

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Wadena County

Rank: 16 (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.

Wadena County: data and community action

Wadena County is in good shape for meeting the state speed goals for both 2022 and 2026. Their numbers are pretty good, they made great strides in the last year, but they will need to build on that momentum to meet the goals.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	91.07	49.91	45.69
25/3 (2022 goal)	93.01	92.37	88.23

Wadena has benefited from a state broadband grant:

- 2015 - West Central Telephone Association Hwy 71 Wadena NORTH Expansion Project Grant Award: \$193,515**
 Serving 162 households, 43 businesses, and 3 community anchor institutions in the Wadena area and Highway 71 corridor north of Wadena.

Wadena, as part of the Resilient Region, was part of the [Blandin Broadband Communities \(BBC\)](#)¹. That has brought broadband activities to the area and spurred conversation.

In September 2019, Senator Klobuchar’s staff held a listening session in Wadena County. While Wadena is largely served, we heard from the folks who aren’t. They can’t get online; they can’t even get cell services. It was a reminder that even in counties that are well served, most have some families that are not.

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

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/09/06/resilient-region-look-back-at-impact-of-being-a-blandin-broadband-community/>



Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 16 (up from 53)
- 25/3 ranking: 24
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 10.5
- Number of providers: 10

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Wadena County (<http://tinyurl.com/z7xgkz8>)
- Districts: CD 8
Senate: 02, 09
House: 02B, 09A
- [Find your reps²](#)

Analysis: Code Yellow

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

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