

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Lincoln County

Rank: 76 (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.

Lincoln County: data and community action

Lincoln County is currently not poised to meet the state speed goals for either 2012 or 2016. But they have momentum that began last fall and have spurred a relationship with a local provider that may increase their odds, especially if they are able to get a Minnesota broadband grant.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	39.21	39.21	40
25/3 (2022 goal)	59.70	53.44	53.44

Lincoln has benefited from two state broadband grants:

- 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: 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.
- 2014 - Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC), Hendricks Town FTTP**
 Award: \$700,000. Total project cost: \$1.87 million. Impact: Service to 377 homes and farms, 57 businesses and eight community institutions, all currently underserved.

With help from the Blandin Foundation, Lincoln released a [feasibility study](#)¹ in 2018. The report discusses next steps for the county, such as looking for a partner to bring broadband to those areas without it today.

[In spring of 2019](#)², Lincoln County Board gave a green light to a county-wide grant application aimed at funding for broadband Internet access. They approved a grant application to the state's broadband

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/05/03/lincoln-county-broadband-feasibility-study-wireless-is-more-affordable-but-not-permanent-fix/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/04/17/lincoln-county-launches-broadband-grant-application/>



grant fund for a total of \$10.5 million. All except \$2 million would come from outside funding sources. The county would issue bonds for its matching share.

Early in 2019, [Woodstock Communications announced³](#) plans to deploy fiber in the city of Tyler during the course of the year.

Lincoln County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, Interstate Telecommunications Coop applied to upgrade service in Lincoln. (That doesn't mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 76
- 25/3 ranking: 83
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 4.7
- Number of providers: 7

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Lincoln County (<http://tinyurl.com/jxqwlab>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 22
House: 22A
- [Find your reps⁴](#)

Analysis: **Code Red**

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

³ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/01/20/broadband-expansion-in-lincoln-county-through-woodstock/>

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

