

## 2019 Annual Minnesota Broadband Profiles | Yellow Medicine County

Rank: 78 (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.

### Yellow Medicine: data and community action

Yellow Medicine is not poised to meet the broadband speed goals for either 2022 or 2026 but they created a project for a grant application in the last round. It wasn't funded, but that sets the stage for engagement later.

Percentage of Served Population by Speed and Date			
	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	38.86	37.72	19.28
25/3 (2022 goal)	68.31	46.91	20.42

Yellow Medicine County has benefited from broadband grants:

- 2016 - MIDCO CANBY TO MARSHALL MIDDLE MILE AND LAST MILE – GRANT AMOUNT: \$623,000**

Serving 1029 unserved households, 29 unserved businesses, and 11 unserved community institutions in and around the towns of Porter, Taunton, Minneota, Ghent, and Canby, between Canby and Marshall in Yellow Medicine and Lyon with service levels in the project area to 200 Mbps down by 20 Mbps up..
- 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.

Yellow Medicine is getting almost [\\$2 million in FCC funding<sup>1</sup>](#) but that is over the next 10 years.

In 2018, Yellow Medicine released a Blandin Foundation-supported [feasibility study<sup>2</sup>](#)...

<sup>1</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2019/08/16/more-on-fcc-funding-freeborn-county-receives-almost-2-million/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/05/02/yellow-medicine-county-broadband-feasibility-study-wireless-is-a-temporary-solution-grants-needed-for-fiber-builds/>



It does not look to be economically feasible to immediately build fiber everywhere without significant grant funding. ... The scenarios that mix fiber and wireless technology look feasible. The scenarios can work even without grant funding, but some level of grant funding make the scenarios safer for an investor.

There was game changing possibility:

We note that as this report was being written that the county announced a tentative agreement with Farmers Mutual Cooperative to bring fiber to a significant portion of the county. The county has agreed to provide \$4 million in funding subject to the Cooperative being able to find grants and other funding needed to build the project. If completed this project would cover a little less than half of the parts of the county that don't have broadband today.

In [December 2019, the Yellow Medicine County Board](#)<sup>3</sup> talked about the need to step “up effort to expand broadband Internet service to rural counties.”

They did not get that funding but having a feasibility study in place and a relationship with providers that will help them get to the speed goals, despite current numbers.

Yellow Medicine County could benefit from future grants. In 2019, Woodstock and Midco applied to upgrade service in Yellow Medicine. (That doesn't mean they will get the grant; they have only applied.)

Checklist:

- 100/20 ranking: 78 (down from 69)
- 25/3 ranking: 77
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 5.6
- Number of providers: 7

Details:

- Find more articles on broadband in Yellow Medicine County (<http://tinyurl.com/zhsj3ke>)
- Districts: CD 7  
Senate:16  
House: 16A
- [Find your reps](#)<sup>4</sup>

**Analysis: Code Red**

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

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<sup>3</sup> <https://blandinonbroadband.org/2018/12/04/yellow-medicine-county-decides-to-focus-on-broadband/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

