



INVESTING IN EXPANDED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Now in the third decade of the 21st century, all Minnesotans deserve access to high-speed, reliable broadband. Students need to get online to do homework, business owners need to get online to market products and services, and families need to get online to communicate with loved ones. Internet access is increasingly critical for a strong way of life in rural areas, including access to telemedicine, telecommuting opportunities, and for access to high-tech farming equipment. House Democrats are delivering new investments in broadband infrastructure so everyone can have the internet access they count on.

New Investments in Broadband

House DFLers are delivering an additional \$25 million in the state's Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program. Since 2014, lawmakers have invested \$104 million in this proven program to leverage private investments to expand broadband infrastructure into unserved and underserved areas.

Tackling the Digital Divide

As of January 2021, 83% of households in rural Minnesota had access to broadband service meeting the state's 2022 speed goal of 25mbps download/3mbs upload, up from 68% in 2015. Only 72.5% of rural households currently have access to the state's 2026 speed goal of 100mbs download/20mbs upload.

Expanding Service to Unserved Areas

Many small communities have demonstrated hardship coming up with half of the upfront costs of broadband projects to become eligible for matching funds. DFL lawmakers are looking to lower the match requirement to 25% to help expand service to more unserved areas.



New Federal Investments Connect Minnesotans

Additional funding – as much as \$170 million – will soon be available for broadband grants from federal sources including the American Rescue Plan and President Biden's Infrastructure Plan.