

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Winona County

Rank: 24 (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.

### Winona County: data and community action

Winona County is not poised to meet the broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026 unless they build a momentum comparable to 20 years ago.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
Winona	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	86.43	86.31	81.17
25/3 (2022 goal)	86.56	86.48	92.13

Winona has benefited from several broadband grants:

- 2016 - WINONA COUNTY PICKWICK AREA – GRANT: \$416,640**  
 Serving 88 unserved households, 89 unserved businesses, 2 unserved community anchor institutions, and 23 underserved households and 23 underserved businesses within Wilson, Homer, Richmond, Pleasant Hill, and Wiscoy Townships in Winona County with service levels to 1 Gigabit speed.
- 2015 - Hiawatha Broadband Communications - Winona County Whitewater Area Grant Award: \$247,000**  
 Serving 418 passings including 135 households, 70 businesses and 5 community anchor institutions in in Elba and Norton Townships including Whitewater State Park.
- 2015 - Winona County Hiawatha Broadband Communications - Cedar Valley Area Grant award: \$314,450**  
 Serving 256 households, 117 businesses and 3 community anchor institutions in area lies south and west of Winona from Hwy 61 along the Mississippi River to I-90.

Winona County was part of the [Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities \(MIRC\)](#)<sup>1</sup> starting in 2010, a Blandin-led and federal (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) funded digital inclusion project. So

<sup>1</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2012/07/25/mirc-video-winona/>



there has been a focus on broadband for a decade. In fact, Winona is the home of [Luminet<sup>2</sup>](#), an early broadband provider that eventually became [Hiawatha Broadband<sup>3</sup>](#) and then [Schurz Communications<sup>4</sup>](#).

Unfortunately, Winona has not kept pace. They need to build a momentum to get them on track to meet the speed goals.

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 24 (down from 15)
- 25/3 ranking: 41
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 30.4
- Number of providers: 14

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Winona County (<http://tinyurl.com/hqscxg>)
- Districts: CD 7  
Senate: 21, 28  
House: 21B, 28A
- [Find your reps<sup>5</sup>](#)

**Analysis: Code Red**

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

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.postbulletin.com/luminet-key-to-future/article\\_fe9ae958-ae91-5b83-99b6-1ae16de78270.html](https://www.postbulletin.com/luminet-key-to-future/article_fe9ae958-ae91-5b83-99b6-1ae16de78270.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/03/20/gary-evans-former-ceo-of-hbc-talks-about-getting-broadband-to-winona-and-beyond/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2017/10/06/schurz-completes-agreement-to-acquire-hiawatha-broadband-communications/>

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

