



Unlike most states, North Dakota's rural residents are more likely to have fiber connectivity and Gigabit access than urban residents.

Even though North Dakota is [one of the most rural states in the country](#), [the state has become a leader](#) in connecting residents and improving speed and affordability. Connectivity in both urban and rural parts of the state are relatively high, though connectivity in communities of all sizes needs to be improved before every resident is able to get online. In fact, unlike most states, a case study by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance found that North Dakota's rural residents [are more likely](#) to have fiber connectivity and Gigabit access than urban residents.

According to Governor Doug Burgum, this success is attributed to the collaborative effort that has gone into improving broadband access in the state. Governor Burgum describes the path to success by [saying](#):

We just put out a challenge to everybody, to the private sector, to the government, federal state and whatever and we said, 'Let's be the first state that gets a gigabit to everybody.' We've had great participation from our rural telephone co-ops.

In the same way we needed to bring electricity and telephone connection to rural areas, we've got to do that with broadband.

The Commission evaluated 762,000 North Dakota residents and found that 738,000 (96.8%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds of 25/3 Mbps. Of the 345,000 people surveyed in rural areas, 325,000 (94.2%) have access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds. The agency found that 99% of the 417,000

urban residents had access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds.

The North Dakota Information Technology Department makes a [speed test available](#) for residents alongside its [2019 broadband plan](#). Though North Dakota apparently [unveiled its map in 2011](#), the map is no longer available.

Governments are not the only sources of data on broadband access in North Dakota. BroadbandNow [estimates that 86.8%](#) of the state has terrestrial broadband access and that 77.7% of residents have access to a wired plan that costs \$60 or less a month. Microsoft's data for North Dakota show that around [374,000 people](#), or just over half the state, do not use the Internet at broadband speeds. INDATEL [offers a map](#) of its fiber network, though not at a granular level.

Additional Resources:

- [Why North Dakota Has the Best Internet in the United States](#)
- [Broadband ND: an ITD Program to Improve North Dakota's Broadband Landscape](#)