



Broadband Infrastructure Grant Report

Purpose	Assists communities fund broadband infrastructure projects that support community development.
Strategic Plan Alignment	Business Development ✓ Community Development ✓ Workforce Development ✓

What did we do?	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Budget	\$9,179,029*			
Grants	6			
Agency Investment	\$1,531,972			
Total Project Investment	\$5,977,890			
Leverage	2.9 : 1			
Key Impact Measures	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Households	1,370			
Communities	6			
Funding Partners	6			

What were the results?
<p>FY20: Fast, reliable and affordable broadband access is an economic necessity for businesses, homes, schools and communities. Most of northeastern Minnesota is currently considered either unserved or underserved by broadband service. The grants help overcome the most significant barrier, which is the high cost of deploying broadband infrastructure to rural communities. Project examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bois Forte Tribal Government is constructing a fiber to the home buildout for its bandmembers in the Bois Forte Reservation. The advancement in broadband will allow bandmembers to telework, children to access online learning, health care clinics to provide virtual medicine, and home-based businesses to compete and grow. • Morcom Township is working with Paul Bunyan to construct a fiber to the home buildout for 126 unserved households which enables remote workers and students to work and learn from home. <p>*The agency’s infrastructure grants (community, development, broadband) are funded out of one line item in the amount of \$9,179,029.</p> <p>COVID-19 Global Pandemic: Northeastern Minnesota was significantly impacted by COVID-19 including the closure of schools, businesses, community centers, clinics, public recreation and parks, and government buildings. Budgetary constraints resulted in the public and private sectors. The pandemic impacted agency-funded projects: some projects were delayed or canceled, some lost funding from other resources. However, many projects were completed and able to benefit the region at a time when community, economic and quality of life growth was greatly needed.</p>

Fiscal Year 2020 Grants			
Grantee	Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa	Extend broadband	\$579,272	\$2,317,090
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative	Extend broadband – Ash River	\$105,450	\$421,800
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative	Extend broadband – Elephant Lake & Black Duck Lake	\$236,050	\$944,200
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative	Extend broadband – Kabetogama Area	\$236,400	\$945,600
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative	Extend broadband – Morcom Township	\$224,800	\$899,200
Morse Township	Extend broadband	\$150,000	\$450,000