

For immediate Release  
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### **FCC Commissioner Carr to Keynote at the RuralRISE Virtual Summit on September 21, 2021**

The RuralRISE team is delighted to announce that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Brendan Carr will serve as the keynote speaker for the RuralRISE Summit on September 21 at 12:15 p.m. EST. Commissioner Carr is among a list of distinguished speakers for the summit, which brings together an array of rural organizational and community leaders from across the United States.

“We are thrilled to have Commissioner Carr serve as our keynote speaker at our upcoming summit,” said Joe Kapp, President of the National Center for Resource Development and RuralRISE Co-Founder. “Commissioner Carr has been a tireless advocate for the need for improved technology and broadband access for rural communities and we are excited to have him share his insights on closing the digital divide, 5G adoption, the infrastructure bill and more,” Kapp said.

Described by Axios as “the FCC’s 5G crusader,” Carr has led the FCC’s work to modernize its infrastructure rules and accelerate the buildout of high-speed networks. His reforms cut billions of dollars in red tape, enabled the private sector to construct high-speed networks in communities across the country, and extended America’s global leadership in 5G.

Commissioner Carr is also focused on expanding America’s skilled workforce—the tower climbers and construction crews needed to build next-gen networks. His jobs initiative promotes community colleges and apprenticeships as a pipeline for good-paying 5G jobs. And he is recognizing America’s talented and hardworking tower crews through a series of “5G Ready” Hard Hat presentations.

“Commissioner Carr will bring a leading voice on broadband issues to the RuralRISE stage that hits home on an immediate need in accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship in rural and tribal communities,” said Nathan Ohle, CEO of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership and co-founder of RuralRISE. “Without accessible and affordable broadband, rural communities will continue to be left behind in the ever-evolving innovation landscape.”

Commissioner Carr leads a groundbreaking telehealth initiative at the FCC. The Connected Care Pilot Program supports the delivery of high-quality care to low-income Americans and veterans over their smartphones, tablets, or other connected devices. The program helps drive down health care costs while improving patient outcomes.

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**About RuralRISE Virtual Leadership Academy & Summit**

Registration is now open for the upcoming 2021 RuralRISE Virtual Leadership Academy & Summit taking place on September 20th and 21st, 2021 from 12:00 – 5:00 EST each day. [Click here to register](#) for this free virtual event – registration is required.

**About RuralRISE**

RuralRISE is a national community of organizations working for rural America to increase opportunities and identify challenges in remote and rural communities across the United States.

RuralRISE seeks to amplify the programming, and resources available for rural communities, offering monthly speaker series, annual conferences, newsletters, and extensive networking opportunities. RuralRISE is the voice of Rural America. For more information, please visit [www.ruralrise.org](http://www.ruralrise.org) or contact us at [connect@ruralrise.org](mailto:connect@ruralrise.org)