

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Big Stone County

Rank: 5 (out of 87) for access to 100/20 broadband 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.

Big Stone County: data and community action

Big Stone County is on track to meet the Minnesota state speed goals for both 2022 and 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Anoka	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	98.91	98.91	70.12
25/3 (2022 goal)	99.58	98.91	70.12

In 2014, Big Stone benefited from a state broadband grant:

- 2014 - Federated Telephone Cooperative, Big Stone County**
 Award: \$3.92 million. Total project cost: \$7.92 million. Impact: Service to 1,072 unserved premises in the communities of Barry, Beardsley and Johnson, and rural parts of Big Stone County

By 2018, the percentages of households with access to 100/20 Mbps had gone from 70 percent to almost 99 percent. The county is served primarily by Federated Telephone, which has been expanding deployment of Fiber to the Home (FTTH) across its service territory in that region for years.

One anomaly, the coverage for 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps was the same for 2017 and 2018. This year there is a small increase in coverage of 25/3 Mbps. Now 98.91 percent of Big Stone have access to 100/20 Mbps (no change from last year), yet 99.58 percent have access to 25/3 Mbps. Few households have been upgraded to 25/3 Mbps only. Perhaps this is a temporary measure and part of a future anticipated upgrade; if not, down the road those recently upgraded households will have considerably slower broadband than their neighbors, which will [impact resale value](#)¹.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2016/10/30/house-buyers-look-at-broadband-need-lower-prices-without-it/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 5 (down 1)
- 25/3 ranking: 6 (up 3)
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 4.3
- Number of providers: 7

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Big Stone County. (<http://tinyurl.com/zfgwstd>)
- There is a matrix of Minnesota broadband adoption projects; it includes [projects from this area](#)².
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 12
House: 12A
- [Find your reps](#)³

Analysis: **Code Green**

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

² <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/bbc-2014-16-project-matrix.docx>

³ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

