



Newsletter

Thursday, February 15, 2018



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.

"Rural officers often cover huge swaths of area, with back-up far away," she says. "Being able to have that connectivity is important for them and their safety. Technology has the capability to help bridge some of that gap."

This is also key for telemedicine, she says.

"Rural officers are often in the unique position to provide the first response," she says. "So, having a medical professional within reach could make the difference between life and death."

Experience

Carrie has a deep background in rural and tribal economic development and broadband issues. She worked for a regional broadband provider serving South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, before joining AT&T. She spent six years working in the U.S. Senate on telecom, cybersecurity, and rural and tribal public policy issues. And she pushed for strong rural coverage objectives in the legislation that created FirstNet.

Next month, Carrie will be recognized at the International Wireless Communications Expo with the IWCE Young Professionals Award for her contributions to the communications technology industry.

"When the FirstNet bill was being considered and working its way through Congress, I had the opportunity to sit down with first responders and hear from them about the need for FirstNet.," Carrie says.

Since March 2017 – when AT&T was awarded the contract – Carrie and other representatives from the FirstNet Program at AT&T have attended more than 50 tribal meetings across the country. This includes more than 10 national and regional tribal conferences. Tribal outreach is scheduled throughout 2018 to give more tribes an opportunity to learn about FirstNet and share their feedback.

"It's important to understand the needs and priorities of first responders serving rural and tribal communities," says Carrie. This feedback from public safety and other leaders on the ground is shaping the design of the FirstNet platform and applications being developed to equip police, fire and EMS with new tools they can use in the field.

With all 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia already opted in to FirstNet, Carrie's work continues in earnest.

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](#)

Subscribe to our [FirstNet YouTube channel](#) and get notifications with the latest content.

[View in your browser](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Manage Subscription](#)

DO NOT REPLY

FirstNet services and FirstNet customer care are provided by AT&T

AT&T 208 South Akard Street, Dallas, TX 75202
©2018 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved.

FirstNet, and the FirstNet logo are registered trademarks and service marks of FirstNet, an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.