



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Briana Mumme, Economic Development Coordinator
Redwood County
Phone: (507) 637-1122
Email: briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us
For Immediate Release

REDWOOD COUNTY EDA SEEKS PARTICIPATION IN INTERNET SPEED TEST

December 7, 2020 (Redwood Falls) - "There is no doubt the lack of high-speed internet broadband service in Redwood County is not sufficient. In fact Redwood County ranks #87 out of 87 counties in the state of Minnesota for access to 25/3 Mbps, per the Blandin Foundation Broadband Division. It's time for a change." said Briana Mumme, Redwood County Economic Development Coordinator.

In August the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition announced a *Statewide Speed Test Initiative* with the goal of creating an accurate statewide map of where internet service is available and at what speed. The Coalition is a membership based organization which supports efforts to achieve access to high-speed broadband to rural Minnesota and the Redwood County EDA is a proud member and is excited to partner with the Coalition.

As the lowest ranking county in the state for access to 25/3 Mbps, the collection of real-time data is essential to initiate change and improve broadband access. Access to high-speed internet is necessary for much of our day-to-day activities, and COVID certainly has amplified the needs. Many are working from home, students are participating in distance learning, businesses have transitioned to e-commerce or online services, virtual medical appointments are being conducted, and online church services are just a few ways services have changed. This list doesn't include the typical home internet uses, or the bandwidth needs of the many agriculture producers within the County who rely on consistent and strong internet speeds to operate.

The Redwood County EDA and County Commissioners are seeking participation from all Redwood County residents in two ways. First, utilizing your internet or cell phone data complete the test, at multiple locations and multiple times at: <http://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest>. It is secure and takes less than one minute. Your participation will provide important data needed to support the efforts to increase high-speed internet in the County and the State. Second, submit a testimonial. Share your story of what you and your family's internet experience is like at your home, school, place of business, etc. How has the lack of internet impacted you? Testimonials received, along with the data collected will be used to increase awareness of the needs of the county. Submit your testimonial at <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/test>

To learn more, visit <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/test> or contact Briana Mumme, Redwood County Economic Developer Coordinator at (507) 637-1122 or briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us.

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Redwood County Government Center - Economic Development Authority
Briana Mumme, Economic Development Coordinator
P.O Box 130 Redwood Falls, MN 56283
(507) 637-1122 redwoodcounty-mn.us Briana_M@co.redwood.mn.us