

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Kandiyohi County

Rank: 47 (out of 87) for broadband speed 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.

Kandiyohi County: data and community action

Kandiyohi County saw a great leap in broadband access in the last year. They need to do more, and they have had some bad luck, but it seems like they have the right momentum to possibly meet the state speed goals for 2022 and 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Kandiyohi	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	72.89	10.64	8.4
25/3 (2022 goal)	86.23	77.20	77.25

They have Kandiyohi County has been focused on better broadband for years. They were a Blandin Broadband Community, which means they had support building broadband adoption. They have a [broadband committee](#)¹ that have spearheaded a [feasibility study](#)² and encouraged visits from policymakers, such as [Lt Governor Tina Smith](#)³.

[Representative Dave Baker](#)⁴, from the area, has been a champion for better broadband in the legislature.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2015/12/08/kandiyohi-broadband-and-advanced-technology-committee-focusing-on-getting-funding-to-get-broadband/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2015/11/16/kandiyohi-county-moving-to-better-broadband-with-funding-for-feasibility-study/>

³ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2016/04/19/lt-governor-tina-smith-hears-about-broadband-need-in-kandiyohi-county/>

⁴ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/07/23/rep-dave-baker-implores-kandiyohi-county-residents-to-sign-up-for-broadband/>



Kanabec has benefited from state broadband grants:

- **2016 - FRONTIER KANDIYOHI INITIATIVE – GRANT: \$1,015,275**
Serving 1147 unserved households, 7 unserved businesses, and 7 unserved community anchor institutions in rural areas within Kandiyohi County, including the Atwater, Kandiyohi, Svea, Prinsburg, Raymond, and Lake Lillian exchanges to improve service levels to a minimum of 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up, meeting the 2022 state speed goal.
- **2015 - MVTV 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.

Then in 2017, [Consolidated Telecommunications Co. \(CTC\) was awarded⁵](#) a \$4.94 million grant to improve service in New London, Spicer and Willmar, and Frontier was awarded a grant of \$1.02 million to improve service in rural Kandiyohi County. Unfortunately, the [CTC project did not work out⁶](#).

LTD Broadband worked to fill the gaps. They started [building broadcast⁷](#) tower sites across the county summer 2017. And continued the [expansion summer 2018⁸](#).

Kandiyohi isn't resting. In May 2019, [Kandiyohi Commissioner Roger Imdieke⁹](#) was promoting State funding for broadband grants. In June, the County Board voted to help fund [an engineering study¹⁰](#) that will examine the feasibility of bringing broadband to rural homes and businesses in Dovre, Mamre and St. Johns townships. They are partnering with Arvig and may be applying for a 2019 broadband grant.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 47 (up from 86)
- 25/3 ranking: 42
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 19.4
- Number of providers: 14

⁵ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/10/22/kandiyohi-county-broadband-profile-current-ranking-86/>

⁶ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/09/20/problems-facing-mn-broadband-grantees-what-we-can-learn-from-kandiyohi-county/>

⁷ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/10/24/kandiyohi-county-gets-fixed-wireless-broadband/>

⁸ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/07/05/ltd-broadband-expand-wireless-service-to-kandiyohi-county/>

⁹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/05/13/kandiyohi-commissioner-asks-minnesotans-to-ask-for-more-for-broadband/>

¹⁰ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/06/20/kandiyohi-county-moves-forward-with-broadband-engineering-study/>

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Kandiyohi. (<http://tinyurl.com/z9wk7bm>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 17
House: 17A, 17B
- [Find your reps¹¹](#)

Analysis: Code Yellow

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

¹¹ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

