

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Watonwan County

Rank: 58 (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.

Watonwan County: data and community action

Watonwan County is not primed to meet Minnesota broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Watonwan	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	67.75	68.42	64.58
25/3 (2022 goal)	79.21	70.70	65.26

Watonwan County has benefited from several state grants:

- 2017 - New Ulm Telecom, Inc. - Hanska A&D FTTP – GRANT \$324,894**
 Serving 9 unserved households and 38 unserved businesses in the Hanska area south of New Ulm near the border of Brown and Watonwan Counties with service levels to 1 Gbps.
- 2016 - NEW ULM TELECOM, INC. HANSKA - GRANT: \$ 200,397**
 Serving 14 unserved households and 32 unserved businesses in Lake Hanska Township in Brown County and Riverdale Township in Watonwan County.
- 2015 - MVTV 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.

Watonwan needs help to reach the speed goals. In November 2018, [SDN announced¹](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/11/28/sdn-expands-broadband-to-nobles-and-watonwan-counties-in-mn/) two broadband partners to its Minnesota network, which will improve business broadband reach into two counties of that state - Nobles and Watonwan. That should help it.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/11/28/sdn-expands-broadband-to-nobles-and-watonwan-counties-in-mn/>



In September 2019, [Senator Smith visited Watonwan County](#)² to learn about the state of rural broadband.

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 58 (down from 34)
- 25/3 ranking: 60
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 10.3
- Number of providers: 8

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Watonwan County (<http://tinyurl.com/jpnf6xv>)
- Districts: CD 1
Senate: 23
House: 23A, 23B
- [Find your reps](#)³

Analysis: Code Red

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

² <https://wp.me/p3if7-5qX>

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

