

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Morrison County

Rank: 53 (out of 87) for broadband at 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.

Morrison County: data and community action

Morrison County is not poised to make the state speed goals for 2022 or 2026 but they recently saw an increase in access. If they can build on that momentum, they will come closer to the goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	69.94	42.74	28.83
25/3 (2022 goal)	76	71.04	69.24

Morrison County is part of the [Resilient Region¹](#) and has been included in their research and [Blandin Broadband Community \(BBC\) activities²](#)...

Research unveiled at the conference found that, combined, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties could see more than \$78.6 million in economic benefits over 15 years if broadband access and use improved. Tech expert Robert Gallardo, assistant director at the Purdue Center for Regional Development, produced profiles of all Minnesota counties using his Digital Divide Index.

Morrison County benefited from three state broadband grants:

- 2017 - Benton Cooperative Telephone Company – Rice Ramey – GRANT \$765,015**
 Serving 250 unserved households and 73 unserved businesses in the area northeast of Rice in Benton and Morrison Counties with services of 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload.
- 2016 - BENTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY BUCKMAN – GRANT: \$276,230**
 Serving 130 unserved households, 17 unserved businesses and 1 community anchor institution in the city of Buckman and sections of Buckman and Morrill Townships in Morrison with service levels to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps up.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/11/22/resilient-regions-take-on-the-minnesota-broadband-conference/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/10/07/great-river-regional-library-is-booming-especially-online/>



- **2014 - Consolidated Telephone Cooperative, Region 5 Virtual Highway Project**
Award: \$2 million. Total project cost: \$4.22 million. Impact: Service to 247 unserved and 90 underserved premises in Cass, Crow Wing and Morrison counties.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 53 (up from 59)
- 25/3 ranking: 65
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 11.3
- Number of providers: 11

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Morrison County (<http://tinyurl.com/hxkk5ur>)
- Districts: CD 8 Senate: 9, 15House: 09B, 15B
- [Find your reps³](#)

Analysis: Code Red

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

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

