

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Marshall County

Rank: 66 (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.

### Marshall County: data and community action

Marshall County is not poised to meet the state speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. They have received several grants that have helped get service to the area though they started with low access to 100/20 Mbps. The good news is that access to 100/20 Mbps is nearly keeping pace with access to 25/3 Mbps. So, the access they are getting is good, but it's slow going and that is creating a culture of broadband haves and have-nots. They need to continue to get funding to meet the speed goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Marshall	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	53.08	48.20	9.2
25/3 (2022 goal)	56.11	50.84	33.49

Marshall County has benefited from five state 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 service levels to 1 Gbps down and up.
- 2016 - GARDEN VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY RURAL THIEF RIVER FALLS EAST – GRANT: \$2,027,035**  
 Serving 330 unserved households, 23 unserved businesses, and 2 community anchor institutions in rural Thief River Falls in northwestern Minnesota with service levels to 1 Gigabit per second up and down.
- 2016 - WIKSTROM TELEPHONE COMPANY (WITH BEAMCO, INC.) RURAL ALVARADO – GRANT: \$43,481**  
 Serving 11 unserved households and 1 unserved business in the Alvarado area, in a remote part of Marshall County with service levels to 1 Gigabit.
- 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 with service 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

Marshall is getting [FCC funding](#)<sup>1</sup> over the next 10 years. In April (2019), [Vast Broadband launched Gig](#)<sup>2</sup> access in Marshall, Pipestone and Worthington counties. It will be interesting to see the impact that will have on the overall county strides toward 2026 speed goals.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 66
- 25/3 ranking: 87
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 2.2
- Number of providers: 3

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Marshall County (<http://tinyurl.com/zamfwj3>)
- There is a matrix of [Minnesota broadband adoption projects](#)<sup>3</sup>.
- Districts: CD 7  
Senate: 01  
House: 01A
- [Find your reps](#)<sup>4</sup>

**Analysis: Code Red**

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

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/04/11/vast-broadband-brings-gig-access-to-marshall-pipestone-and-worthington-mn-and-parts-of-south-dakota/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/bbc-2014-16-project-matrix.docx>

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