

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Rock County

Rank: 1 (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.

Rock County: data and community action

The top-rated county in Minnesota for access to broadband speeds of 100/20 Mbps, for all practical purposes, Rock County has reached the Minnesota broadband goals for both 2022 and 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Rock	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	99.93	99.93	66.32
25/3 (2022 goal)	99.93	99.93	99.93

Rock County benefited from two state broadband grants:

- 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.
- 2014 - Rock County Broadband Alliance (RCBA), FTTP Project**
 Award: \$5 million. Total project cost: \$12.85 million. Impact: service to 1,261 homes and farms, 68 businesses, and 21 community institutions in Rock County.

The 2014 project set Rock County in a good direction. In the summer of 2017, Rock County shared their community broadband expertise by inviting the [Minnesota Broadband Task Force to visit¹](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/06/29/minnesota-broadband-task-force-a-deep-look-into-grant-funding-ftth-rock-county/) the area and learn more about the program. Rock County is a member of the 2018-2020 [Blandin Broadband Community cohort](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/07/02/rock-county-selected-as-a-blandin-broadband-community/). Residents are implementing projects to boost broadband adoption and sophistication of use as an economic development strategy².

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/06/29/minnesota-broadband-task-force-a-deep-look-into-grant-funding-ftth-rock-county/>

² <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/07/02/rock-county-selected-as-a-blandin-broadband-community/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 1 (no change)
- 25/3 ranking: 2
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 8.1
- Number of providers: 10

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Rock County (<http://tinyurl.com/jjeesst>)
- Districts: CD 1
Senate: 22
House: 22A
- [Find your reps³](#)

Analysis: Code Yellow

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

³ <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>