Carrie Johnson, who works with rural and tribal communities as a member of the FirstNet Program at AT&T, is excited to "be part of the solution.

"Getting to work with rural and tribal communities, identifying their coverage challenges and getting to elevate their needs and priorities," says Carrie. "This is public safety's network, and it's essential the network and solutions meet public safety's needs — when and where they need it."



SPOTLIGHT PROFILE

Carrie Johnson

Advocating for first responders in rural, tribal areas is a life-long passion for Carrie Johnson

Commitment to a reliable telecommunications infrastructure drives her work with the FirstNet Program at AT&T

Carrie Johnson learned at an early age the importance of reliable communications. She grew up in a rural community in South Dakota. Both her parents and grandfather worked for the Indian Health Service. And she witnessed firsthand the challenges people in rural and tribal communities face when living far from the nearest hospital and with limited access to reliable communications.

"It definitely left me with a strong passion and commitment to rural and tribal economic development," says Carrie, who is now a member of the FirstNet Program team at AT&T. "A reliable telecommunications infrastructure is one of the essential components for economic development. To take advantage of healthcare and educational capabilities, having connectivity is vital."

For first responders in rural and tribal communities, having reliable communications is critical, she says. And that's exactly why she signed on to work with the FirstNet Program.

Read the full story

Brazos County officials talk about their FirstNet experience

Brazos County, Texas, is home to a tight-knit rural community and an SEC football culture that brings in over 100,000 fans on game days. See how FirstNet will help to keep priority for those who need it most – in every surge and situation. And see how this game-changing technology is transforming operations for first responders.

- [When Seconds Count: A Story of FirstNet Impact](#)
- [Tested & Trusted: A Story of FirstNet Adoption](#)

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