



Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Rural Wireless Broadband for Public Safety

Goal Leaders:

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Overview

Goal Statement

The Department of Commerce will increase the public's safety by providing first responders with access to a nationwide wireless broadband network. By September 30, 2020*, the Department's FirstNet solution will allow the public safety community to serve an additional 8.9 million people within the rural population** by providing coverage reaching 55% of the entire rural population. By September 30, 2021, the Department will ensure the FirstNet Solution will provide coverage reaching 60% of the entire rural population. As of September 2019, the FirstNet solution allows the public safety community to serve ~45% of the rural population, or ~23 million of the ~51 million people who constitute the Nation's rural population.

Challenge

- Limited wireless broadband coverage in rural areas (i.e., commercially unviable areas) may significantly impact the public safety community's ability to effectively respond to incidents to save lives and protect property.

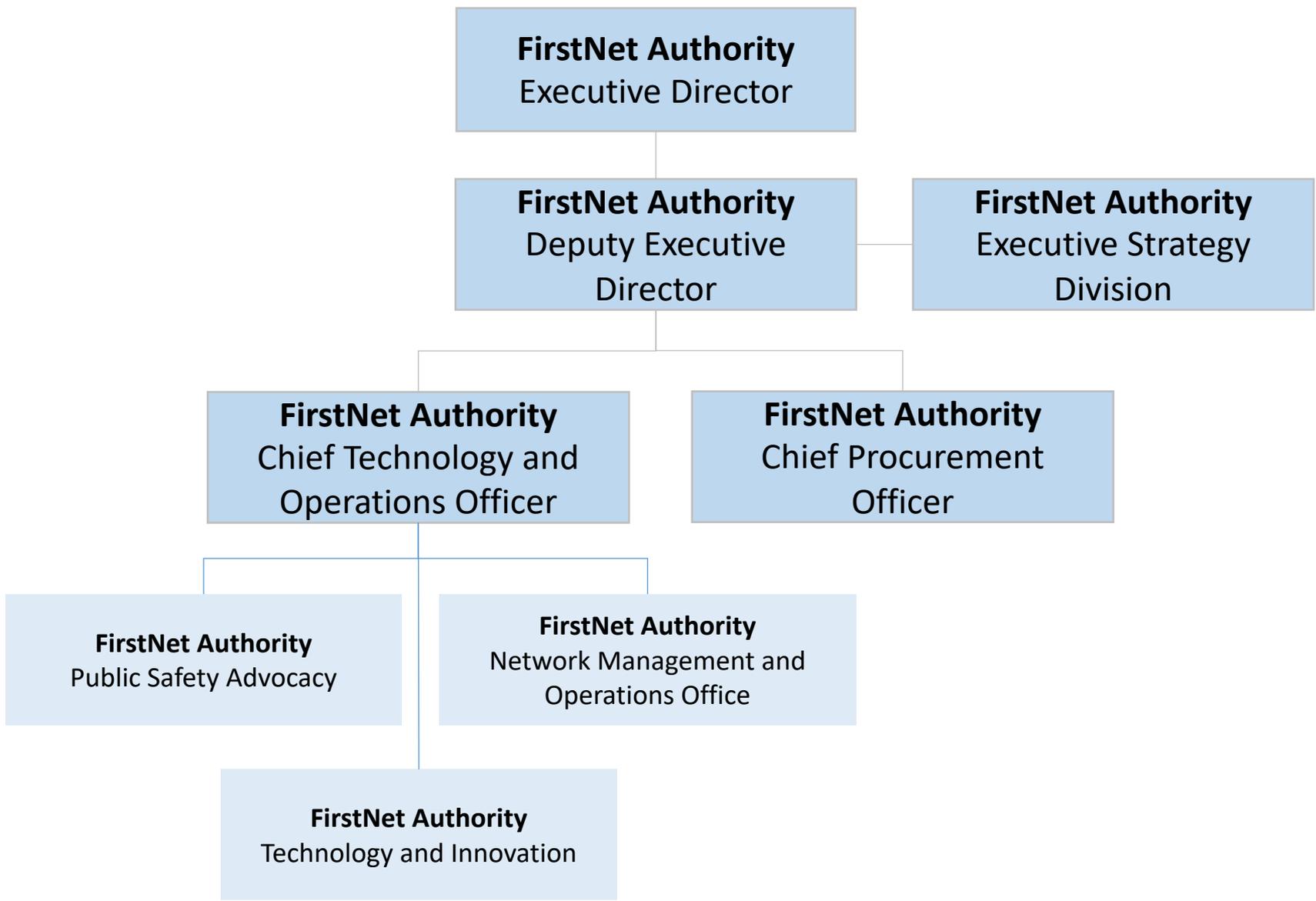
Opportunity

- Create a dedicated and differentiated broadband communications experience that transforms public safety operations to save lives.
- Increase and improve wireless broadband coverage available to public safety users to provide the public safety community with enhanced capabilities in rural areas, as well as make available improved wireless access in rural areas for the general public.
- Help increase situational awareness; lead to faster, more efficient response times; and better equip the public safety community with modern technology to save lives and protect communities more effectively.

*Reporting for this APG will lag by one quarter because the FirstNet Authority must review and validate coverage before reporting.

**This APG uses the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definition of rural and the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census Data. OMB designates counties as Metropolitan, Micropolitan, or Neither. A Metro area contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population, and a Micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000, but less than 50,000, population. All counties that are not part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) are considered rural. Micropolitan counties are considered non-Metropolitan or rural along with all counties that are not classified as either Metro or Micro.

Leadership & Implementation Team



Goal Structure & Strategies

Verify AT&T's delivery of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), including rural areas, to ensure the public safety community receives enhanced communications capabilities.

- Maintain strong contract management and oversight to validate AT&T's contractual obligations and ensure that public safety is receiving quality NPSBN services.
- Analyze network deployment completion with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) definition of rural population using the U.S. Census Bureau data.

