



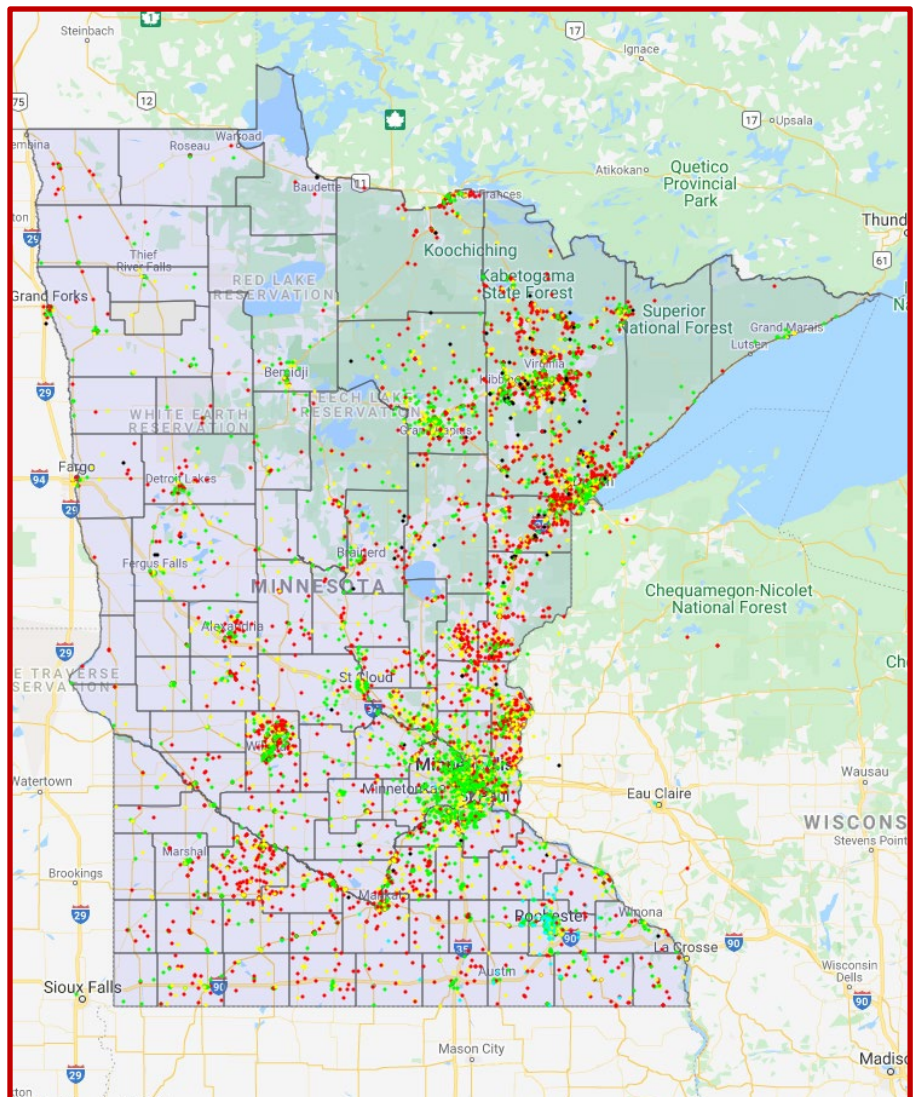
Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition Fact Sheet 2022

Goal: The Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition requests 92nd Legislature to fund the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program with **\$120 million in ongoing funding in the 2022-2023 biennial budget to help 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.

Background: The Legislature funded the Grant Program at \$40 million in the 2020-21 biennial budget, the largest multi-year investment in the state's history. However, 157,000 households across the state are still unserved. COVID-19 has only amplified the need for broadband.

The Governor's Task Force on Broadband 2020 Report recommends \$120 million per biennium in ongoing funding. This level of funding will provide minimum broadband internet speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps to the households and businesses that currently lack such service—and will help Minnesota achieve its statutory broadband speed goal of connecting all Minnesotans with broadband internet speeds of 100 Mbps/20 Mbps by 2026.

Broadband and internet speeds are improving across Minnesota. What we've achieved is a patchwork of highly successful areas, leaving behind many rural areas that are underserved and will have difficult time reaching the goal without state assistance grants. Many states across the country look to Minnesota as a national leader on rural broadband development. Despite all the good work that we've done, there is still much more to be done to ensure everyone has access.



“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.”

-The Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition's vision

Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition Members

Association of Minnesota Counties
Benton County
Carlton County
Chisago County HRA/EDA
Communications Workers of America
Cooperative Network Services
CTC
East Central Minnesota Ed Cable Coop
Federated Rural Electric
Gould Government Relations
J. Keough-Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative
Kanabec County
Kandiyohi County/City Willmar EDC
Koochiching County
Le Sueur County
League of Minnesota Cities
Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corporation
Medical Alley Association
Meeker Cooperative
MiEnergy
Mille Lacs Energy Coop
Minnesota Cable Communications
Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association
Minnesota Rural Electric
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
Minnesota Valley TV
Murray County
Northern Technology
Oakpoint
Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Redwood County
Roseau Electric
Scandia EDA
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
St. Louis County