

## Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Brown County

Rank: 44 (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.

### Brown County: data and community action

Access to 100/20 Mbps in Brown County hasn't changed much since 2017. In 2017, they were likely in the top 10; today, the rest of the state is catching up with them. It will take a concerted effort for Brown County to move ahead in the rankings.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Brown	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	74.50	73.76	72.89
25/3 (2022 goal)	83.66	96.31	95.92

Brown County has benefited from two Minnesota state broadband grants:

- 2107 - New Ulm Telecom, Inc. - Hanska A&D FTTP – GRANT \$324,894**  
 Serving 9 unserved households and 38 unserved businesses in the Hanska area south of New Ulm near the border of Brown and Watonwan Counties.
- 2016 - NEW ULM TELECOM, INC. HANSKA - GRANT: \$ 200,397**  
 Serving 14 unserved households and 32 unserved businesses in Lake Hanska Township in Brown County and Riverdale Township in Watonwan County.

A few years ago, there appeared to be a lot of broadband activity in Brown County. They are near Sibley and Renville Counties, which have been very active in improving access but there hasn't been much action evident in Brown County in the last year.

Brown County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, Minnesota Valley Tel. Co. (MVTC) and Nuvera applied to upgrade service in Brown. (That doesn't mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 44 (up 17 places)
- 25/3 ranking: 48 (slipped 33 places)
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 17.4
- Number of providers: 13

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Brown County. (<http://tinyurl.com/z2wwkye>)
- Districts: CD 1  
Senate: 16  
House: 16B
- [Find your reps](#)

Analysis: **Code Red**

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