2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Koochiching County

Rank: 46 (out of 87) for broadband 100/2 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.

Koochiching County: data and community action

Koochiching County will need lots of work and investment to reach the state goals for 2022 and 2026. But Koochiching is in a better position than many counties, both because they have a very active group of community advocates and because they have a willing provider partner interested in working with them.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Koochiching	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
100/20 (2026 goal)	73.41	73.44	68.55
25/3 (2022 goal)	81.22	73.50	68.56

Koochiching has benefited from one Minnesota state grant:

- **2015 - Midcontinent Little Fork Middle Mile -- Grant award: $277,448**
  Midcontinent will build out broadband middle mile infrastructure between Little Fork and International Falls following MN11 to US71 to CR22 to provide state speed goal broadband service and above to 258 passings.

Koochiching has been working with the Blandin Foundation on the Iron Range Broadband Communities (IRBC) initiative with the Koochiching Tech Initiative[1] leading the way. They are working with Paul Bunyan Communications on a 2019 broadband grant application, which if funded, could offer services to more than 1,200 locations in Kabetogama, Pelland Junction, Ericsburg and Ray. (That's about 10 percent of Koochiching's total population.)

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

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[1] https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/29/koochiching-tech-initiative-struts-their-broadband-projects-cool-new-coworking-space-and-more/

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Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 46 (down from 28)
- 25/3 ranking: 53
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 1.9
- Number of providers:

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Koochiching. (http://tinyurl.com/gom8mqy)
- Districts: CD 8
  Senate: 03
  House: 03A
- Find your reps[2]

Analysis: Code Yellow

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

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[2] https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/

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