



Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Melissa Wolf, Executive Director
Broadband Overview
January 2025



Who is MN Cable?

We are the trade association of franchised cable companies in Minnesota.



Building Broadband's Future

Connecting Every Minnesotan

Private Capital Investment

2025:

- \$173.8 Million planned investment
- 53,000 homes passed

Federal Broadband Programs

- Connect America Fund (CAF)
- Connect America Fund 2018 (CAF II)
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
- Alternative Connect America Model (ACAM)
- Enhanced ACAM
- Reconnect
- Consolidated Appropriations Act (CARES)
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

MN Grant Programs

2014-2024:

- 62 State Grants
- Totaling \$53.5 Million
- Matching \$76.9 Million

FEATURED

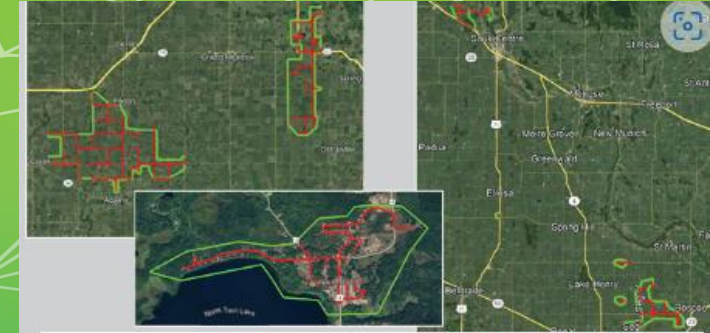
SCI Cable continues work on large scale broadband project

Sierra Kingen editor@hinckleynews.com Oct 24, 2024 0



BROADBAND EXPANSION

Charter Communications and Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, to Bring Gigabit Broadband Connectivity to More Than 170...



Arvig to Invest Grant Funding in \$5 Million Fiber Expansion for 3 Minnesota Counties

Mediacom Communications Completes First Phase of St. Louis County Fiber Build

Comcast widens fiber internet rollout to yet another Minnesota city

Tens of thousands of homes and business will be connected to 'unmatched reliability'

Midco completes fiber build along Highway 10 in Minnesota

Sjoberg's: How a Small Internet Provider is Transforming Rural Minnesota



Our Economic Impact in Minnesota.



MN Households served

Over 1.5M homes in Minnesota are served by MN cable providers.



MN Employees

13,600 direct job employment across MN



MN State Taxes and Fees

\$188.2M per year in state taxes and fees



MN Infrastructure

Over 81,600 total network miles deployed across MN



MN Economic Impact

\$2.8 Billion per year



Community, Opportunity and Adoption.

**LIFT
ZONE**
Powered by COMCAST



**LIFELINE
AWARENESS
WEEK**

September 8 - 14



Lifeline Awareness Week: Federal Program
Provides Broadband Assistance

**COMCAST INTERNET
ESSENTIALS**

[LEARN MORE](#)

**MEDIACOM
CONNECT2COMPETE**

[LEARN MORE](#)

**SPECTRUM INTERNET ASSIST
(CHARTER)**

[LEARN MORE](#)

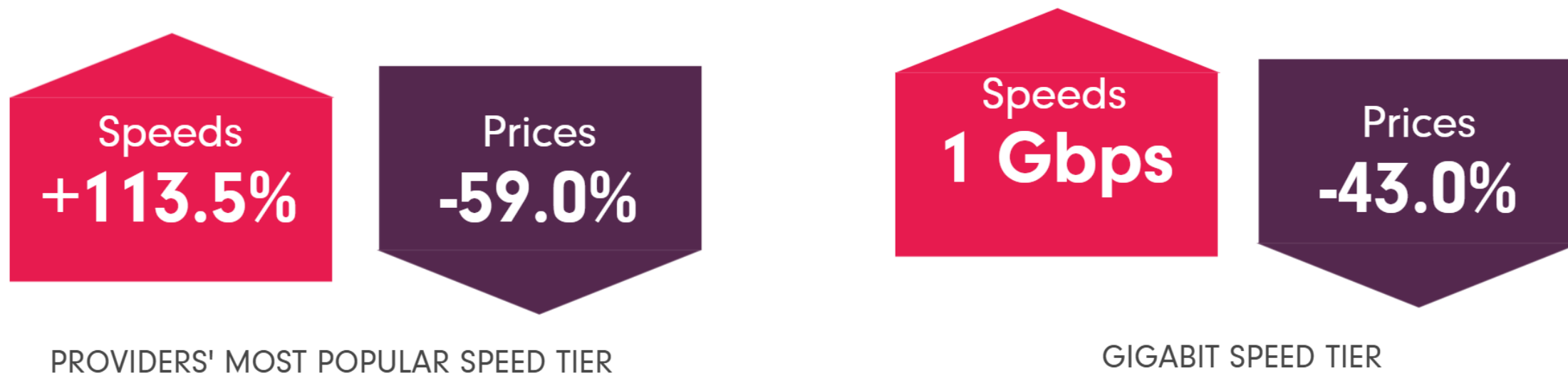
**MIDCO LIFELINE
ASSISTANCE**

[LEARN MORE](#)

