

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Meeker County

Rank: 74 (out of 87) for broadband speeds of 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.

Meeker County: data and community action

Meeker County is not poised to meet the state broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. They recognize the need for improvement, now they need to move forward working with broadband providers.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Meeker	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	45.08	45.08	38.13
25/3 (2022 goal)	71.72	71.45	45.50

Meeker County has benefited from one state broadband grant:

- 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: 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 2017, Meeker County released a [broadband feasibility study](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/10/20/meeker-county-is-asking-residents-about-their-broadband/)¹, with Blandin Foundation’s support. They gave an [update in 2018](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/10/23/meeker-county-broadband-profile-current-ranking-57/)²...

Two years ago, businesses thought they were fine with existing broadband. Now they need more. We need to focus on future needs to create a solution for today and tomorrow...

What are the barriers in place? The technology required is based on needs of the users. Is there a possibility for dark fiber, a cooperative model, partnerships, shared use of conduit, future planning...but we need to build demand to make sure we maximize use and ROI.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/10/20/meeker-county-is-asking-residents-about-their-broadband/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/10/23/meeker-county-broadband-profile-current-ranking-57/>



There was a great recognition of the future need for broadband...

“In 10 or 15 years, we’re going to be at the point where dial-up internet used to be,” Krueger said. “This analysis is all about what your businesses need for the future.”

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 74 (down from 57)
- 25/3 ranking: 73
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 14.2
- Number of providers: 12

Details:

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

Analysis: Code Red

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

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