

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Pennington County

Rank: 11 (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.

Pennington County: data and community action

Pennington is poised to meet the Minnesota speed goals for both 2022 and 2026. They made a huge leap into availability before 2018, after receiving several Minnesota grants.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Pennington	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	96.18	90.75	9.63
25/3 (2022 goal)	97.21	91.78	91.78

Pennington County has benefited from several state broadband grants:

- 2017 - Sjoberg's Inc. - NW MN Rural Broadband – GRANT \$307,088**
 Serving 98 unserved households, 10 unserved businesses, and 3 community anchor institutions in a large area west of Thief River Falls in Pennington County with service levels to 1 Gbps down and up.
- 2016 - CENTURYLINK THIEF RIVER MIDDLE MILE – GRANT: \$1,324,400**
 Serving 491 unserved households and 118 unserved businesses in a 71.4 mile fiber build from Thief River to Roseau with service levels 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps.
- 2016 - GARDEN VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY RURAL THIEF RIVER FALLS EAST – GRANT: \$2,027,035**
 Serving 330 unserved households, 23 unserved businesses, and 2 community anchor institutions in rural Thief River Falls with service levels to 1 Gigabit per second up and down.

Pennington County has done well with engaged providers. They need to continue to work with providers to reach the last almost four percent of households in the county.

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



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 11 (up from 12)
- 25/3 ranking: 16
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 9.4
- Number of providers: 6

Details:

- There is a matrix of [Minnesota broadband adoption projects¹](#).
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 01
House: 01A, 01B
- [Find your reps²](#)

Analysis: Code Green

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

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/bbc-2014-16-project-matrix.docx>

² <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