Note: The FirstNet Authority contracted with AT&T for the deployment, maintenance, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network in all 50 states, five territories, and Washington DC.

Summary of Progress – FY 20 Q1 & Q2

Overall Progress:

FY19 Baseline

- The FirstNet Authority received AT&T's FY19 Q4 coverage-related deliverables on time.
- The FirstNet Authority conducted detailed review and analysis of the coverage-related deliverables to validate the coverage between July – September 2019.
- The FirstNet Authority analyzed the coverage data and determined that at the end of FY19 Q4 the wireless broadband network covered 45.5% of the rural population, which is approximately 23.3 million people. The FY19 Q4 actual is higher than the planned target, as such, the FirstNet Authority increased its FY20 quarterly targets.

FY20 Q1

- The FirstNet Authority conducted detailed review and analysis of the coverage-related deliverables to validate the coverage between October – December 2019.
- The FirstNet Authority analyzed the coverage data and determined that in FY20 Q1 the wireless broadband network covered an additional 4.5% of the rural population, which is approximately an additional 2.2 million people. The total rural population covered at the end of FY20 Q1 is 50%, which is approximately 25.6 million people.

FY20 Q2

- The FirstNet Authority received AT&T's coverage-related deliverables for the FY20 Q2 targets and the FirstNet Authority is in the process of analyzing the FY20 Q2 coverage information.
- The FirstNet Authority expects to report FY20 Q2 target information by August 2020.

Key Milestones

Verify AT&T's delivery of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), including rural areas, to ensure the public safety community receives enhanced communications capabilities.

Milestone Summary			
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Receive AT&T's coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Oct 31, 2019	Completed	
Review and validate AT&T's coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Dec 2019	Completed	
Use the validated data to determine the FY19 baseline of rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB's rural definition	Feb 2020	Completed	
Receive AT&T's FY20 Q1 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Jan 31, 2020	Completed	
Review and validate AT&T's coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Mar 2020	Completed	
Use the validated data to determine the FY20 Q1 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB's rural definition	May 2020	Completed	
Receive AT&T's FY20 Q2 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Apr 30, 2020	In Progress	
Review and validate AT&T's coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Jun 2020		
Use the validated data to determine the FY20 Q2 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB's rural definition	Aug 2020		

Key Milestones (continued)

Verify AT&T's delivery of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), including rural areas, to ensure the public safety community receives enhanced communications capabilities.

