

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | McLeod County

Rank: 63 (out of 87) for broadband at 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.

McLeod County: data and community action

McLeod is not poised to meet the Minnesota broadband goals for either 2022 or 2026. They are in a difficult position because they have such a mixed bag of service levels across the county.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	58.59	58.57	56.92
25/3 (2022 goal)	81.01	83.53	83.10

In February 2018, the Blandin Foundation held a [meeting in the region¹](#) to talk about broadband, where there was a glimpse of the situation in the county...

They don't have an economic development department to work on broadband. So no one seems to be championing the effort on a county-wide basis. BUT, as part of RS Fiber, two cities are getting connectivity (FTTH). Hutchinson has cable and halfway decent speeds – but outside of Hutchinson, the county is not well served. There was a MN State grant in 2014 just outside the city of Hutchinson via New Ulm Telecom.

In summer 2019, [RS Fiber announced²](#) completed construction of gigabit FTTP networks in 10 communities located in Renville, Sibley, McLeod, and Nicollet Counties of west central Minnesota. Hopefully we'll see the impact of that in the next mapping.

To meet the state's broadband speed goals, McLeod will want to look at starting or joining a concerted effort to improve broadband because, while they see incremental increase in access, their ranking is dropping, which means other counties are doing better.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/02/14/mid-minnesota-regional-roundtable-on-broadband-filling-the-gaps-for-today-and-tomorrow/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/06/17/rs-fiber-and-hbc-form-long-term-agreement-and-plan-expansions/>



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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 63 (down from 43)
- 25/3 ranking: 55
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 28.9
- Number of providers: 11

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in McLeod County (<http://tinyurl.com/hx65gqh>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 18
House: 18A, 18B
- [Find your reps³](#)

Analysis: Code Red

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

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