

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Lyon County

Rank: 30 (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.

Lyon County: data and community action

Lyon County is not poised to make the Minnesota speed goals for either 2022 or 2026, but they have the potential. They saw a huge increase in access leading in 2018. They need another push.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Lyon	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	81.89	72.77	0
25/3 (2022 goal)	85.80	80.71	71.91

Lyon County benefited from four state grants:

- 2017 - MVTC (Minnesota Valley Telephone Company, Inc.) - Milroy Broadband Project – GRANT \$742,365**

Serving 246 unserved households and 22 unserved businesses in the Milroy Broadband Project located in both Redwood and Lyon Counties with service levels to 1 Gbps down and 1 Gbps up.
- 2017 - Woodstock Telephone Company - Balaton FTTP – GRANT \$413,009**

Serving 305 underserved households, 28 underserved businesses, and 6 underserved community anchor institutions in the city of Balaton in Lyon County with service levels to 1 Gbps down and 1 Gbps up.
- 2016 - MIDCO CANBY TO MARSHALL MIDDLE MILE AND LAST MILE – GRANT AMOUNT: \$623,000**

Serving unserved households, 29 unserved businesses, and 11 unserved community institutions in and around the towns of Porter, Taunton, Minneota, Ghent, and Canby, between Canby and Marshall in Yellow Medicine and Lyon Counties with service levels up to 200 Mbps down by 20 Mbps up.
- 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.



In Spring of 2018, with support from Blandin Foundation, the county released the results of a [feasibility study](#)¹, it [determined](#)²...

analysis shows that it is not economically feasible to build fiber everywhere in the rural parts of the county using the existing Border-to-Border grant program—the 50% grant matching in that program is not enough to create a sustainable network. However, the hybrid fiber and wireless solutions all look to be economically viable.

In early 2019, the county promoted an app that would help test local broadband speeds. So they continue to be engaged as a county, they just need to persuade providers to meet their needs.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 30 (down from 29)
- 25/3 ranking: 44
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 14.2
- Number of providers: 11

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Lyon County (<http://tinyurl.com/hzlzvs>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 16, 22
House: 16A, 22A
- [Find your reps](#)³

Analysis: **Code Yellow**

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

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/04/30/lyon-county-broadband-feasibility-study-hybrid-fiber-and-wireless-solutions-are-economically-viable/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/10/23/lyon-county-broadband-profile-current-ranking-29/>

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