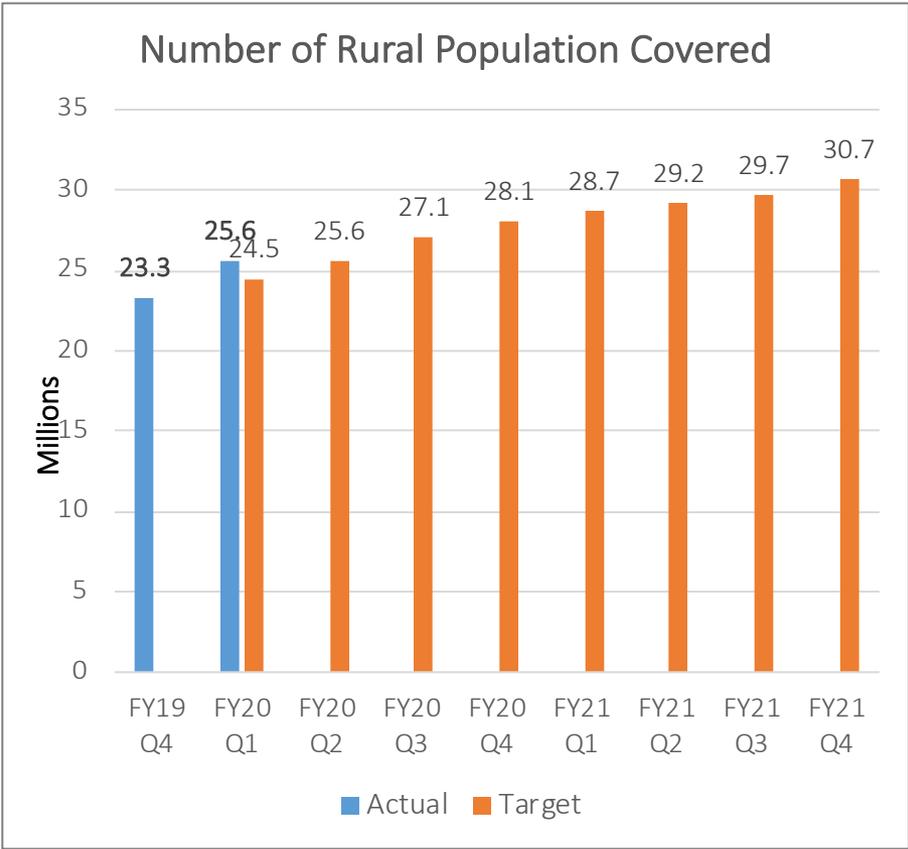
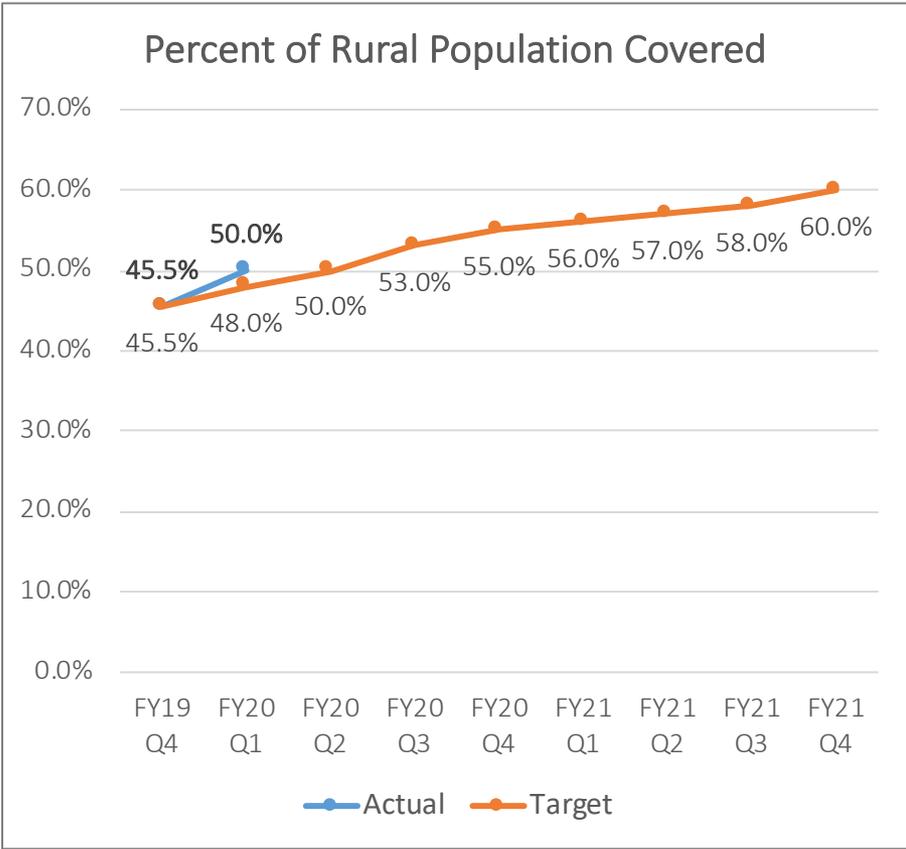
Milestone Summary			
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Receive AT&T's FY20 Q3 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Jul 31, 2020		
Review and validate AT&T's coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Sept 2020		
Use the validated data to determine the FY20 Q3 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB's rural definition	Nov 2020		
Receive AT&T's FY20 Q4 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Oct 31, 2020		
Review and validate AT&T's coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Dec 2020		
Use the validated data to determine the FY20 Q4 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB's rural definition	Feb 2021		
Receive AT&T's FY21 Q1 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Jan 31, 2021		
Review and validate AT&T's coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Mar 2021		
Use the validated data to determine the FY21 Q1 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB's rural definition	May 2021		

