

Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Douglas County

Rank: 56 (out of 87) for access to broadband at speeds of 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.

Douglas County: data and community action

Douglas County doesn't look like they're in position to meet the Minnesota broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026 – but they have been known make some great strides. They went from 26 percent access to 100/20 Mbps in 2018 to 69 percent access this year.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Douglas	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	68.82	25.56	7.86
25/3 (2022 goal)	88.25	82.96	75.1

Douglas County has benefited from a number of state broadband grants:

- 2017 - Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association - Douglas County: Country Estates FTTH Project – GRANT \$101,624**
 This last mile project will serve 32 unserved households and 10 unserved businesses in Douglas County near Alexandria. In a funding partnership with the State of Minnesota, Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association will improve broadband service levels to 1Gbps per second down and 1Gbps up, exceeding the 2026 state speed goal. This project will improve this neighborhood's quality of life, from gaining the ability to perform daily activities such as at-home online homework and telecommuting options, to opening new doors for business development and improved health care.
- 2017 - Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association - Douglas County: Pospisil Drive FTTH Project – GRANT \$54,155**
 Serving 18 unserved households and 6 unserved businesses in the Pospisil Drive Development near Alexandria in Douglas County with speeds exceeding the 2026 state speed goal.
- 2016 - GARDONVILLE COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKE LOUISE – GRANT: \$68,240**
 Serving 28 unserved households and 7 unserved businesses in Douglas County near and around Lake Louise with speeds exceeding the 2026 state speed goal.

- **2016 - RUNESTONE TELEPHONE HOLMES CITY 2 -- GRANT: \$700,674**
Serving 267 unserved households and 32 unserved businesses in the Holmes City area in Douglas County in northwest central MN with speeds the 2026 state speed goal of 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload.
- **2015 - Runestone Telephone Association - Holmes City – Grant award: \$189,990**
Building broadband infrastructure in Holmes City, in Douglas County, to provide state speed goal broadband service and above to 93 households, 14 businesses and 1 community anchor institution.

Douglas County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, Runestone, Arvig, Charter and Gardonville applied to upgrade service in Douglas. (That doesn't mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 56 (up 20 places)
- 25/3 ranking: 36
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 21.2
- Number of providers: 11

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Douglas County. (<http://tinyurl.com/jqpohsc>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 8, 12
House: 8B, 12A, 12B
- [Find your reps¹](#)

Analysis: **Code Red**

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

¹ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>