

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Kittson County

Rank: 43 (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.

Kittson County: data and community action

Kittson County made great strides in improving broadband access after 2017. It seems likely that state broadband grants to Wikstrom Telephone Company helped with the improvement. To meet the state broadband goals for 2022 and 2026, Kittson will need to encourage another big push in that direction.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Kittson	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	74.99	71.38	3.46
25/3 (2022 goal)	74.99	71.38	65.62

Kittson is a county of broadband haves and have-nots. Those who have access have good access and the rest are unserved. There is at least one provider in the area interested in providing fast internet; they need to encourage expansion or get others to match those speeds.

Kittson has benefited from three state broadband grants:

- 2017 - Wikstrom Telephone - Wikel NW MN Broadband – GRANT \$1,307,785**
 Serving 300 unserved homes and 31 unserved business locations in Kittson, Marshall, and Roseau Counties with services levels to 1 Gbps down and up.
- 2016 - WIKSTROM TELEPHONE COMPANY WIKTEL NW MN – GRANT: \$950,823**
 Serving 236 unserved households and 26 unserved business in rural sparsely populated areas in Kittson, Marshall, Roseau, and Lake of the Woods counties in NW Minnesota with services levels to 1 Gigabit.
- 2014 - Wikstrom Telephone, Kittson, Marshall, Roseau Broadband Extension**
 Award: \$425,000. Total project cost: \$943,827. Impact: Service to 73 unserved and 43 underserved homes in Kittson, Marshall and Roseau counties.

And they are getting almost [\\$2 million in FCC funding¹](#) but that is over the next 10 years.

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



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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 43 (down from 30)
- 25/3 ranking: 67
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 1.8
- Number of providers: 14

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Kittson. (<https://bit.ly/2kcNnpz>)
- There is a matrix of Minnesota broadband adoption projects; it includes [projects from this area](#)².
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 01
House: 01A
- [Find your reps](#)³

Analysis: Code Yellow

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

² <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/bbc-2014-16-project-matrix.docx>

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

