**Community Broadband Infrastructure and Services Assessment Tool**

Find this tool online at [www.mnbroadbandcoalition.com](http://www.mnbroadbandcoalition.com)!

Broadband is now considered a critical community infrastructure necessary to survive and thrive. Community leaders want the infrastructure and services present in their community to be world-class so as to be a magnet for economic development, including investment and talented people.

This assessment tool will help local leaders investigate, consider, understand and discuss the state of the community’s broadband infrastructure and services. This tool incorporates measures of broadband speed, ubiquity, competition, redundancy and partnership. In many areas, community broadband consideration has moved beyond the city limits to the community’s market area or to individual townships, the entire county or tribal reservation. This tool allows analysis at any geography, recognizing that larger geographies are likely to have wide variations in broadband availability.

It is recommended that you print a copy of the assessment for use as a worksheet prior to completing the assessment online.

We recommend that a small community team tackle this assessment together using their combined knowledge of the area’s broadband picture. Technologists from local tech support and other companies, school districts and hospitals will know the answers to many of these questions. You could include area broadband providers as key resources in completing and validating the assessment as well as moving to fill in identified broadband gaps. You will find information at the Minnesota DEED Office of Broadband web site (<http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/maps-tests/index.jsp>) that will also be helpful, but should be verified for accuracy to your particular location.

**Click HERE to download a copy of the assessment.**

**Click HERE to begin the assessment. Make sure that you print the results of your assessment using your web browser.**

https://www.onlineassessmenttool.com/minnesota-community-broadband-assessment/assessment-37060

You may find that your community has world-class broadband services; that would be a reason for celebration and promotion. You may find that you are generally well served, but have critical gaps in infrastructure or could benefit from increased competition. This tool will point you to next steps whatever your situation.

You should share the results of the assessment with your existing or prospective broadband providers. You should also review the results with your legislators, county board and city council.

You can find broadband planning assistance with either the Blandin Foundation ([broadband@blandinfoundation.org](mailto:broadband@blandinfoundation.org)) or the DEED Office of Broadband Development (<http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/index.jsp>). Non-Minnesota communities should identify similar resources in your own state.

**Community Broadband Infrastructure and Services Assessment Tool**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Factor** | **Options** | **Points** | **Score** |
| **Part One - In Town** |  |  |  |
| 1. How many broadband providers have fiber optic backbone networks connecting your community to national network centers like the 511 building in Minneapolis? | 3 or more  2  1  0 | 5  3  1  0 |  |
| 2. Are primary community institutions (government, health care and education) connected to the Internet via fiber? | All community institutions are fiber connected  Each sector has at least 1 fiber connection  Two institutional sectors are fiber connected  One institutional sector is fiber connected  No institutional fiber connections | 5  3  2  1  0 |  |
| 3. Are fiber connections readily available to businesses (no or short fiber construction required)? | All businesses have ready access to fiber  Downtown and industrial parks only  Fiber to the node for key business areas  Fiber is generally not available | 5  3  1  0 |  |
| 4. How many wired providers are competing for business and institutional customers in your community? | 3 or more  2  1  0 | 5  3  1  0 |  |
| 5. How many wired broadband providers are competing for residential customers in your community? (If your area is split between multiple Local Exchange telephone carriers and they do not compete against each other, enter 1). | 3 or more  2  1  0 | 5  3  1  0 |  |
| 6. What is the fastest broadband Internet download connection offered and readily available to residential customers in your community? | 1 Gb  100 Mb  50 Mb  20 Mb  10 Mb  Less than 10 Mb | 5  4  3  2  1  0 |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7. What is the fastest broadband Internet upload connection offered and readily available to residential customers in your community? | 1 Gb  100 Mb  Between 10 Mb and 50 Mb  10 Mb  5 Mb  Less than 5 Mb | 5  4  3  2  1  0 |  |
|  | **Part One Score** | **0-35** |  |
| **Part Two – Countywide Broadband** |  |  |  |
| 8. Based on state data sources, what percentage of all county residents have access to fixed, non-mobile broadband services that meets the state broadband goal of 10 Mb/5 Mb?  <http://mn.gov/deed/images/bb-speed-tiers-county-fixed-nonmobile.pdf> | 90 - 100%  75 – 89%  60 – 74%  45 – 59%  30 – 44%  Less than 30% | 5  4  3  2  1  0 |  |
| 9. Based on state data sources, what percentage of all county residents have access to fixed, non-mobile broadband services that meets the FCC broadband definition of 25 Mb/3 Mb?  <http://mn.gov/deed/images/bb-speed-tiers-county-fixed-nonmobile.pdf> | 90 - 100%  70 – 89%  50 – 69%  30 – 49%  20 – 29%  Less than 20% | 5  4  3  2  1  0 |  |
|  | **Part Two Score** | **0 - 10** |  |
| **Part Three - Partnerships** |  |  |  |
| 10. Do you consider your broadband providers to be partners for community and economic development? | Multiple strong partners across community  One strong partner across the community  Partner(s) in limited areas  Unresponsive to partnerships | 5  3  1  0 |  |
|  | **Bonus Score** | **0 - 5** |  |

**Scoring**

**Part One – Broadband in Town**

If you scored at least 28 points (80% and above), you generally have excellent broadband networks and services that can be a real asset for economic development.

If you scored between 18 and 27 points (between 50% and 80%), your broadband offerings are average with some weak areas to improve.

If you scored less than 18 points (50%), you have serious broadband deficiencies and need to work on improving your competitiveness.

**Part Two – Broadband in the Rural Countryside**

If you scored at least 8 of 10 points (80% or better), you have excellent and ubiquitous broadband network and services in your rural countryside. You should promote telework and home entrepreneurship as economic development strategies. You could also promote your area as a test bed for new application development, testing and deployment.

If you scored between 5 and 7 points (50% and 70%), you need to work to improve ubiquity and/or broadband sped. You should promote well-served areas to prospective new residents.

If you scored less than 5 points (50%), you need to work to improve your rural broadband networks to be able to attract rural residents and serve rural businesses.

**Part Three – Broadband Partnerships**

If you scored between 60% and 100%, you are at a tremendous advantage. Come to an understanding about your provider’s willingness to support economic development.

If you scored 10%, you can still connect your broadband provider to your economic development efforts. Continue to build the relationship!

If you scored zero on this question, continue to pursue the participation of your area providers. You might benefit from talking with providers in adjacent areas to encourage them to consider targeted expansion in your community.