

# Largest free public Wi-Fi network connects 35,000-plus residents



**25,000+** students can learn remotely



**10,000+** residents can work remotely



**20** square miles of Wi-Fi coverage



**7x-100x** increase in Wi-Fi speed

**Hidalgo County, TX**, is among the most economically disadvantaged areas of the U.S., with one-third of families living below the poverty line. Internet access was limited or nonexistent. Thanks to an extensive CommScope RUCKUS® Wi-Fi mesh network, more than 35,000 residents now have free high-speed connectivity. They can seek jobs and work remotely, gain access to health care, participate in distance learning and more.



*“We wanted the best solution that we knew would work right out of the gate. CommScope RUCKUS was the right choice.”*

**John Brooks, network services director, Insight Enterprises**

## The journey

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hidalgo County officials obtained federal funds to help provide free high-speed internet access to some of the county’s neediest residents. The county allocated more than \$15 million to deploy the CommScope RUCKUS smart mesh Wi-Fi network that included 3,400 access points (APs) in four zones.

RUCKUS partnered with SmartWave Technologies and Insight Enterprises to

complete the project on an ambitious timeline. While a deployment of this magnitude would normally take two to three years, RUCKUS and its technology partners cut the time down to about a year.

“I think the pandemic probably accelerated things from a cooperation perspective,” says John Brooks network services director for Insight Enterprises, a CommScope RUCKUS technology partner. “Everyone came together for a good cause. We had a great subcontractor, a great manufacturer and a great extended customer family.”

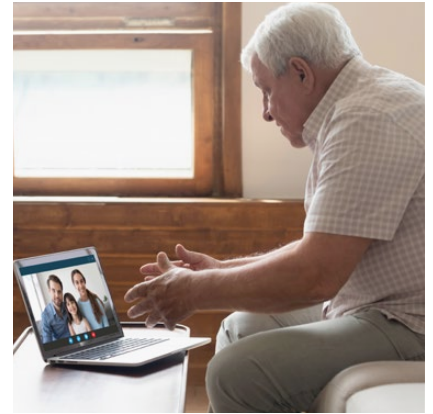
## The solution

SmartWave Technologies deployed RUCKUS outdoor APs using a smart mesh wireless network. This allowed for far fewer APs than is possible with other solutions. The small footprint allowed Hidalgo County to maximize its existing infrastructure and savings.

[Explore RUCKUS solutions](#)

“We selected RUCKUS because of our success with their products. Their APs are an ideal fit. They’re very cost-effective, which means we can cover more communities with less money.”

**Al Brown, president and CEO,  
SmartWave Technologies**



## Products

- **3,400 RUCKUS outdoor APs**
- **RUCKUS SmartZone management software**

## Hidalgo County, TX

- Population: 868,707 (2019 census)
- Median household income: \$41,800 (2019)
- 1,583 square miles

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