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## City of Brownsville: Bringing a city together, the wireless way

A growing city transforms the delivery of information and city services when it replaces an aging IT infrastructure with a city-wide wireless network

### Challenge

Growth is at the heart of the City of Brownsville, Texas, on the United States–Mexico border. The city is the center of the sixth-fastest-growing manufacturing region in the U.S. Moving forward, Brownsville is determined to maintain a high quality of life for its citizens and commuters while encouraging continued growth. The city recognized the best way to make community services more widely accessible to more people was to implement a broadband wireless network. The challenge: the community's IT infrastructure could not support a state-of-the-art wireless initiative.

### Solution

IBM worked closely with the city's IT staff and city politicians to completely transform its IT infrastructure and launch a wide-reaching wireless mobility project. Built on IBM BladeCenter® servers, and hosted in two data centers, the new infrastructure provides full redundancy, with real-time failover, in case of a natural disaster such as a hurricane. The next-generation wireless mobility solution enables up to 500 city workers to work from anywhere, connected to the city's computing systems.

IBM is now working with Brownsville to develop a nonprofit foundation to extend the reach of the wireless mobility initiative. This will enable community-based organizations such as universities, schools and hospitals to collaborate with the city in this effort, without diverting city revenue.

As a next step, Brownsville will begin its technology education program. The program will enable high school and university students to take advantage of the new wireless network for on- and off-campus connectivity. This includes a significant number of students who commute over the border from Mexico.

### Benefits of innovation

- First responders, building inspectors and other mobile workers will be able to provide anytime, anywhere service.
- The nonprofit foundation and the university project will transform the way the community accesses the Internet.
- Improved access to city applications via the wireless network will increase the productivity of city service providers by an estimated 30 percent.

[The City of Brownsville: Redefining how a community works using wireless technologies.](#)

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