

Missoula Valley Internet Co-Op

missoula.nwbroadbandalliance.org

Fast, Affordable, Locally Run



Connect to a faster, cheaper neighborhood network.
Most users get 50Mbps or better



Simple installation and fast, friendly, local support



Pay less than 20c/GB. Most users pay \$30 to \$50 per month. No contract

One Small Antenna, a Router, and a Connected Neighborhood

Local network operators install a small antenna (about the size of a dinner plate) on your home that connects with other antennas in your neighborhood. Together you and your neighbors create a network.



From a point of high speed connection in town, neighbors can relay signals to farther out areas.

All connections are secure and encrypted. People that host relay antennas can reduce their bill or get additional credit.

Local and Resilient

Redundant connections automatically failover and keep the network running smoothly.

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FAQ

1. How is this different from other internet providers?

The Missoula Valley Internet Co-Op using Althea technology networks are functionally very similar to a “normal ISP”, where a system of antennas spreads a high speed connection to a router in your home provides internet. In legacy networks, the antennas and infrastructure is owned by one entity, often a business where customer service is located miles away. In an Althea network, however, the infrastructure of the network can be hosted by people in the community and the revenue and ownership of the network stays local.

2. Why do it this way?

Rural people should have the same access to broadband as cities. Centralized ISPs struggle to make the economics of providing connectivity to rural communities work, and often decide that the capital expenditure is not worth it. Broadband connectivity is essential to everyday life for everything from farming to education. By using private property, Althea networks lets communities build networks in an agile way, to affordably build to areas with a smaller, more spread out population.

3. Is it fast? What is the cost?

The Missoula Valley Internet Co-Op using Althea technology networks are built with our cutting edge technology to provide the fastest speed and best user experience. Modern antennas can easily provide similar service to wired networks. In other rural areas, Althea networks provide an average of 50Mbps. In urban areas, this is often 200-300Mbps. The cost structure is similar to a pre-paid phone, with a small monthly fee for service and pay for what you use. (cost per GB averages 8 to 20 cents) Most families pay about \$30-\$40 a month.

4. Is my connection secure?

All local connections are fully encrypted using Wireguard, and we are committed to net neutrality - your content will never be censored or throttled.

5. Where is the internet connection coming from?

We do our best to find creative options to provide the main, incoming wholesale connection. We often work with municipal, open access and local middle mile carriers. Althea's software load balances, provides failover, and automatically chooses the best connection for you on a second-by-second basis.