

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Jackson County

Rank: 55 (out of 87) for broadband at 100/20 speeds (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.

Jackson County: data and community action

Jackson County is unlikely to meet the speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. The percentage unserved is great and there has been no momentum for improvement in years.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Jackson	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	68.84	68.79	68.9
25/3 (2022 goal)	70.42	68.83	68.9

Jackson County benefited from a Minnesota state broadband grant:

- **2015 - MVTW Wireless Middle Mile – Grant award: \$808,080**

This project is a Middle Mile broadband infrastructure buildout to upgrade backhaul capacity between site locations within 20 southwestern Minnesota counties including Blue Earth, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Meeker, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock, Redwood, Renville, Sibley Swift, Watonwan, and Yellow Medicine.

While any upgrade is good, Jackson did not see much of an increase to access after the state-funded project. In fact, Jackson County has been hovering at about 69 percent 100/20 Mbps coverage for at least three years now. In 2010, Southwest Minnesota Broadband Services (SMBS) received ARRA funds to deploy fiber to the home in Jackson and other counties; they [began serving homes](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2011/11/25/sw-minnesota-fiber-is-ahead-of-schedule/)¹ in December 2011 and starting research wireless options for outskirt areas at about the same time. Through SMBS, Jackson County was [also part of the Blandin Broadband Communities](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2014/09/03/smb-s-trut-your-stuff-social-media-breakfasts-pcs-for-people-hotspots-and-more/)² initiative in 2015-2016. Not much has happened since then. Looking at the map you can see fiber appearing like a highway through the

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2011/11/25/sw-minnesota-fiber-is-ahead-of-schedule/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2014/09/03/smb-s-trut-your-stuff-social-media-breakfasts-pcs-for-people-hotspots-and-more/>



county, with few feeder streets. They need another concerted effort to expand or upgrade connections throughout the county.

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 55 (down from 33)
- 25/3 ranking: 76
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 6.1
- Number of providers: 14

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Jackson County. (<http://tinyurl.com/h3vyqx9>)
- There is a matrix of Minnesota broadband adoption projects; it includes [projects from this area](#)³.
- Districts: CD 1
Senate: 22 & 23
House: 22B, 23A
- [Find your reps](#)⁴

Analysis: Code Red

- Red (yikes)
- Yellow (warning)
- Green (good shape)

³ <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/bbc-2014-16-project-matrix.docx>

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

