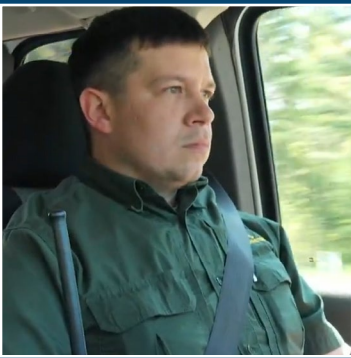




Tribes and FirstNet: Frequently Asked Questions



WHAT IS THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY?

The First Responder Network Authority, or the FirstNet Authority, is the independent authority established by Congress to deliver a nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety. The network is strengthening public safety users' communications capabilities, enabling them to respond more quickly and effectively to accidents, disasters, and emergencies.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks brought to the forefront the many communications challenges that first responders face during emergencies and disasters. In the years after September 11, the public safety community worked diligently to urge Congress to pass legislation establishing a single network for all public safety agencies to communicate on nationwide. Their advocacy efforts led to the passage of legislation in 2012 to create the FirstNet Authority to deploy the network in all U.S. states and territories, including rural communities and tribal nations.

How will FirstNet help my tribe?

FirstNet provides enhanced broadband communications services for public safety entities to help make your community safer – and help protect those who risk their lives in service to others, who safeguard sacred sites, and who watch over our natural resources. FirstNet enables responders across the country to communicate securely and reliably with one another. This communication includes vital data, such as photographs and video, real-time patient medical information, arrest records, floor plans, and maps. Improved spoken communications and data exchange will change how public safety functions.

Does the FirstNet Authority have a Tribal Consultation Policy?

Yes, the FirstNet Authority developed its **Tribal Consultation Policy** with input from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Tribal Working Group (TWG). The policy is periodically reviewed and updated. The current version of the policy can be accessed at [FirstNet.gov/Tribal](https://www.firstnet.gov/Tribal).

How do tribes request cultural/environmental consultation?

Requests for NEPA/NHPA tribal consultation may be initiated by various means: in-person, telephonically, via email, or written letter. Contact FirstNet Authority Environmental Protection Specialist Andrew Bielakowski at andrew.bielakowski@firstnet.gov or +1 202 657 7982 or visit [firstnet.gov/network/environmental-compliance](https://www.firstnet.gov/network/environmental-compliance).

How do tribes initiate nation to nation consultation with FirstNet?

Requests for Tribal Consultation may be initiated by various means: in-person, telephonically, via email, or written letter. **Specific guidance** can be accessed at [FirstNet.gov/Tribal](https://www.firstnet.gov/Tribal), or you can contact us at tribal.consultation@firstnet.gov.

How much does FirstNet cost?

The cost of FirstNet devices and services is competitive with commercial carriers. Since no public safety entity is required to use FirstNet, it is necessary to demonstrate value to earn customers. Current pricing is reflected at www.firstnet.com/plans.

Will my tribe have FirstNet Network coverage?

The FirstNet Authority is committed to ensuring that the network meets public safety's needs across the country, including on tribal lands. It is critical for tribal public safety to identify and communicate coverage needs to the FirstNet Authority and our private sector partner, AT&T. While we are currently under a 5-year build contract there may be future opportunities for investment and expansion for tribal coverage over the proceeding 20 years via lease payments received by the authority from our partner, AT&T.

Will FirstNet use my existing infrastructure?

Tribes can discuss utilizing existing infrastructure with the FirstNet Authority's private sector partner, AT&T, who is responsible for deploying, operating, and maintaining the network.

Will FirstNet build towers on tribal land?

Yes, while adhering to NEPA/NHPA reviews and respecting the sovereignty of federally recognized tribes. Infrastructure buildout will be influenced by public safety need, legislatively and contractually mandated rural buildout milestones, and existence of telecommunications infrastructure. Requests for additional information on FirstNet infrastructure can be directed to the FirstNet Authority's private sector partner, AT&T.

Are there business possibilities for participating in FirstNet?

A nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety is a multi-billion dollar venture demanding expertise in many NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) codes. More information about business opportunities related to FirstNet can be found at [firstnet.gov/doing-business](https://www.firstnet.gov/doing-business).

Must my tribe waive its sovereignty to access the FirstNet Network?

No. For more information about FirstNet coverage, services, and eligibility, tribes can access [FirstNet.com](https://www.firstnet.com) and contact the FirstNet Authority's private sector partner, AT&T.

Will the FirstNet Network enhance my casino's security?

The FirstNet Network provides enhanced and secure broadband communications services and capabilities to public safety users, including law enforcement/security personnel in all operational and response environments.

Where can I find additional information or assistance?

For the FirstNet Tribal Team contact the National Tribal Government Liaisons Adam Geisler at adam.geisler@firstnet.gov or 202-631-1188 or Margaret Gutierrez at Margaret.gutierrez@firstnet.gov or 202-738-8344.

- For more information about FirstNet on tribal lands, see [FirstNet.gov/Tribal](https://www.firstnet.gov/Tribal).
- For more information about the future of the FirstNet Network, see [FirstNet.gov/Roadmap](https://www.firstnet.gov/Roadmap).
- For news about the FirstNet Authority and Network, see [FirstNet.gov/Newsroom](https://www.firstnet.gov/Newsroom).