

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Pope County

Rank: 54 (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.

Pope County: data and community action

Pope County is unlikely to meet the broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026 without a concerted effort to put into place their 2017 feasibility study (or an updated version).

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Pope	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	68.92	23.67	24.33
25/3 (2022 goal)	76.99	61.27	60.54

Pope County has benefited from one state broadband grant:

- 2017 - Hanson Communications - Minnewaska Area FTTP – GRANT \$4,996,791**
 Serving 274 unserved households and 535 unserved businesses; and 468 underserved households and 181 underserved businesses and 11 underserved community institution in Pope County with service levels to 1 gigabit per second.

Pope County had a [feasibility study done in 2017¹](#), supported by the Blandin Foundation. They found... Installing fiber everywhere in the county would cost about \$29.3 million, according to the study. If the combination of wireless and fiber were used, the cost would drop to about \$9 million. And in another scenario, the study excluded the city of Glenwood and used a wireless and fiber combination for the rest of the county and that was estimated to cost about \$6.5 million.

They have plans in the works, and that’s a big and necessary space. Now they need to find willing partners and move forward with plans to find a way to get the money necessary to make it happen.

Pope County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, Hanson and Arvig applied to upgrade service in Pope. (That doesn’t mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/02/25/pope-county-broadband-profile-62-percent-have-access-working-on-efforts/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 54
- 25/3 ranking: 64
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 6.6
- Number of providers: 8

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Pope County (<http://tinyurl.com/hx7q9fd>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 12
House: 12A, 12B
- [Find your reps²](#)

Analysis: Code Red

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

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