

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Mille Lacs County

Rank: 67 (out of 87) for broadband at 100/20 speeds 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.

### Mille Lacs County: data and community action

Mille Lacs County is not poised to meet the broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Mille Lacs	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	52.77	54.42	47.07
25/3 (2022 goal)	83.86	62.00	47.57

Mille Lacs County has been working on broadband for a while. They were part of the [Blandin Broadband Communities \(BBC\) initiative from 2012-2014<sup>1</sup>](#) when much of the community admittedly went from not knowing what broadband was to needing it. In 2015, they released a [feasibility study<sup>2</sup>](#).

Mille Lacs County benefited from one state broadband grant:

- 2016 - BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY BOCK – GRANT: \$510,000**  
 Serving 337 unserved households, 37 unserved businesses and 1 community anchor institution in the city of Bock and portions of Hayland and Borgholm Townships in Mille Lacs County with service levels to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.

They applied for more funding in 2017 but didn't get it. They need to continue to build partnerships and apply for future funding.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 67 (down from 49)
- 25/3 ranking: 46

<sup>1</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2014/09/10/strut-your-stuff-tour-in-mille-lacs-county-wi-fi-on-buses-training-and-moving-forward/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2015/10/mille-lacs-feasibility-study.pdf>



- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 14.9
- Number of providers: 9

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Mille Lacs County (<http://tinyurl.com/h7wcdjj>)
- Districts: CD 8  
Senate: 15  
House: 15A
- [Find your reps<sup>3</sup>](#)

**Analysis: Code Red**

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

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

