



News Release

AT&T Invests Nearly \$200 Million Over Three-Year Period to Connect Local Customers in West Virginia

Charleston, W.Va, June, 11, 2021- [AT&T*](#) is proud to connect customers across the country by continuing to grow the nation's best network¹. From 2018-2020, we expanded coverage and improved connectivity in more communities by investing nearly \$200 million in our wireless network in West Virginia.

AT&T's commitment to communities across the country continues and spans all layers of our network—from fiber to 5G to [FirstNet®](#). These investments are essential to connecting our customers with their family, friends and colleagues by increasing the network's speed, reliability, coverage and overall performance.

We recently announced that AT&T will invest \$2 billion over the next 3 years to help address the digital divide nationwide. AT&T further improved critical communications for West Virginia's first responders and improved public safety with [FirstNet®](#) – America's public safety network.

"From connecting family and loved ones to helping first responders during a crisis, AT&T is committed to investing in West Virginia to build state-of-the-art infrastructure that will keep people connected," said AT&T West Virginia State President, Andy Feeney. "By continuing to improve our network at the state and local levels, we are helping businesses grow in West Virginia helping to ensure that our customers and communities stay connected throughout the country."

More details about our wireless coverage in West Virginia and anywhere in the U.S., can be found on the [AT&T Coverage Viewer](#). For updates on the AT&T wireless network, please visit the [AT&T network news page](#).

FirstNet: Dedicated to America's First Responders

We are committed to improving public safety infrastructure. As a part of that commitment, we have invested and built FirstNet in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) – an independent agency within the federal government. FirstNet is the *only* nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built for America's first responders and the extended public safety community.

- **Expanding to serve:** FirstNet focuses on where first responders need connectivity. We've moved quickly to deliver more coverage, boost capacity and drive new capabilities for first responders. Using all AT&T LTE commercial spectrum as well as high-quality Band 14 spectrum, FirstNet covers [2.71 million square miles nationwide](#). And we're actively extending the reach of FirstNet in West Virginia to give agencies large and small the reliable, unthrottled connectivity and modern communications tools they require.
- **First responder-centric 5G:** FirstNet subscribers in parts of 38 cities and more than 20 venues now have access to AT&T 5G+. Our [approach to 5G](#) for public safety is unlike anything else. We've upgraded the dedicated FirstNet network core to enable 5G connectivity that is being built to intuitively optimize the experience for America's first



responders. First responders maintain voice communications with *always-on* priority and preemption on LTE, while the FirstNet network determines the best route for data traffic with compatible devices, whether that's 5G+ or LTE spectrum.

The FirstNet network is providing West Virginia public safety with truly dedicated coverage and capacity when they need. These advanced capabilities enable FirstNet to help fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel save lives and protect their communities.

Our commitment to West Virginia

In addition to the programs mentioned above, AT&T's commitment to West Virginia includes its [Believe Appalachia initiative](#), offering programs such as:

- **Support for Foodbanks:** Recognizing the extra need created by the COVID-19 crisis, AT&T stepped up to provide much needed support for two West Virginia Food Banks to provide 205,000 meals for West Virginians in need of support during these challenging times.
- **Operation Gratitude Shows Support for Huntington Police:** AT&T employees wrote over 100 thank you cards and created individualized paracord bracelets for each officer in the Huntington police department as part of its AT&T Believes at Home initiative. The AT&T Believes at Home program was designed to allow AT&T employees to support their communities during the COVID-10 pandemic by completing at-home project kits to show support for those whose jobs and lives have been made harder because of the pandemic.
- **Wellness Center for Huntington Police:** The extra challenges caused by the opioid crisis have made a tough job even tougher for West Virginia's first responders. That's why we were so pleased to donate \$20,000 to the city of Huntington to construct and furnish a wellness center for the exclusive use of first responders. The wellness center will be used by officers and firefighters to provide training in self-care, physical fitness and mental health resources.
- **Removal of Nuisance Properties:** When we asked first responders what we could do to support them in their fight against the opioid addiction crisis they had a surprising answer – “help us tear down these abandoned properties.” Such properties serve as places to sell and use drugs, cause fires, and lower property values in the community. Building on our successful effort in Huntington last year, where we tore down three abandoned structures, AT&T donated \$32,000 to the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to tear down an additional four houses in the city of Charleston.
- **Mattresses for Firefighters:** AT&T made an \$11,000 donation to purchase 32 new mattresses for Huntington fire stations and \$8,000 for fire stations in the city of Charleston. Joe Blake, an engineer at the Huntington Fire Department said, “Sleeping is a life-or-death situation. If I'm not rested and I wake up, I pull out of here and turn left when I'm supposed to turn right, those two minutes, even 30 seconds, it takes to get back around the right way could mean life or death for somebody in that house.”

FirstNet and the FirstNet logo are registered trademarks and service marks of the First Responder Network Authority. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

¹ GWS awarded AT&T Best Network OneScore 2020. GWS conducts drive tests for AT&T and uses the data in its OneScore analysis.



***About AT&T Communications**

We help family, friends and neighbors connect in meaningful ways every day. From the first phone call 140+ years ago to mobile video streaming, we @ATT innovate to improve lives. AT&T Communications is part of AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T). For more information, please visit us at att.com.

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