



Bridging the digital divide.

Today, we've all become aware of the need for fast, reliable broadband access. In addition to being an important aspect of everyday life, it's an essential requirement for seeking a job, furthering a career and succeeding in school. The need to close the digital divide is a well-discussed issue today, but before that was the case, we had already started working with TMA Technology Solutions (TMA) in disadvantaged Chicago communities.

The Need

It's been well documented that those without access to broadband are increasingly disadvantaged. Several factors needed to be addressed to close this digital divide.

- ▶ TMA worked with Node Networks who needed high-capacity fiber so they could deliver fixed wireless internet to a highly dense urban area.
- ▶ In many urban areas, closing the digital divide requires working with established providers to make sure communities are able to take advantage of infrastructure that already exists in their neighborhoods.
- ▶ While subsidized internet access is available in many rural areas, gaps still exist in some urban neighborhoods—with few resources available to help.
- ▶ Many government programs cover recurring costs associated with internet access, but not the upfront costs of bringing connectivity to buildings and homes.

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Good partners are hard to find, so when you find that, you hold onto those people. I really feel like I can depend on Crown Castle.

DWAYNE DOUGLAS

COO, TMA Technology Solutions
CEO, The QUILT Corporation NFP

Name

TMA Technology Solutions

Location

Chicago, IL

Industry

WISPs and other telecoms, Technology companies

Size

~70K households across 5 communities

Solution

Internet Access

The Solution

- › TMA and Node Networks identified an area of Chicago where one of our existing fiber lines could provide the much needed broadband to the community.
- › We provide Direct Internet Access through a 10Gbps circuit, enabling a fixed wireless solution that now serves a 2.5-mile radius in the community.
- › We offered deployment expertise to TMA and non-profit QUILT throughout the process, and designed a solution that fit their needs.

The Impact

- › Nearly 70,000 residents now have access to broadband—empowering them to access job training, participate in remote learning, more easily apply for jobs and take advantage of other opportunities that were previously out of reach.
- › Other Chicago organizations have taken notice of the deployment and are working collaboratively with TMA and QUILT to expand broadband to more residents—creating sustainable solutions that don't rely on ongoing government funding.
- › Our partnership and education helped make this a replicable model that can be deployed in communities throughout Chicago to further close the digital divide.

Why Crown Castle?

When you work with us, you get a partner who is dedicated to understanding your needs and delivering a solution to run your organization today—while setting the stage for tomorrow's most transformative innovations.

Expertise

Over the last 30 years, we've built and maintained fiber networks for more than 10,000 customers.

Consultation

We take the time to carefully consider all your needs and deliver a solution that meets your business requirements and opens up new opportunities.

Service

Our locally based service teams work closely with you to consult, design and deliver solutions that meet your needs, while our state-of-the-art Network Operations Center works around the clock to keep your network running.

Stability

We are the last owner of our networks, and an S&P 500 company with a history of building and operating infrastructure around the country.



Crown Castle owns, operates and leases more than 40,000 cell towers and approximately 90,000 route miles of fiber supporting small cells and fiber solutions across every major US market. This nationwide portfolio of communications infrastructure connects cities and communities to essential data, technology and wireless service—bringing information, ideas and innovations to the people and businesses that need them.