

City of Fort Worth, Texas
ITS Neighborhood WiFi Project
Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2025 Report

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ITS Neighborhood WiFi
2025 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The City of Fort Worth Neighborhood WiFi project is bringing internet access to approximately 8,000 homes in five low-income neighborhoods in the community. It is providing improvements to the public's ability to participate in remote learning and employment opportunities, improving public safety, increasing community engagement, promoting economic revitalization, and providing supportive services to reduce poverty and create paths to self-sufficiency. This project was begun using CARES dollars, but due to unforeseen delays with staffing, design, and supply chain issues, it was approved to be completed using American Rescue Plan Act funding. An interlocal agreement was established with Fort Worth ISD nodal placement at schools within the neighborhoods being served, in addition to City properties, to supply the internet access antennas.

Uses of Funds

Expenditure Category: 2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

American Rescue Plan Funding will be used in the Negative Economic Impact Area 2.4 – Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs.

By partnering with the Fort Worth ISD, households in five low-income, disproportionately impacted communities in Fort Worth will be able to receive free internet services:

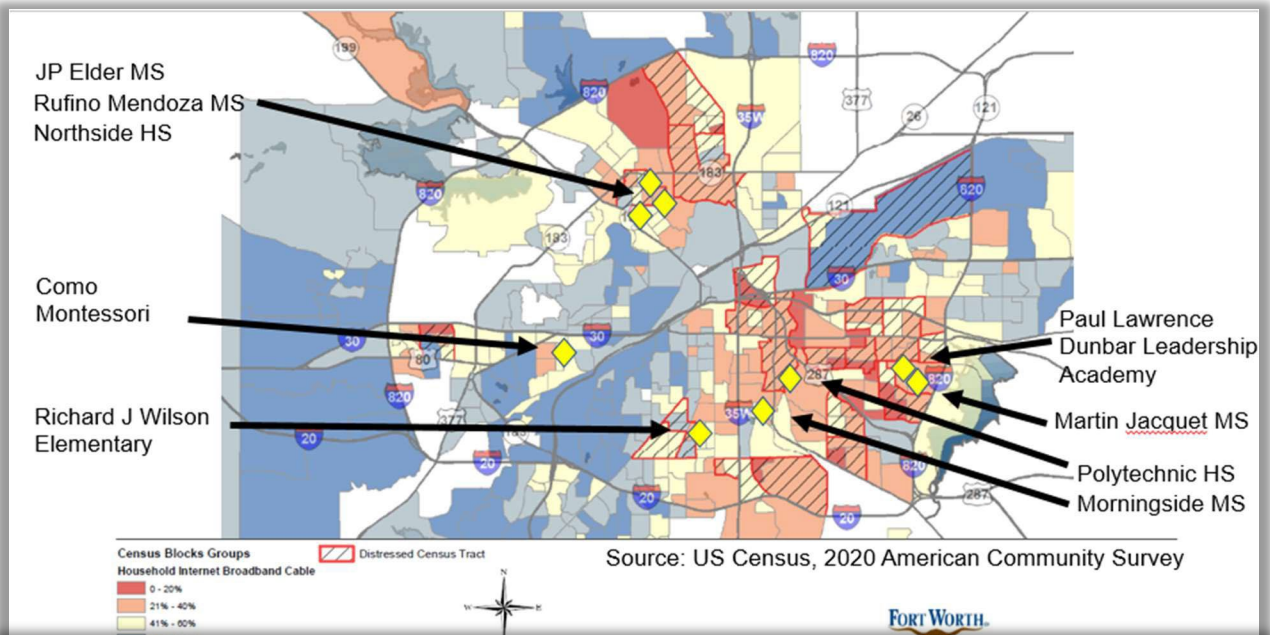
- Rosemont – Qualified Census Tract 1047.01
- Ash Crescent – Qualified Census Tract 1038.00
- Northside - Qualified Census Tract 1008.00
- Stop Six - Qualified Census Tract 1036.01
- Como - Qualified Census Tract 1025.00

Promoting equitable outcomes

- a. Goals: Support underserved and disproportionately impacted communities by providing free internet access to approximately 8,000 households in Qualified Census Tracts within the City of Fort Worth
- b. Awareness: Outreach program provides handouts and flyers in both English and Spanish, Web FAQs, and partnerships with community organizations to educate residents in digital literacy training, access to the appropriate devices, and technical support
- c. Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. No application is necessary for internet access.
- d. Outcomes:
 - Close the gap between a lack of internet access and neighborhood improvement programs
 - Support remote education, employment search, remote work, telemedicine, and access to other community services

- Same quality of service as in libraries and community centers.
- Bridge to more widely available wired broadband internet access

This program was designed with the City's lowest-income residents as the focus of the deliverables. All neighborhoods are in qualified census tracts, and there is a high correlation between lack of internet access and neighborhood improvement programs.



Fort Worth ISD Partner Campuses

- Rosemont
 - Richard J. Wilson ES
- Como
 - Como Montessori
- Ash Crescent
 - Morningside MS
 - Polytechnic HS
- Northside
 - Rufino Mendoza ES
 - JP Elder MS
 - Northside HS
- Stop Six
 - Paul Laurence Dunbar Leadership Academy
 - Martin Jacquet MS



Performance

Accomplishments

- Equipment boxes installed (325)
- Radio broadcast equipment and circuits installed at CFW and FWISD locations
- The originally designed CFW network is complete in all 5 neighborhoods

Ongoing and completed

- Neighborhood WiFi community launch event was held 8/16/2022 at the Como Community Center, with a follow on for communications plans for each served neighborhood.
- Parallel communications were done by vendor Cisco for trade publication consumption.
- Activated the City Call Center option for reporting issues with the service
- In RFP review for Broadband Strategic Partnership. The partner was selected for public public-private partnership to place Broadband throughout the City of Fort Worth. The contract was executed in November 2023.
- An interlocal agreement was established with FWISD for equipment access and operation
- Finalized deployment in the Stop Six neighborhood – pivoted from use of Dunbar Leadership Academy to City of Fort Worth-owned Broadcast Hill tower, due to construction at the school
- Team continues to monitor and remediate issues of access points in the Neighborhoods. Both power and alignments have been affected by spring weather
- Vendor partner has been brought on board to the Neighborhood WiFi support effort to help provide focus on access points that are having issues connecting.
- Providing a graph of activity over the last 40 months ending with May 2025

