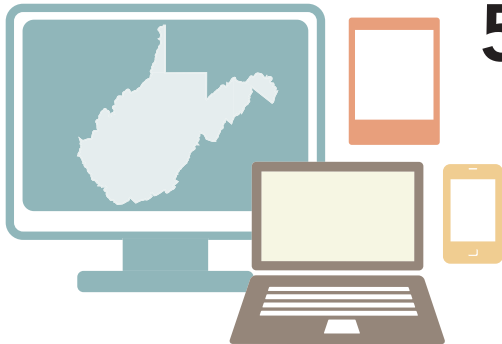


BROADBAND EXPANSION: CONNECTING WEST VIRGINIA

A LACK OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IS LIMITING WEST VIRGINIA'S POTENTIAL:

- Impeding access to affordable and innovative online health services
- Restricting West Virginia's access to new education technologies
- Reducing West Virginia's connection to new marketplaces and entrepreneurial opportunities



56% of West Virginians lack access to broadband ⁽¹⁾

36% lack access in urban areas

74% lack access in rural areas

That means every other West Virginian does not have reliable broadband access to the Internet.



INSUFFICIENT ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET IMPACTS ALL WEST VIRGINIANS:

“ We're losing a generation of highly educated, skilled workers and entrepreneurs that are leaders in the digital economy. They have moved to other states that have invested in high-speed internet infrastructure. The longer West Virginia stalls on broadband, the higher the price we'll pay - costing us jobs and top talent.”

Natalie Roper, Generation West Virginia



“ Broadband can be a powerful means for addressing the needs of an aging population. It can ease access to health care services, social contacts, employment, recreation, entertainment, and other activities older people require to age successfully.”

Gaylene Miller, AARP 

INTERNET ACCESS IS THE ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TOOL FOR WEST VIRGINIA.

2x **Businesses Benefit**
Small and medium businesses heavily using internet technology grow and export 2x as much as others.⁽²⁾

47th **At the Back of the Pack**
West Virginia ranks 47th in the nation for overall broadband access.⁽³⁾ WV's economy will benefit from broadband expansion.

BROADBAND EXPANSION CONNECTS WEST VIRGINIA TO:



Health Care:

Bringing opportunities for direct access to healthcare for rural residents.



Education:

Increasing access to online learning in K-12 and higher education regardless of where students live.



New Economies:

Keeping our brightest talent here in West Virginia where they can develop the companies of the future.

[1] https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-331734A1.pdf

[2] http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/high_tech_telecoms_internet/internet_matters

[3] <http://www.broadbandmap.gov/rank/all/state/percent-population/within-nation/technology-all/ascending/>

**SUPPORT PROPOSALS TO EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS
DURING THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**