

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Freeborn County

Rank: 25 (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.

### Freeborn County: data and community action

The historical numbers for Freeborn County are unreliable. The numbers from 2017 reflect wireless connections and the more recent don't but the difference seems to reflect more than that. They will need a concerted effort to meet the 2022 and 2026 goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Freeborn	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	83.88	34.18	94.59
25/3 (2022 goal)	87.92	84.31	99.44

Freeborn has benefited from three state broadband grants:

- 2017 - BEVCOMM (Cannon Valley Telephone) - Freeborn Southwest Rural Final – GRANT \$122,460**  
Serving 15 unserved households and 17 unserved businesses in the rural Freeborn area, in Freeborn County, completing a Border-to-Border grant build begun there two years ago.
- 2016 - CANNON VALLEY TELECOM, INC. (DBA BEVCOMM) RURAL FREEBORN – GRANT: \$150,700**  
Serving 10 unserved households, 6 unserved businesses, 9 underserved households, and 6 underserved businesses in the rural Freeborn area in Freeborn County in Southern Minnesota with access of 1 Gigabit per second up and down, exceeding the 2026 state speed goal.
- 2015 - BEVCOMM Cannon Valley Telecom - Rural Freeborn Fiber-to-the-Premises Project Grant award: \$149,625**  
Serving 43 households and 1 business in the rural Freeborn area, in Freeborn County in south-central Minnesota, close to the Minnesota/Iowa border.

Freeborn is also getting almost [\\$2 million in FCC funding<sup>1</sup>](#) but that is over the next 10 years.

<sup>1</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/16/more-on-fcc-funding-freeborn-county-receives-almost-2-million/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 25 (up from 71)
- 25/3 ranking: 39
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 18.2
- Number of providers: 12

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Freeborn County. (<http://tinyurl.com/hw7ptnz>)
- Districts: CD 1  
Senate: 27  
House: 27A, 27B
- [Find your reps<sup>2</sup>](#)

**Analysis: Code Yellow**

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

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