

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Mower County

Rank: 36 (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.

Mower County: data and community action

Mower County may not make the speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. It seems as if they may have some momentum going but it's difficult to tell with mapping anomalies. The recent approval of the Mid Continent Telephone Company (Midco) state grant application will help.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Mower	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	78.56	23.31	90.2
25/3 (2022 goal)	85.22	78.47	78.39

The numbers for Mower County are skewed, especially for access to 100/20 Mbps – in due because mapping in 2017 included fixed wireless access this year includes only wireline. But it makes it difficult to assess growth.

In 2017, [Mediacom announced¹](#) that part of Mower County (Adams, Brownsdale, Le Roy, Lyle, Waltham) are part of its Gigabit upgrade. That may explain some growth.

[In August 2019²](#), Mid Continent asked Mower County to support their application for a Minnesota Broadband grant to extend/expand broadband in the area. [Mower agreed to support³](#) it...

With a vote of approval during Tuesday's county board meeting, Mower County is on a higher-speed trek to gaining rural broadband access to all of its residents.

The Mower County Board unanimously approved a resolution, along with a letter of support for Mid Continent Communication (MIDCO) choosing the county as a project site to receive high-

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/04/02/mediacom-minnesota-1-gig-upgrade-schedule-is-out/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/28/mower-county-to-vote-on-supporting-rural-broadband-project-today/>

³ <https://wp.me/p3if7-5mL>



speed internet access for 9,371 places for optical fiber and terrestrial fixed wireless access, in a 5-0 vote.

This is a multi-county application.

Also, Mower will be getting [FCC funding](#)⁴ over the next 10 years.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 36 (up from 79)
- 25/3 ranking: 45
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: no
- Household density: 22.2
- Number of providers: 12

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Mower County (<http://tinyurl.com/j9sr5gf>)
- Districts: CD 1
Senate: 27
House: 27A, 27B
- [Find your reps](#)⁵

Analysis: Code Yellow

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

⁴ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/16/more-on-fcc-funding-freeborn-county-receives-almost-2-million/>

⁵ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>