

Internet Access in Nevada County

is provided by a small number of national, regional and local providers. There are a variety of technologies available for Internet services in our rural area each with its plusses and minuses. Internet access speeds include both download and upload components.

All current providers offer asymmetrical speeds, with the upload speed (from you to the Internet) being much slower than the download advertised speed (from the Internet to you). Only a 100% fiber optic network – Fiber to the Home (FTTH) – would be capable of offering symmetrical speeds.

Nevada County Connected provides updated news about the future of Internet access locally.

Pricing: <http://www.nevadacountyconnected.com/broadband-pricing/>

Blog: <http://www.nevadacountyconnected.com>

Types of Service Available and Internet Service Providers:

DSL (Digital Subscriber Service)

DSL is Internet access provided over the copper telephone network. AT&T, the incumbent local exchange carrier (telephone company), is the primary provider of DSL service. Other local and regional Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can also offer DSL service, although AT&T requires that customers maintain landline telephone service with AT&T.

AT&T is upgrading some of its local networks to U-Verse (a different version of DSL), which enables somewhat faster Internet access, but does not allow alternate ISPs access.

Available DSL speeds are dependent on distance from the Central Office or Remote Terminal (those big green boxes alongside the road). The further away one's location, the slower the speed available, hence many of the more outlying areas do not have access to DSL although they do have telephone service.

DSL Providers typically also provide dial-up service.

SERVICE AREA: Grass Valley, Nevada City, Penn Valley, and Truckee areas (as well as most of California)

This DSL provider does have data limits:

AT&T

2823 Bell Rd, Auburn CA 95603
530-885-7702 or 800-288-2020
www.att.com

These DSL providers do not have data limits:

Spiral Internet

416 Broad St, Nevada City CA 95959
530-478-9822
www.spiralinternet.com

exWire

233 S. Auburn St, Suite 120, Colfax CA 95713
530-820-1030
www.exwire.com

SmarterBroadband (Full Spectrum)

15533 Johnson Pl, Grass Valley CA 95949
530-272-4000
www.smarterbroadband.com

Succeed.net (GV.net)

1510 Poole Blvd, Yuba City CA 95993
530-674-4200
www.succeed.net

Cable

Locally, Comcast offers the fastest Internet access speeds hands down over a coaxial cable network, that may use fiber optic cable for its backbone. Suddenlink offers speeds more akin to DSL speeds. Cable bandwidth in each neighborhood is shared by all the users, which accounts for slower speeds during high-traffic times (early evenings, for instance).

Cable providers typically don't have data limits.

Comcast / xfinity

SERVICE AREA: Grass Valley, Nevada City, Penn Valley areas
840 E Main St, Suite G, Grass Valley, CA 95945
800-824-2000
www.comcast.com

Suddenlink

SERVICE AREA: Alta Sierra, parts of south county, Truckee areas
10101 Street Rd, Auburn CA 95602
530-268-3731
www.suddenlink.com

Fixed Wireless

Like mobile phone service, fixed wireless service provides a wireless connection to the Internet from towers and poles on local hilltops. A dish or antenna is placed on the residence to connect to the tower, then a cable brings the service to a router inside.

Next to wireline service (such as cable or DSL) it can be the most robust and reliable broadband service in remote areas where DSL or cable is not available. Because of the geographic diversity of Nevada County and because fixed wireless service requires line-of-sight between your dish and the tower, coverage areas are spotty.

These providers do not have data limits:

DigitalPath

SERVICE AREA: western Nevada County up to 5-Mile House (also Sierra County and north)

275 Airpark Blvd., Suite 500, Chico CA 95973

Contact: Spiral Internet 530-478-9822

www.spiralinternet.com/wireless

www.digitalpath.net

These providers have data limits:

SmarterBroadband

SERVICE AREA: western Nevada County up to 5-Mile House

15533 Johnson Pl, Grass Valley CA 95949

530-272-4000

www.smarterbroadband.com

Colfax.Net

SERVICE AREA: Colfax and Hwy 174 corridor to Grass Valley

PO Box 1597, Colfax CA 95713

530-346-8411

www.colfaxnet.com

exWire

SERVICE AREA: Truckee, Colfax and Hwy 174 corridor

233 S. Auburn St, Suite 120, Colfax CA 95713

530-820-1030

www.exwire.com

Succeed.net (GV.net)

SERVICE AREA: Penn Valley

1510 Poole Blvd, Yuba City CA 95993

530-674-4200

www.succeed.net

Cellular

Mobile phone providers sell USB modems that connect directly to computers for Internet access. Like mobile phone data plans, Internet data use is not unlimited. The service is dependent on cellular coverage in the area, which both AT&T and Verizon claim they will be improving over time. When this service is the only one available, it's much better than dial-up.

Cellular providers have data limits.

AT&T DataConnect

2823 Bell Rd, Auburn CA 95603

530-885-7702

www.att.com

Verizon Mobile Broadband

• 682 Freeman Lane Suite B, Grass Valley CA 95949

530-477-8042

• 2068 Nevada City Hwy, Grass Valley CA 95945

530-272-9999

or Radio Shack stores

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/store/>

(then click on "USB Modems")

Satellite

Accessing the Internet via satellite was a promise made to rural America to replace dial-up access. The speeds are faster, but the latency (slowness due to distance from residence to satellite and back down again) and data limit policies make it less than ideal.

Satellite providers have data limits.

Exede Internet (WildBlue)

12701 La Barr Meadows Rd, Grass Valley CA 95949

530-272-6739

www.exede.com

HughesNet

866-293-8945

www.hughesnet.com