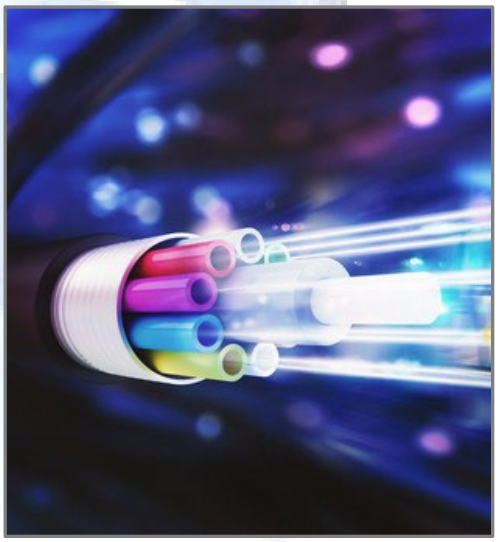
What Internet Service is Right for You?

ROCK ISLAND FIBER OPTIC INTERNET

The “gold standard” in internet connectivity, fiber offers bandwidth that will future-proof your connectivity needs.



Pros

- Lowest Latency
- Bandwidth up to 10GB to your home
- Highest reliability
- Improves resale value of property
- Non-shared network without slowdowns during peak usage times
- Can be funded by local energy savings plans
- Locally owned by the electric cooperative and its members, YOU
- Local field deployment and support
- ISP business supports the local power cooperative and helps ensure long term viability for power and internet access in our county

Cons

- Distribution access to the service is not available everywhere yet
- Construction can be costly
- Takes longer to deploy
- May require coordination with your neighbors to fund expansion to your area

ROCK ISLAND LTE FIXED WIRELESS

A true broadband solution for rural neighborhoods, fixed wireless over LTE technology delivers real bandwidth.

Pros

- Broadband level speeds
- Broadband level latency
- Accesses hard to reach areas
- No data caps
- Privately licensed use of spectrum
- Constantly being upgraded with new technologies and e
- Easy, no contact activation, just plug and play
- Economically priced
- Risk-free trials available
- Fully remote monitoring and support of the network
- Local technical support and troubleshooting expertise
- ISP business supports the local power cooperative and helps ensure long term viability for power and internet access in our county
- Additional antennas and hardware available to assist in improving signals

Cons

- Signal is not available everywhere
- It is a shared network that can experience some slowdowns during peak usage
- Speed is dependent on signal strength
- Not available where wireless signals cannot be received

WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

An internet service provided using point-to-point and point-to-multipoint equipment over publicly shared frequencies.

Pros

- Can deliver broadband range speeds
- Economical pricing
- Local support

Cons

- Limited availability
- Service depends on maintained line-of-sight availability to existing hardware
- It is a shared network that can experience some slowdowns during peak usage
- Speed is dependent on signal strength
- Requires hardware and wiring installation for deployment; costs can vary
- Use of public spectrum can cause interference issues

DSL OVER COPPER LINES

Legacy internet service through copper phone lines.

Pros

- Infrastructure exists where legacy phone lines were installed

Cons

- Limited availability due to lack of upgrades to system, even if physically at your home
- Poor connectivity due to aging copper cables
- No regular upgrade of the network
- Limited bandwidth options available, less than 20MB
- Poor reliability
- Connectivity degrades faster on aged copper lines during peak usage times
- CenturyLink is migrating away from residential and rural offerings and support
- No developments or deployments are being made for these technologies
- Usually requires adding a phone line to maintain internet service

LTE HOT SPOTS

Carrier supplied Hot Spots for wireless connectivity on the go.

Pros

- Flexible use in mobile applications
- Uses LTE signals to create a localized Wi-Fi access point to connect phones, computers, and other electronic devices that support wireless connectivity
- Great for the RV, boat, or ferry rides to stay connected
- Battery-powered for mobile use

Cons

- Strictly governed data caps reduce bandwidth to 3G speeds once you reach 50GB and unusable speeds, less than 1MB/sec, when you reach 100GB of aggregated data downloaded or uploaded**
- Does not support Ethernet connections
- Does not have remote monitoring or support
- Constant charging at home for use will degrade battery and cause need for replacement if services are to be kept during power loss
- Very limited and challenging configuration for set up and management
- Wireless coverage will not cover a standard size home
- Does not support additional access points for mesh networks or extenders
- Internal antennas mean limited signal strength in homes, may not perform as well indoors.
- Has specific design, power-saving and access functions for mobile use that create issues on use in fixed internet connections at home.
- Gets alarmingly expensive to add HD (1080) streaming and higher data caps to your plan

**A typical household in San Juan County currently consumes an average of 100GB a week in data.

SATELLITE INTERNET

Signal for internet received from orbiting satellites

Pros

- Is available in extremely remote areas where other services are not available

Cons

- Depending on vendor, can have latency issues
- Increased fluctuations in performance due to atmospheric conditions
- Limited bandwidth available for large regions of terrain at any given time
- High service costs
- High equipment costs for installation
- Installation requires access to heights and or professional installation
- Must have clear view of the sky with a minimum of 110 degrees of sky visibility on a 365-degree axis (Cone shaped)
- No local support or technician in San Juan County
- Shared network means slowdowns during peak usage times
- Is not scalable with technology demands