

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Houston County

Rank: 57 (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.

### Houston County: data and community action

Houston County is not poised to meet the state broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. They are in better shape for 2026 however, than 2022. That means there is a provider in the area that is able/willing to provide better broadband; it's just a matter of finding a way to extend better broadband or persuade other providers to match that speed.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Houston	2019	2018	2017
<b>100/20 (2026 goal)</b>	<b>67.81</b>	<b>66.63</b>	<b>65.08</b>
<b>25/3 (2022 goal)</b>	<b>72.94</b>	<b>71.29</b>	<b>72.23</b>

Houston County has shown an interest in better broadband. In 2017, there was an application submitted for [state funding](#)<sup>1</sup>, but they didn't get it. Last year, [Houston County News](#)<sup>2</sup> ran an letter supporting Walz for Governor, specifically mentioning his support of rural broadband. More recently, Houston County Commissioners approved a [\\$75,000 revolving](#)<sup>3</sup> loan to support a Border to Border grant application with Acetek.

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

<sup>1</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/09/15/mn-broadband-grant-requests-50-3-million-more-than-twice-available-funds/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/10/22/houston-county-broadband-profile-current-ranking-37/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/23/houston-county-approve-75000-revolving-loan-for-border-to-border-grant-application/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 57 (down from 37)
- 25/3 ranking: 71
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 13.8
- Number of providers: 7

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Houston County. (<http://tinyurl.com/zst4kf5>)
- Districts: CD 1  
Senate: 28  
House: 28B
- [Find your reps<sup>4</sup>](#)

**Analysis: Code Red**

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

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