

2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Wilkin County

Rank: 34 (out of 87) for broadband access 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.

Wilkin County: data and community action

Wilkin County is not poised to meet the speed goals for either 2022 or 2026. Their numbers looked okay a few years ago, but they have not improved; they need to build a momentum.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Wilkin	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	80.84	82.08	80.84
25/3 (2022 goal)	88.01	86.53	80.84

Wilkin has benefited from a state broadband grant:

- **2017 - Advantenon - Rural Grant, Stevens and Wilkin Counties – Grant \$316,554**
Serving 528 unserved households, 132 unserved businesses, and 8 unserved community anchor institutions in Rural Grant, Stevens and Wilkin Counties with service levels to 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload.

Wilkin County needs to jumpstart a focus on broadband; it seems like that might happen. Sen. Torrey Westrom and Rep. Jeff Backer held a [town hall meeting in February 2019¹](https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/02/20/sen-westrom-talks-about-broadband-for-wilkin-county/) to talk about broadband. In summer of 2019, the Wilkin County Commissioner Dennis Larson advocated for legislative funding for broadband.

Now they need to extend that enthusiasm into action working with providers to extend better broadband throughout the county.

¹ <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/02/20/sen-westrom-talks-about-broadband-for-wilkin-county/>

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 34 (down from 20)
- 25/3 ranking: 38
- Has worked with Blandin: no
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 3.6
- Number of providers: 8

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Wilkin County (<http://tinyurl.com/zh64v29>)
- Districts: CD 7
Senate: 12
House: 12A
- [Find your reps²](#)

Analysis: Code Red

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

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