



FirstNet Authority Basics

The First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet Authority, is the federal entity charged with overseeing the building, deployment, operation, and evolution of the FirstNet network.

FirstNet is a nationwide wireless broadband network designed for and dedicated to public safety. It is deployed through a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership between the federal government and AT&T. FirstNet offers first responders a state-of-the-art communications network built to meet their operational and technical needs.

This network helps them save lives and protect communities.

The FirstNet Authority was established in light of September 11, 2001, and charged with overseeing the creation and evolution of a nationwide broadband network for first responders.

Quick Facts:

- The FirstNet network is available in all 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The FirstNet ecosystem includes apps, devices, and mission-critical capabilities that are innovative, reliable, interoperable, and secure. In just five years, FirstNet was built out to cover nearly 3 million square miles across the nation, including in rural and remote regions.
- The FirstNet Authority has a unique business model that enables it to direct up to \$18 billion in investments over 25 years for improving and evolving the network. Informed by public safety's needs and feedback, investments made to date include transitioning the network to 5G, expanding the FirstNet deployables fleet, improving in-building coverage in public safety facilities, expanding coverage, and enhancing mission-critical services.
- Taxpayer dollars are not spent on our annual operations budget, or our reinvestments. Our legislation required that we be self-sustaining financially — and that is how we have always operated.
- First responders use the FirstNet network for day-to-day operations, planned events, major incidents, and response to natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes.

Media Contacts

Ryan Oremland

Ryan.Oremland@FirstNet.gov
M: 202-770-5761

Candice Appiakorang

Candice.Appiakorang@FirstNet.gov
M: 202-510-7505

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