

STATE OF MINNESOTA BROADBAND GRANT ROUND 9 AWARDS ANNOUNCED MARCH 5, 2024

County	Representative	Applicant Name <i>(Low-Density Projects are Bolded)</i>	Project Name	State Grant Awarded Amount	Local Match	Total Eligible Project Cost	Project Summaries
Stearns	Rep Lisa Demuth Rep Tim O'Driscoll Sen Jeff Howe	Albany Mutual Telephone Assoc	AMTA - Stearns Phase 2	\$7,123,175	\$13,287,069	\$20,410,244	Albany will bring fiber to 1,395 locations. Albany's Phase 2 project is east of its <i>Stearns County Phase 1</i> , currently under construction around the Holdingford area of Central Stearns County. In collaborating with Stearns County, Albany added a small area south of Interstate 94 south of Avon, as well as the rural area south of St. Joseph. Stearns County is a funding partner on this project, contributing \$2.85M.
Mower	Rep Patricia Mueller Rep Greg Davids Sen Gene Dornink Sen Jeremy Miller	Arvig	Arvig - Mower Cty	\$3,129,412	\$1,043,137	\$4,172,549	Arvig has been providing competitive broadband services to Minnesota communities since 1998. This Border-to-Border project would improve services in portions of Rose Creek, Elkton, and Adams in rural Mower County. The project would bring broadband to 225 structures via an all fiber-to-the-home network. 164 of those structures are residential locations that are unserved. All these locations would be able to receive up to 10 Gbps download speeds and 1 Gbps upload. The total project cost would bring fiber-to-the-premises to all 225 structures. Mower County is contributing \$584,156.92 towards the project.
Stearns	Rep Paul Anderson Sen Torrey Westrom	Arvig	Arvig - Stearns Cty	\$910,537	\$303,512	\$1,214,049	This Border-to-Border project will extend broadband services to 55 locations in portions of Elrosa, Lake Henry, and Roscoe in Stearns County. All locations would be able to receive up to 10 Gbps download speeds and 1 Gbps upload (even to 10 Gbps for businesses). \$218,528.81 of the project cost will be covered by Stearns County. Farms within the project area will have the opportunity for farmers to incorporate more technology to their farming efforts such as using smart irrigation systems and self-driving machinery.
Mahnomen	Rep Matt Bliss Sen Steve Green	Arvig	Arvig - Naytahwaush Area	\$326,111	\$326,111	\$652,222	This Border-to-Border project will bring fiber to the home near Naytahwaush in Mahnomen County. Arvig will bring broadband to 137 passings via an all fiber-to-the-home construction project. All locations would be able to receive up to 10 Gbps download speeds and 1 Gbps upload. This area consists of mostly residential customers (some of whom work from home) with a few businesses. The White Earth Tribe is in support of the project.
Blue Earth, Faribault	Rep Bjorn Olson Rep Peggy Bennett Sen Gene Dornink Sen Rich Draheim	Bevcomm Easton Telephone Co	Bevcomm (Easton) Rural MN Lake	\$435,838	\$1,016,956	\$1,452,794	Bevcomm will build an underground fiber broadband network to 101 locations (86 unserved and 15 underserved), offering speeds up to a Gigabit symmetrically with unlimited data, to portions of rural Faribault and Blue Earth Counties. This project will impact 55 farms, 32 households, and 14 businesses. Faribault County EDA has pledged \$5,000 and Minnesota Lake Township has pledged \$1,000 toward project costs. Bevcomm has to date received 25 state grants, all of which have been successfully deployed and completed on time.
Waseca	Rep Brian Daniels Rep John Petersburg Rep Peggy Bennet Sen Gene Dornink Sen John R. Jasinski	Bevcomm Inc.	Bevcomm - Waseca-Cty Fiber	\$4,385,444	\$1,461,815	\$5,847,259	This Lower-Density Population Grant application will build underground fiber infrastructure to 492 homes, businesses, and farms in rural Waseca County, delivering speeds up to a Gigabit symmetrically with unlimited data to each address served. This proposed project will cover 234 miles to portions of seven townships in Waseca County, including Alton, Byron, Freedom, Otisco, Saint Mary, Vivian, and Wilton. The project will serve a region that has been overlooked due to the high cost of building to rural agricultural areas. Waseca County is contributing \$675,000.
