

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Faribault County

Rank: 77 (out of 87) for broadband 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.

Faribault County: data and community action

Faribault is not on track to meet either the 2022 or 2026 speeds goals. It looks like there was a dip in access to 100/20 Mbps after 2017; that is likely because in 2017 100/20 Mbps wireless access was included with wired. Now the maps track wired only. Regardless, they are not poised to meet speed goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Faribault	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	39.20	42.28	49.13
25/3 (2022 goal)	78.31	78.17	81.77

Faribault was one of the few counties in Minnesota where the broadband was deemed [non-competitive for business by the FCC¹](#). In 2018, Faribault County hosted a [national broadband listening²](#) session.

The county has benefited from Minnesota broadband grants:

- 2017 - BEVCOMM (Easton Telephone Company) - Delavan SE Rural Project – GRANT \$220,350**
 Serving 25 unserved households and 30 unserved businesses in the Delavan SE Rural Project located in Faribault County with access exceeding the 2022 and 2026 state speed goals.
- 2016 - BLUE EARTH VALLEY TELEPHONE CO. (DBA BEVCOMM) RURAL WINNEBAGO - GRANT: \$152,828**
 Serving 18 unserved households (including farms), 8 unserved businesses, 2 underserved households, and 3 underserved businesses in the rural Winnebago area in Faribault County in Southern Minnesota.
- 2015 - BEVCOMM Blue Earth Valley Telephone - Rural Winnebago Fiber-to-the-Premises Project – Grant award: \$142,690**

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/05/16/are-business-data-services-deemed-competitive-in-your-county-the-fcc-has-a-list-to-let-you-know/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/05/30/upper-midwest-e-connectivity-listening-session-june-19-in-faribault-mn/>



Providing state speed goal broadband service and above to 30 unserved households and farms in rural Winnebago, in Faribault County in south-central Minnesota.

Here's an update I got from one of the local providers last year:

Faribault County is mostly served by BEVCOMM and Mediacom. BEVCOMM is a rural ILEC that is not covered by CAF 2 funding, but has recently opted to accept ACAM model support, which will replace rural High Cost USF support.

BEVCOMM is a motivated local provider, making a concerted effort to serve the area's broadband needs. It has received two Border to Border broadband grants in the last two years in Faribault County, and another four grants in other rural areas it serves in Freeborn, Martin and LeSueur counties. The local match for these grants was entirely funded by BEVCOMM, without any local city, township or county funds.

The [local paper](#)³ has been reporting on broadband opportunities. It will be interesting to see if they apply for grants this year. That would clearly help them and they need a concerted effort to improve the odds at meeting the state goals.

Faribault County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, BEVCOMM applied to upgrade service in Faribault. (That doesn't mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 77 (down 17 spaces)
- 25/3 ranking: 62
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 8.2
- Number of providers: 4

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Faribault County. (<http://tinyurl.com/jzwv3gx>)
- Districts: CD 1
Senate: 23, 27
House: 23A, 27A
- [Find your reps](#)⁴

Analysis: Code Red

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

³ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/03/16/senator-draheim-talks-about-his-broadband-funding-bill-proposed-in-mn/>

⁴ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>