



NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY
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***NTUA Wireless:
A New Wireless Communications Company
Serving the Navajo Nation***

On April 1 2011, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), along with its communications partner Commnet Wireless, LLC (Commnet) created NTUA Wireless, LLC (NTUA Wireless or NTUAW). NTUA Wireless is owned 51% by NTUA and 49% owned by Commnet.

NTUA Wireless is a wholesale and retail communications company, majority-owned by the Navajo people through NTUA, meant to serve the Navajo people and surrounding communities. NTUA Wireless was created to serve the communications needs of residents, businesses, and government and provide much needed local technical and sales jobs. NTUA Wireless focuses on servicing the unserved and underserved areas of the Navajo Nation by providing affordable voice and data services. NTUA Wireless was a project partner of NTUA and a sub-recipient to the U.S. Department of Commerce's broadband (BTOP) grant to NTUA. NTUA Wireless manages the last-mile portion of the BTOP grant and promotes majority ownership by Navajo enterprises as a model to improve the quality of life for the Navajo people through economic development. Through cost efficiencies and the investment in the fiber and enhanced microwave network, NTUA Wireless provides retail service coverage to a majority of the residences across the entire Navajo Nation—an expansive and remote area covering more than 27,000 square miles.

In December of 2013, NTUA and NTUAW completed construction of the BTOP project, [REDACTED] new communications tower sites have been installed throughout the Navajo Nation, in addition to [REDACTED] existing towers (for a total of [REDACTED] tower sites). As of July 2016, NTUAW provides [REDACTED] 4G LTE broadcast stations for use by AT&T roaming customers. NTUAW provides [REDACTED] GSM 2G/3G broadcast stations for use by AT&T and T-Mobile customers. Additionally, NTUAW has [REDACTED] EVDO/CDMA/1X sites that it uses to provide retail service for its customers, as well as roaming service for Verizon and Sprint customers. These broadcast stations support the Navajo Nation and the surrounding areas.

On February 18, 2014 NTUA Wireless received from the Federal Communications Commission designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to receive federal support and drastically reduce the customer costs to the Navajo people for NTUA Wireless' retail communication services. As of July 2016, NTUAW's customer base includes: [REDACTED] Tribal Lifeline customers, [REDACTED] regular Lifeline customers, [REDACTED] monthly pay in advance customers, and [REDACTED] 4G/LTE customers.

NTUAW is headquartered in Chinle, Arizona and currently employs 45 employees. NTUA Wireless aims to provide needed technical, management and retail jobs, and has begun to grow the communications expertise of the Navajo people. NTUA Wireless opened its six retail stores within existing NTUA district offices (Ft. Defiance, Chinle, Shiprock, Kayenta, Tuba City, and Dilkon) throughout the Navajo Nation, making its customer offerings accessible to the Navajo people.