Key Milestones (continued)

Verify AT&T’s delivery of the FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), including rural areas, to ensure the public safety community receives enhanced communications capabilities.

Milestone Summary			
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Comments
Receive AT&T’s FY21 Q2 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Apr 30, 2021		
Review and validate AT&T’s coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Jun 2021		
Use the validated data to determine the FY21 Q2 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB’s rural definition	Aug 2021		
Receive AT&T’s FY21 Q3 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Jul 31, 2021		
Review and validate AT&T’s coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Sept 2021		
Use the validated data to determine the FY21 Q3 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB’s rural definition	Nov 2021		
Receive AT&T’s FY21 Q4 coverage deliverables (e.g., maps, site build information) for review and validation	Oct 31, 2021		
Review and validate AT&T’s coverage data to ensure AT&T meets expectations as agreed upon in the NPSBN contract by reviewing coverage and detailed network data provided through various deliverables that demonstrate the status of coverage being provided and comparing it to the coverage requirement. This allows the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of network performance	Dec 2021		
Use the validated data to determine the FY21 Q4 rural population covered by overlaying validated coverage over rural census tracts based on OMB’s rural definition	Feb 2022		

Key Indicators



*Reporting for this APG will lag by one quarter because the FirstNet Authority must review and validate coverage before reporting.

**This APG is a two year goal. The FirstNet Authority will continue to deploy the FirstNet Solution and provide additional coverage beyond 2021.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

- Long term evolution (LTE) network configurations are dynamic and require ongoing monitoring and maintenance.
- The FirstNet Authority subject matter experts (SMEs) validate coverage against the NPSBN contract coverage requirements.
- The data provided through deliverables allow the FirstNet Authority to execute meaningful oversight of NPSBN coverage and performance.
- The FirstNet Authority will use verified coverage data to analyze and overlay with OMB's definition of rural areas and U.S. Census Bureau data to determine rural population covered.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- Federal Board Members (OMB, DHS, DOJ) – Provides input and recommendations through Board engagements.
- DOC, NTIA – Provides input and recommendations through regular and frequent meetings; conduct oversight audits of the Program.

Program Activities:

- Network Management and Operations Office – Implements the APG for the organization and manages the NPSBN contract.
- Chief Procurement Office – Administers the NPSBN contract and supports contract validation and verification activities.
- Public Safety Advocacy – Receives public safety community feedback and impact in rural areas.
- Technology and Innovation – Provides subject matter expertise on process used to validate data accuracy and reliability.
- Enterprise Strategy Division – Oversees the development and reporting of the APG within the FirstNet Authority and with NTIA and DOC.

Legislation:

- The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority to ensure the establishment of the NPSBN, which provides first responders with communications services they need to save lives and protect U.S. communities.

Other Federal Activities:

- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – Provides the definition for rural.
- U.S. Census Bureau – Provides 2010 Census data to determine rural population.
- USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), FCC Universal Service, NTIA Broadband USA – Lead other federal programs to increase wired broadband access to rural areas and populations.

Additional Information

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

Congress:

- The FirstNet Authority is subject to oversight from the Senate Commerce Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee. The FirstNet Authority engages with these committees to keep them apprised of our progress. FirstNet also cooperates with the Government Accountability Office as they conduct oversight audits of the program.

Public Safety Community:

- The FirstNet Authority engages with the public safety community on a regular basis to obtain and assess operational needs, as well as obtain feedback on the FirstNet Network.