St. Louis	Rep Ben Davis Rep Dave Lislegard Rep Isaac Schultz Sen Justin Eichorn Sen Robert Farnsworth Sen Nathan Wesenberg	Consolidated Telephone Company	CTC - RD9 Clinton Twp	\$2,292,790	\$2,292,790	\$4,585,580	Consolidated Telephone Company's (CTC) project brings fiber to portions of rural St. Louis, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties in Minnesota. This fiber-to-the-premise project includes 303 passings. The project includes contributions from St. Louis County of \$400,000 and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) of \$1,312,093.00. CTC has successfully been awarded broadband implementation grant funding from state and federal agencies and currently owns and operates approximately 4,500 miles of fiber optics while serving over 17,000 members in central and northeastern Minnesota.

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Isanti, Mille Lacs	Rep Isaac Schultz Rep Brian Johnson Sen Nathan Wesenberg Sen Andrew Mathews Sen Mark Koran	East Central Energy	ECE Mille Lacs South	\$4,885,809	\$8,319,081	\$13,204,890	East Central Energy will connect 1,479 unserved and underserved passings with fiber-to-the-premises internet service in the proposed Mille Lacs South project area, which encompasses parts of southern Mille Lacs County and western Isanti County. The total passings include 950 households, 89 businesses, and 440 farms. ECE will utilize its current electric pole line and substation infrastructure to connect the 1,479 passings with 100/100 Mbps or greater internet speeds. The Project will expand on ECE's electric and broadband operations in east central Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. ECE currently provides electric service to more than 66,000 homes, farms, and businesses. Mille Lacs County is pledging \$100,000 and Isanti County is pledging \$6,000 toward the project.
Kandiyohi	Rep Dave Baker Sen Andrew Lang	Federated Telephone Cooperative	Federated Tel - W Kandiyohi	\$8,202,000	\$8,202,000	\$16,404,000	The Kandiyohi County Western FTTP Project is a buried Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) high-speed wireline broadband development project that will serve 1,289 locations in the five Kandiyohi County Townships of Colfax, Dovre, Lake Andrew, Norway Lake and St. Johns. Funding partners include Kandiyohi County (\$2,423,575), Colfax Township (\$483,600), Dovre Township (\$11,700), Lake Andrew Township (\$1,103,700), Norway Lake Township (\$3,510) and St. Johns Township (\$45,500). Of the total 1,289 locations that will be served, 458 are currently unserved (including at least 35 farms, 22 businesses, and 2 community anchor institutions) and 831 are underserved (including at least 23 farms, 27 business, and 2 community anchor institutions). At the completion of this project, all 1,289 locations will have access to service packages up to one (1) gigabit symmetrical speeds. Currently, FTC's service area includes eight different Minnesota counties covering approximately 2,000 square miles with 2,800 miles of fiber.
Polk	Rep Debra Kiel Sen Mark Johnson	Garden Valley Telephone Co	Garden Valley Tel - Rural E Grand Forks	\$1,050,465	\$350,155	\$1,400,620	The Garden Valley Technologies Rural East Grand Forks Low Density project proposed by Garden Valley Technologies (GVT) is a last mile Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) project which will serve 80 total locations. Of the 80 locations, 49 are residential households, 2 businesses, 3 community institutions and 26 farms located in northwest Minnesota. The geography of the project is mostly farm land and encompasses an area in northwest Minnesota that include portions of Northland, Sullivan, and Tabor townships in Polk County. GVT has been providing telecommunications services in northwestern Minnesota since 1906 and has been awarded five previous state grants. Individual residents contributed a \$650 match toward the project.
Douglas	Rep Tom Murphy Rep Mary Franson Sen Jordan Rasmusson	Gardonville Cooperative Telephone	Gardonville - Douglas Cty	\$223,521	\$223,522	\$447,043	Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association, a non-profit cooperative since 1943 and based in Brandon, MN, will build fiber to 5 non-contiguous areas across Douglas County to include parts of La Grand Township, Hudson Township, and Alexandria Township. This project will improve broadband speeds up to 1 Gbps and will serve 52 locations, primarily households and home based businesses. With 30% of Alexandria Public School District's students lacking broadband at home, the project will help more students access the wide array of online learning opportunities, thereby providing more tools for the schools to bridge the achievement gaps they struggle to eliminate.
Chippewa, Renville	Rep Dean Urdahl Sen Andrew Lang	Hanson Communications	Hanson - Chippewa Cty W	\$2,081,494	\$2,544,150	\$4,625,644	Hanson will build and operate a Fiber To The Premises (FTTP) network covering the unserved and underserved areas within Southwest Chippewa County. There are 283 total fiber passings in the project. This project comes in partnership with Chippewa County, who has committed \$200,000 to the project. Over 68 businesses lacking a 100/20 mbps connection are included in the project area. Most businesses in the project area are related to agrobusiness, machinery, construction, transportation, services & consumer goods. For livestock operations, broadband is a necessity. Remote monitoring and alarm systems, critical for ensuring the health and safety of livestock, rely heavily on broadband connectivity. Additionally, the process of buying and selling livestock and equipment at online auctions is emerging in the online marketplace.

