

# Blandin on Broadband

News and information on broadband use, policy, and trends

## Lincoln County Broadband Profile 2022: Red rating: Ranking out 2 of 87

Posted on **December 28, 2022** by **Ann Treacy**

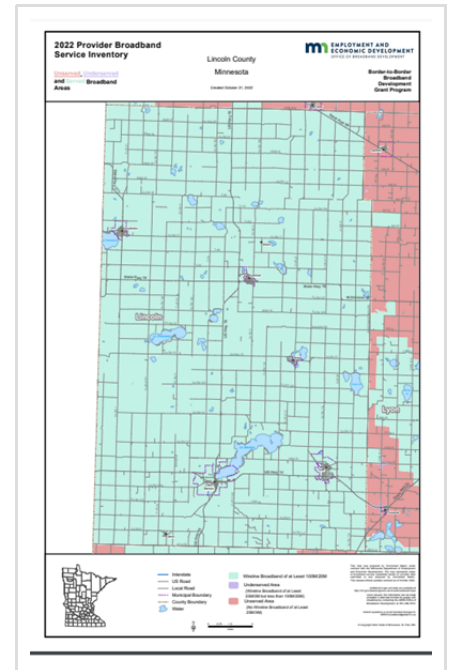
Rank: 2

Code: Green

(See [Blandin Foundation interactive map](#))

### Lincoln County: From better to almost best

Lincoln County ranks 2 for broadband access and 65 for digital equity out of 87 counties. They went to 99+ percent coverage to broadband of 100 Mbps down and 20 up last summer and have improved since then. They have 0 households [without access to broadband](#) at that speed. Estimates indicate that it will cost nothing to ubiquitous broadband in the county. However, they rank 65 for digital equity so they could focus on use with any public funding.



County	Housing Unit Density	Number of Housing Units	100/20 Mbps	houses unserved	Cost to close the gap
Lincoln	5.6	3,051	99.99	0	\$ 2,837.43

With help from the Blandin Foundation, Lincoln released a [feasibility study](#) in 2018, which indicated Fiber to the Premise

would cost \$8.5 million in eastern Lincoln County. They worked on a grant application that did not get funded but the county decided to move ahead on their own.

Last fall, [ITC announced a fiber-optic expansion](#) to the City of Ivanhoe in Lincoln County. Along with ITC's investment in the fiber-optic expansion, this project is funded by the City of Ivanhoe and Lincoln County. And they have been [working on improving digital equity](#) with help from the Blandin Foundation.

They continue to earn their green ranking.

Broadband Access:

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
100/20 (2026 goal)	99.99	99.03	40.42	39.21	39.21	40
25/3 (2022 goal)	99.99	99.33	60.91	59.7	53.44	54.27

### Digital Equity:

Lincoln County ranks 65 out of 87 for digital equity. (See full [Digital Equity Profile](#))

Lincoln County ranks 77 out of 87 for [computer ownership](#). 87.3 percent of homes have a computer or device as compared to statewide ownership of 95.5 percent.

Past grants:

- 2015 – MDTV Wireless Middle Mile – Grant award: \$808,080
- 2014 – Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC), Hendricks Town FTTP – Award: \$700,000.

Checklist:

- Find more articles on broadband in Lincoln County (<http://tinyurl.com/jxqwlabb>)
- 100/20 Mbps ranking: 2 (up 5)
- Has worked with Blandin: yes
- Has received a MN Broadband grant: yes
- Household density: 5.6

I am doing the [annual look at broadband in each county](#) – based on maps from the [Office of Broadband Development](#) and news gathered from the last year. I'm looking at progress toward the 2022 (25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up) and 2026 (100 Mbps down and 20 Mbps up) and will code each:

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

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### About Ann Treacy

Librarian who follows rural broadband in MN and good uses of new technology ([blandinonbroadband.org](http://blandinonbroadband.org)), hosts a radio show on MN music ([mostlyminnesota.com](http://mostlyminnesota.com)), supports people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota ([elimstrongtowershelters.org](http://elimstrongtowershelters.org)) and helps with social justice issues through Women's March MN.

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