

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Redwood County

Rank: 83 (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.

Redwood Falls County: data and community action

Redwood Falls County is not poised to meet the state broadband goals for either 2022 or 2026. They might be able to get some ideas back from a feasibility study they did in 2013 – work with partners and find funding.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Redwood	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	33.56	33.56	34.37
25/3 (2022 goal)	70.94	72.07	41.80

The data seems skewed because after 2017, broadband provider Nuvera provided more granular DSL data. They corrected the speeds.

Redwood County has benefited from state broadband grants:

- 2017 - MVTC (Minnesota Valley Telephone Company, Inc.) - Milroy Broadband Project – GRANT \$742,365**
 Serving 246 unserved households and 22 unserved businesses in the Milroy Broadband Project located in both Redwood and Lyon Counties with service levels to 1 Gbps.
- 2016 - ARVIG - REDWOOD COUNTY TELEPHONE MIDDLE MILE FIBER EXTENSION – GRANT: \$27,998**
 Serving 5 unserved households and 20 unserved businesses near Morgan, MN, in an area southeast of Redwood Falls with service levels to 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up.
- 2015 - MVTW 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.

[Redwood County](#)¹ was a Blandin Broadband Community in 2013; they released a feasibility study. While the study is somewhat dated now, one [observation remains true](#)²...

While residents in Redwood Falls have access to multiple broadband providers, the residents in the smaller communities and rural areas have less access to broadband services.

And some of their next steps for action remain apt.

- 1) A first step should include contacting RUS to discuss the project and available RUS loans and grants. [Might contact MN Office of Broadband Development and ask about Broadband Grants now.]
- 2) After that, meetings should be scheduled with each potential service provider partner to share the report and discuss cooperative efforts toward entering into a long-term agreement.
- 3) Engaging the League of Minnesota Cities or other organizations that may be useful in determining the best path to choose in organizing Redwood County legally to enter into agreements with RUS and partners.
- 4) Engaging, local, state, and national politicians and their staff's may be helpful in gaining support for any non-traditional track to implementing broadband in Redwood County.

Redwood County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, Minnesota Valley Tel. Co. (MVTC) applied to upgrade service in Redwood. (That doesn't mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 83
- 25/3 ranking: 75
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 7.5
- Number of providers: 10

Details:

- [Redwood County](#)³ has worked with the Blandin Foundation
- Find more articles on broadband in Redwood County (<http://tinyurl.com/hxhbysd>)
- There is a matrix of [Minnesota broadband adoption projects](#)⁴.
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 16, 22
House: 16A, 16B, 22B
- [Find your reps](#)⁵

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/08/31/redwood-county-look-back-at-impact-of-being-a-blandin-broadband-community/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2013/04/08/redwood-county-broadband-initiative-feasibility-study/>

³ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/08/31/redwood-county-look-back-at-impact-of-being-a-blandin-broadband-community/>

⁴ <https://blandinonbroadband.files.wordpress.com/2017/01/bbc-2014-16-project-matrix.docx>

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



Analysis: Code Yellow

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

