

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Nobles County

Rank: 40 (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.

### Nobles County: data and community action

Nobles County is in a precarious position; they could reach broadband speed goals for 2022 and 2026 but it will take a concerted effort. Lismore Telephone is a cooperative in the area that has been active in the community. It looks like their state-funded project in 2016 only targeted speeds of 25/3 Mbps, though they do offer faster services. If Nobles County can get them (or another provider) to extend services, that will increase their chances of meeting the state speed goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
<b>100/20 (2026 goal)</b>	<b>77.66</b>	<b>77.18</b>	<b>59.25</b>
<b>25/3 (2022 goal)</b>	<b>80.89</b>	<b>79.24</b>	<b>76.19</b>

Nobles County has benefited from two Minnesota broadband grants:

- 2016 LISMORE COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE NOBLES COUNTY BROADBAND – GRANT: \$2,944,578**  
 Serving 469 unserved households, 1060 unserved businesses, and 6 unserved community anchor institutions across Nobles County with services to 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload via a fixed wireless solution for nearly 1,000 passings, and fiber to obtain gigabit levels for close to 500 passings.
- 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.

As a member of Blandin Foundation’s 2015-2016 Blandin Broadband Community cohort, [Nobles County<sup>1</sup>](#) implemented nearly a dozen broadband adoption projects focused on digital inclusion, increasing public access to broadband, and improving the digital literacy skills of the county’s business community. So,

<sup>1</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2016/09/28/blandin-broadband-community-tour-nobles-county-where-digital-inclusion-builds-bridges-to-new-americans/>



they are as community focused on broadband. [Late in 2018, SDN<sup>2</sup>](#) Communications partnered with local providers to expand service into Nobles County.

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

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 40 (down from 24)
- 25/3 ranking: 56
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 11
- Number of providers: 13

Details:

- [Nobles County<sup>3</sup>](#) has worked with the Blandin Foundation. This project matrix includes descriptions of their community work.  
[https://blandinfoundation.org/content/uploads/vy/BBC\\_2015-16\\_Project\\_Matrix.pdf](https://blandinfoundation.org/content/uploads/vy/BBC_2015-16_Project_Matrix.pdf)
- Find more articles on broadband in Nobles County (<http://tinyurl.com/j52xvxu>)
- Districts: CD 1  
Senate: 22  
House: 22A, 22B
- [Find your reps<sup>4</sup>](#)

**Analysis: Code Yellow**

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

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<sup>2</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/11/28/sdn-expands-broadband-to-nobles-and-watonwan-counties-in-mn/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2016/09/28/blandin-broadband-community-tour-nobles-county-where-digital-inclusion-builds-bridges-to-new-americans/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

