

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Anoka County

Rank: 8 (out of 87) for access to 100/20 megabits per second (Mbps)

Background

Every year since 2017 Blandin Foundation has contracted with Ann Treacy of Treacy Information Services to synthesize data from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development and broadband news from communities across the state to gauge progress toward the state broadband goals (2022: 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up and 2026: 100 Mbps down and 20 Mbps up).

Leaders can use this information to plan and act to improve broadband access and use in their communities.

Anoka County: data and community action

Anoka County is poised to make both the 2022 and 2026 speed goals with just a little effort.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Anoka	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	97.47	97.86	96.1
25/3 (2022 goal)	98.8	98.87	97.56

Anoka County is a metro county. The population density makes a market solution to broadband possible in most of the county. They received federal (ARRA) funding in 2013, that helped with a 287-mile broadband network that includes connecting 145 government locations.

In 2016 they benefited from a MN state broadband grant:

- 2016 - BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY RAMEY – GRANT: \$225,100**
 This last-mile project will serve 122 unserved households and 5 unserved businesses in the rural Ramey, MN exchange. In a funding partnership with the State of Minnesota, Benton Cooperative will improve unserved levels to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, reaching the 2026 state speed goal, increasing opportunities for educational access for all ages, telemedicine, telecommuting, and improved business development. Total eligible project cost is \$776,220. Local match is \$551,120.

Despite being in good shape, the folks in the county are still doing what they can to narrow the digital divide. In 2019, [Libraries without Boundaries, Anoka County Libraries and the Department of Education](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/07/25/libraries-without-boundaries-gets-20-people-in-an-anoka-county-community-to-discuss-library-services/)¹ held a meeting in a manufactured (mobile) home park to talk about how to better serve the needs of residents with improved access to library services and broadband.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/07/25/libraries-without-boundaries-gets-20-people-in-an-anoka-county-community-to-discuss-library-services/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 8 (down 3 from 2018)
- 25/3 ranking: 10 (no change)
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 271.7 check
- Number of providers: 6

Details:

- Find [more articles on broadband in Anoka County](http://tinyurl.com/zuv4x7). (<http://tinyurl.com/zuv4x7>)
- Districts: CD 6
Senate: 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41
House: 31A, 31B, 35A, 35B, 36A, 36B, 37A, 37B, 38A, 41A, 41B
- [Find your reps²](#)

Analysis: Code Green

- Red (action needed)
- Yellow (warning – ramp up efforts)
- Green (good shape)

² <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>