

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Nicollet County

Rank: 37 (out of 87) with 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.

### Nicollet County: data and community action

With concerted effort, Nicollet County could be poised to meet the broadband speed goals for both 2022 and 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	78.42	33.29	54.54
25/3 (2022 goal)	82.68	83.91	83.42

Nicollet County has benefited from a 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 counties: 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.

It's difficult to get a clear picture of Nicollet's progress toward the speed goals given the dip in 2018 – caused by provider Nuevera going more granular with its DSL data - but it looks like Nicollet is experiencing momentum toward reaching the state's speed goals.

[Mediacom](#)<sup>1</sup> announced upgrades in 2017. [Consolidated Communications announced](#)<sup>2</sup> improvements in 2018. [County commissioners have recognized](#)<sup>3</sup> the need for better broadband. In 2019, [RS](#)

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/07/13/consolidated-communications-boosts-broadband-speeds-in-southern-minnesota/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/01/24/best-thing-you-can-do-to-improve-water-quality-in-rural-minnesota-is-give-farmers-internet/>



[Fiber](#)<sup>4</sup> completed construction of a gigabit fiber to the home networks in ten communities located in Renville, Sibley, McLeod, and Nicollet Counties of west central Minnesota.

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 37
- 25/3 ranking: 51
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 26.1
- Number of providers: 12

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Nicollet County (<http://tinyurl.com/h3zwpbd>)
- Districts: CD 1  
Senate: 19  
House: 19A
- [Find your reps](#)<sup>5</sup>

**Analysis: Code Yellow**

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

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<sup>4</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/06/17/rs-fiber-and-hbc-form-long-term-agreement-and-plan-expansions/>

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