Cost of Internet Drops as Speeds Increase

Broadband Prices Drop as Speeds Increase

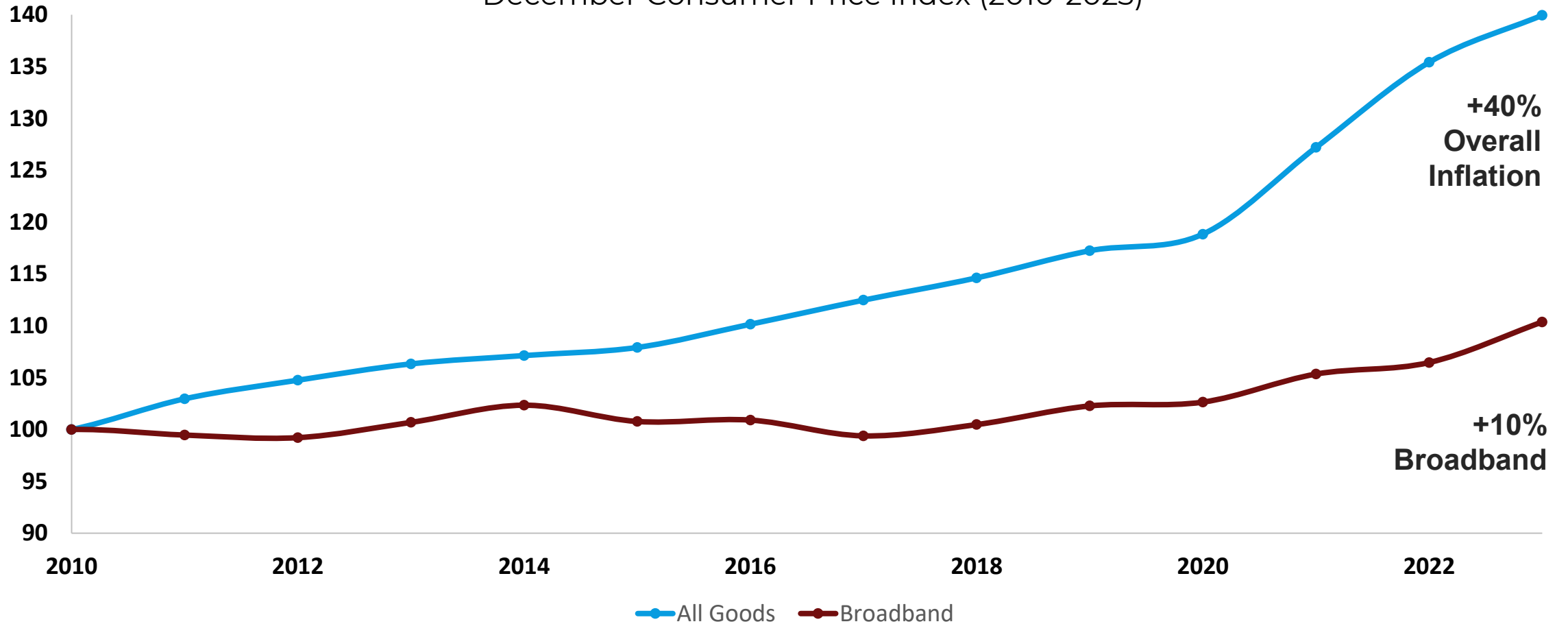
Between 2015 and 2024, broadband prices declined as speeds skyrocketed.



Source: USTelecom 2024 Broadband Pricing Index, reflecting a subscriber-weighted average of real (inflation-adjusted) prices. Gigabit tier data is 2017-2024.

Broadband Price Have Trended Below Inflation for Over 13 Years

Broadband Prices vs Overall Inflation
December Consumer Price Index (2010-2023)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

Opportunities Ahead

Opportunities:

- **MN Cable Providers** continue significant invest in expansion and system upgrades across the state.
- **Minnesota's Border-to-Border, Low Density and Line Extension programs** have traditionally been the gold standards for broadband deployment.
- **BEAD – Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment.** \$652 Million in BEAD funding coming to Minnesota.

**Minnesota households
without access to
25/3Mbps (2022 goal) –
143,000 (unserved)**

**Minnesota households
without access to
100/20Mbps (2026 goal) –
189,000 (underserved)**

Challenges Ahead

**Minnesota households
without access to
25/3Mbps (2022 goal) –
143,000 (unserved)**

**Minnesota households
without access to
100/20Mbps (2026 goal) –
189,000 (underserved)**

Challenges:

- **New MN Labor Program** With the nation's first, mandatory training program, the State has created an additional hurdles to broadband deployment.
- **Attempts to Franchise Broadband** A new internet tax introduced last session will harm all consumers and slow progression of deployment.
- **Permitting Challenges** Slow state and county approval processes for highway ROW, DNR, SHPO and tribal continue to provide barriers to deployment
- **BEAD – Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment.** \$652 Million in BEAD funding coming to Minnesota provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but a slow roll out and less flexibility had caused uncertainty for program participation.



Melissa Wolf
Executive Director
MN Cable

651-214- 5498
mwolf@mncca.com