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Brown, Cottonwood	Rep Paul Torkelson Rep Joe Schomacker Sen Gary Dahms Sen Bill Weber	Hanson Communications	Hanson - Comfrey FTTP	\$395,138	\$592,711	\$987,849	Hanson Communications will build and operate a Fiber to the Premises network to cover the unserved and underserved areas in Comfrey, MN. Hanson has identified this project as an area in need of better broadband as nearly 85% of the town is unserved according to the Minnesota definition of broadband service. There are 245 total fiber passings in the project including 161 unserved households, 47 unserved businesses, and 5 unserved community anchor institutions, including the school, the fire station, the City office, the post office and the community center. There are an additional 27 underserved households, and 5 businesses. Many of the people who work and live in Comfrey are connected to agriculture in some way, shape or form. Farmers, specifically, can achieve heightened efficiency and tap into new markets and resources by integrating broadband into their farming and livestock operations. The city of Comfrey has contributed \$10,000 toward the project.
Fillmore	Rep Greg Davids Sen Jeremy Miller	Mediacom LLC	Mediacom - Oakhill/Spring Valley	\$33,863	\$79,015	\$112,878	This broadband grant project is focused on the area of Oak Hill Drive in Spring Valley, MN located in Fillmore County. This project will provide Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband service with speeds up to 2,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload to a total of 36 households. Since 2019, Mediacom has completed 18 Fiber to the Home broadband grant projects. These broadband grant projects built 257.81 miles of fiber and connected an estimated 4,543 locations.
St. Louis	Rep David Lislegard Sen Robert Farnsworth	Mediacom LLC	Mediacom - Esquagama Lake	\$961,102	\$961,102	\$1,922,204	This broadband grant project is focused on the area of Esquagama Lake located in St. Louis County, which will provide Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband service with speeds up to 2,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload to a total of 294 locations. The closest state university, University of Minnesota Duluth, is 58 miles away. This level of broadband service would allow students to complete a full degree program remotely as offered by the university. Healthcare is another major area of life that is impacted by the expansion of service in this grant project. 287 households, 3 businesses, and 4 farms will have access to high speed broadband when the project is complete.
Kandiyohi	Rep Dave Baker Sen Andrew Lang	Meeker Coop Light & Power Association	Meeker Fahlnun	\$590,709	\$590,710	\$1,181,419	Meeker's Fahlnun project includes \$333,587 of Kandiyohi County (\$283,986.50) and Fahlnun Township (\$49,600) ARPA funds in order to provide fiber-to-the-premise broadband to 124 rural sites in Fahlnun Township in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. The project area includes several businesses and farms, as well as a township hall. Meeker has provided electrical power to its members since 1935 and satellite internet service since 2005. As VIBRANT Broadband, they launched fixed wireless and fiber to the home broadband services in July 2019. VIBRANT Broadband is currently installed in over 5100 locations in rural central Minnesota.
Anoka, Chisago	Rep Shane Mekeland Rep Peggy Scott Sen Andrew Mathew Sen Cal K. Bahr	Midco	Midco North Central	\$801,700	\$801,700	\$1,603,400	Midco will build fiber to the premises (FTTP) plant to 237 eligible passings in portions of Anoka and Chisago counties. This project will extend reliable broadband service to 146 unserved and 79 underserved homes, and 8 unserved and 2 underserved business, and 2 unserved farms. Chisago County will contribute \$149,000 and the City of Wyoming will contribute \$5,000 toward the project. Midco provides services to about 493,000 customers, many of which live in rural Minnesota.
Goodhue	Rep Pam Altendorf Sen Steve Drazkowski	Nuvera Communications, Inc.	Nuvera White Rock	\$1,884,429	\$628,143	\$2,512,572	Nuvera's White Rock Low Density project will bring fiber to rural areas West of White Rock MN in Goodhue County. The project is located in Goodhue County: Belle Creek, Cannon Falls, Leon, and Vasa Townships would be partially covered. There are 73 unserved households, 13 underserved households, 8 unserved businesses, 1 underserved business, 32 unserved farms & 9 underserved farms. Nuvera is headquartered in New Ulm, MN and has been providing communication solutions for both home and business for over 119 years. As of December 31, 2021, the company served 32,520 broadband connections and 17,216 access lines in the Minnesota communities of Bellechester, Courtland, Elko, Evan, Goodhue, Hanska, Hutchinson, Klossner, Litchfield, Mazeppa, New Market, New Ulm, Prior Lake, Redwood Falls, Sanborn, Savage, Searles, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, and White Rock, as well as the adjacent rural areas of Blue Earth, Brown, Goodhue, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Redwood, Rice, Scott and Wabasha counties in south-central Minnesota. Goodhue County is contributing \$277,733 toward the project.

