

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Lake of the Woods County

Rank: 65 (out of 87) for broadband 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.

Lake of the Woods County: data and community action

Lake of the Woods is not poised to meet the state broadband goals for either 2022 or 2026. But in 2018 they went from zero to almost 60. So, they could rally.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Lake of the Woods	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	53.93	50.47	0
25/3 (2022 goal)	57.42	50.47	48.08

Lake of the Woods is about as north as you can get in Minnesota. It's remote and there are only four providers in the area.

Lake of the Woods benefited from two state grants:

- 2016 - SJOBERG'S INC. ROSEAU AND LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTIES -- GRANT: \$354,740**
 Serving 126 unserved households, 30 unserved businesses and 1 community anchor institution in several areas in Roseau and Lake of the Woods Counties with services up to 1 Gigabit service.
- 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 to improve unserved levels to 1 Gigabit speed.

The impact of the grants is apparent in the table above. They need more of the same. Right now, they are a county of haves and have-nots, with some residents having good broadband and the rest having nothing.

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



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 65
- 25/3 ranking: 86
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 1
- Number of providers: 4

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Lake of the Woods County (<http://tinyurl.com/gpfu7dd>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 02
House: 02A
- [Find your reps¹](#)

Analysis: Code Red

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

¹ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>