

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Isanti County

Rank: 72 (out of 87) for access to broadband 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.

Isanti County: data and community action

Isanti County is not poised to meet Minnesota state speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. They seem to have a decreased in access from 2018 to 2019, which may be an error or a correction from the previous round of mapping. Either way, they are not poised to meet the state's speed goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	48.05	56.62	49.29
25/3 (2022 goal)	73.50	73.67	53.52

For years and Isanti County has been part of the East Central Regional Broadband Group just north of the Twin Cities. It is an area that is largely served by one large national provider. That lack of competition has been a roadblock, further exacerbated by the speed requirements of federal CAF II funding.

In 2018, a [Blandin Foundation report](#)¹ looked at the impact of Federal CAF II funding in two towns in Chisago, Isanti and Kanabec Counties: Lindstrom and Braham. CAF II money went to qualifying providers to subsidize network deployments that can deliver service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The study found that while some areas were upgraded beyond that speed; some remain at speeds that do not meet the 2022 nor 2026 MN broadband goals.

In 2018, Isanti County, with Blandin Foundation support, [surveyed residents](#)² about their experience with broadband.

- Eighty-eight percent of residents say they need better Internet-data service, 92 percent said Internet access is very important and 1 percent said it is not important.

¹ https://blandinfoundation.org/content/uploads/Impact-of-CAF-II-funded-Networks_WEB.pdf

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/02/05/isanti-county-broadband-survey-indicates-community-needs-more/>



- Eighty-three percent of businesses say they need better Internet-data service and 95 percent said the Internet is essential to their business.
- Sixty-six percent of businesses said limited Internet access at employees' residences impacts their business.
- Twenty-four percent of businesses said Internet service options impact their business' decision to relocate or stay in the county.

Clearly the community feels the need for better broadband. Perhaps they can use the survey results to encourage a provider to move in with a plan for improvement.

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 72 (down from 45)
- 25/3 ranking: 70
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 30.9
- Number of providers: 6

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Isanti County. (<http://tinyurl.com/gozt2ka>)
- Districts: CD 8
Senate: 31 & 32
House: 31A, 32A
- [Find your reps³](#)

Analysis: Code Red

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

³ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>