



# Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition



## MN Rural Broadband Coalition - History

The Minnesota broadband vision [created in the fall of 2015](#) at a “Border to Border Broadband “Better Together” conference hosted by Blandin Foundation and the MN [Office of Broadband Development](#). This prompted the formation of the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition.

Our vision is that everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe.



# Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition

Access to high speed broadband is important for a sustainable rural economy in Minnesota. **All sectors and corners** of Minnesota need robust broadband connections: education, agriculture, main street businesses, manufacturing and health care.

Members of the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition are experienced in the challenges and opportunities to bring broadband to **all sectors and corners** of Minnesota.





## Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition Membership

Counties, small cities, townships, County EDA's, hospitals, electric cooperatives, rural telephone cooperatives, educational institutions, small business, agriculture associations, etc.

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MREA, GRE, MiEnergy, Meeker Electric Cooperative, MELAC

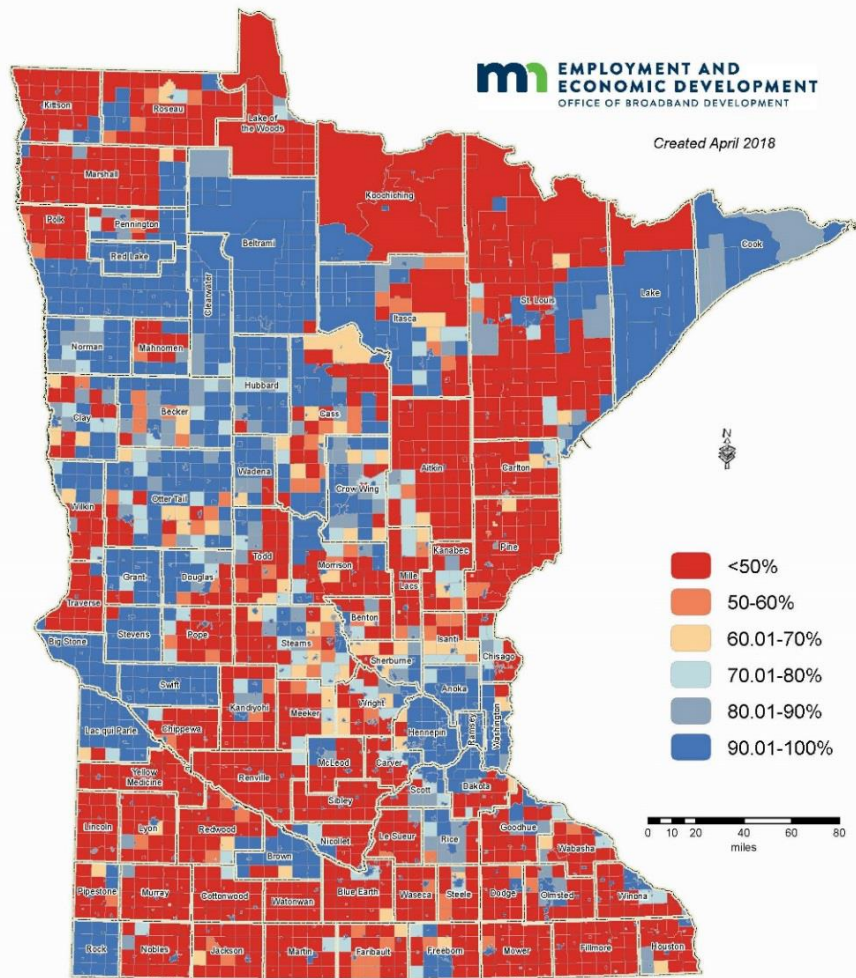
# A Sustainable Rural Economy in Minnesota



- Investments in broadband infrastructure strengthen our state and regional economies by improving competitiveness and service delivery.
- Every dollar invested in broadband infrastructure results in significant direct and indirect benefits to the local economy.
- Business owners need consistent and reliable high-speed internet to increase revenues, reduce costs and improve customer service.
- Broadband is important for employee recruitment and retention. Businesses wanting to retain or attract young workers cannot compete with urban centers unless they have high-speed internet.

# 2018 Broadband Availability in the State of Minnesota

Percentage of Households Served by Wireline  
Broadband Service by City/Township  
At Least 25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload Speeds  
Statewide Availability: 90.77%, Rural: 79.26%



This map was prepared by Connected Nation under contract with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The map represents areas of broadband service availability based on provider data submitted to and analyzed by Connected Nation and modified based on validation tools. The data is current as of December 31, 2017.

Additional maps and data are available at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/maps>  
Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting the DEED Office of Broadband Development at 651-259-7610.

Submit questions or recommended changes to:  
DEED.broadband@state.mn.us

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# MN Rural Broadband Coalition

## **Goal 1: Continue to Support the Office of Broadband Development: (OBD)**

The OBD provides a critical link between communities and providers, documenting successful infrastructure project design and management. We believe the office should be maintained in the future and enhanced to include a role in promoting the adoption and use of broadband, including broadband based economic development strategies, so that the highest possible value is gained from broadband infrastructure investments. As work begins on the 2020-2021 biennial budget, base budget funding for the OBD remains a priority for the coalition.

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## **Goal 2: Base Funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Fund**

The Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition and its supporters request the 2019 Legislature to fund the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program with \$70 million base funding in the 2019 biennial budget to achieve the state's 2026 broadband speed goal of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload.

Consistent and stable funding of the grant program is important to allow economic development agencies, local governments and others to be creative and collaborative in their approach to providing broadband services to these areas.



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## **Goal 3: Continuation of the Governor's Task Force**

The Governor's Broadband Task Force is crucial to the success of the Border-to-Border Broadband Fund. It provides an opportunity for community members, advocates, providers, consumers, and others to have input and make recommendations on broadband policy in Minnesota. We encourage the Governor to take appropriate steps to assure the continuation of this effort.

# MN Rural Broadband Coalition

- We welcome your membership and support!
- We look forward to working with many individuals and organizations to continue our efforts to leave no residents of MN on the wrong side of the digital divide



# Join the MN Rural Broadband Coalition



- Three levels of Membership
  - **Governing Member** – Contributes \$500 or more – Guide Coalition Activities
  - **Sponsoring Member** – Contributes between \$100 and \$499. Recognized on materials and invited to events
  - **Supporters** – No contribution required. Invited to events and recognized as a Supporter.

**Find the pledge form and updates at:  
[www.MNBroadbandCoalition.com](http://www.MNBroadbandCoalition.com)**

On Behalf of the MN Rural  
Broadband Coalition  
Thank you.