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Clay	Rep Heather Keeler Sen Rob Kupec	Red River Communications	Red River - Rural Hawley	\$970,411	\$970,411	\$1,940,822	Red River Rural Telephone Association (Red River Communications), seeks to build a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) broadband project in Rural Hawley, located within Clay County, Minnesota. The proposed FTTP project would provide 54 currently unserved locations with access to 2.5 Gbps symmetrical broadband with a capacity of 10 Gbps per location. The rural farm centered community is located 27 miles east of the county seat of Moorhead, MN. Red River Rural Telephone Association is a progressive telecommunications Cooperative maintaining 2,400 miles of fiber with 4,700 customers. Clay County is committing \$5,000 toward project costs.
Pine, Aitkin	Rep Ron Kresha Rep Jeff Dotseth Rep Nathan Nelson Sen Nathan Wesenberg Sen Jason Rarick	Savage Communications Inc	SCI - East Central MN	\$3,563,817	\$3,713,817	\$7,277,634	Savage Communications Inc. (SCI) will build Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) to 1,069 Locations within the townships of Barry, Finlayson, Hinckley, Kettle River, Norman, Partridge, Pine Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Wagner Townships and the city of Rutledge located in Pine and Aitkin County. SCI plans to offer initial Internet speeds of 1Gbps download and 1Gbps upload. Farms and businesses are in the project area, as are three (3) township halls. The company currently provides service to over 40 communities throughout East Central and Northern Minnesota since 1984. Pine County is contributing \$75,000 toward the project.
Mower	Rep Patricia Mueller Sen Gene Dornink	Spectrum Mid-America, LLC	Spectrum-Mower County	\$414,699	\$614,698	\$1,029,397	Charter will construct a last-mile fiber-to-the-premises ("FTTP") network to provide service to unserved and underserved households in Mower County, primarily Austin Township. The project will serve an estimated 148 unserved and underserved locations, including seven (7) businesses, 19 farms, a town hall, a nature center, and a senior living facility. Mower County is contributing \$100,000 to the project.
Morrison	Rep Mike Wiener Rep Ron Kresha Sen Paul J. Utke Sen Nathan Wesenberg	Upsala Coop Tel Assoc dba Sytek	Sytek Swanville North Moose Lake	\$3,689,967	\$1,229,989	\$4,919,956	Sytek's broadband project was submitted on behalf of Upsala Cooperative Telephone Association for Swanville North – Moose Lake Low Density. The 116 year old cooperative's primary mission is to serve rural communities. The project areas are situated to the North, Northeast, and South of Swanville, MN, a town with a population of 332 residents spanning Todd and Morrison counties. The project will connect a total of 301 locations. The area has over 10 businesses and 40 farms, many of them family farms. Todd County is contributing \$5,000 toward the project.
Kittson	Rep John Burkel Rep Matt Grossell Sen Mark Johnson Sen Steve Green	Wikstrom Telephone Co, Inc.	Wiktel - NW MN Broadband RD9	\$3,066,630	\$1,022,210	\$4,088,840	Wiktel will deploy fiber to 263 customers in remote areas in Lake of the Woods, Kittson & Marshall counties, all part of far Northwestern Minnesota, passing 263 locations, many of which are businesses and community anchor institutions. The speed improvements will be from no service in some areas to Gigabit speeds. Wikstrom began providing Internet services in 1996 for local schools and libraries and since have installed DSL broadband service to over 2500 customers, and fiber to over 5000 customers. Many school children in the project do not have access to broadband for their school work, relying on time at the library or the few buses that have wifi capability. Cellular coverage is particularly spotty in rural areas, limiting alternatives.
Pipestone	Rep Joe Schomacker Sen Bill Weber	Woodstock Telephone Co	Woodstock Comm - Hatfield FTTH	\$1,612,932	\$537,644	\$2,150,576	Woodstock will build a fiber network to the Town of Hatfield, which is located in Pipestone County, MN. There are 116 total passings, consisting of 32 unserved households, 3 unserved businesses, and 47 unserved farms. This project comes in partnership with Pipestone County, splitting the remaining 25% match percentage 50/50 between the two parties. Additionally, the project will also service 24 underserved households predominately in the Town of Hatfield, 2 underserved businesses and 8 underserved farms. Woodstock has managed fiber networks for nearly 29 years and has been in business for more than 70 years. Pipestone County is also supporting the project by providing a matching grant of \$268,822.
		24	Totals	\$53,031,993	\$51,112,448	\$104,144,441	