BARBOUR COUNTY DIGITAL EQUITY FACT SHEET

WHAT IS DIGITAL EQUITY?

Digital equity ensures that all individuals and communities, regardless of location or socioeconomic status, have access to affordable, reliable internet, as well as the skills necessary to fully participate in today's digital society.

Households without Device:

WEST VIRGINIA — 11.2%

BARBOUR COUNTY — 13.4%

Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA — 17.3%

BARBOUR COUNTY — 21.6%

Why Digital Equity Matters in Barbour County

Education:
- Broadband access helps students participate in online learning, complete assignments, and develop digital skills.

Healthcare:
- Telemedicine access can be crucial for rural areas, providing healthcare without the need for extensive travel.

Workforce Development:
- High-speed internet fosters job opportunities, skills training, and remote work potential in rural communities.
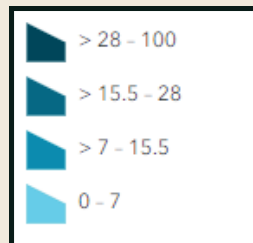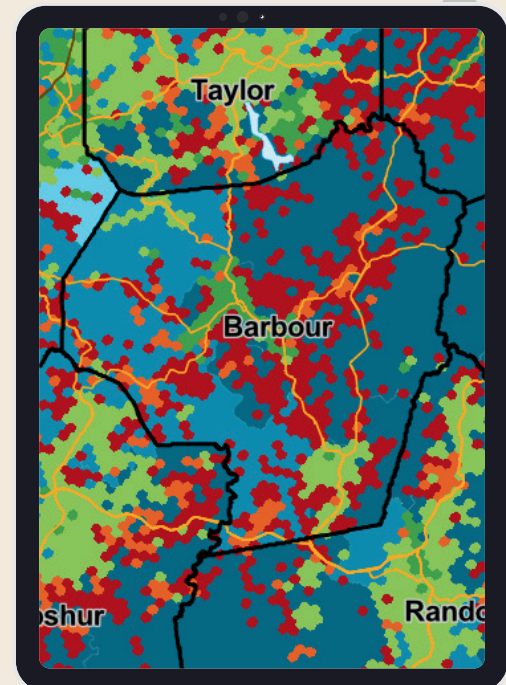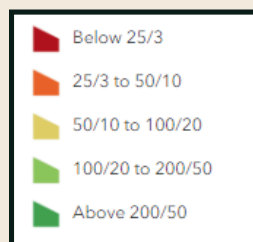
Civic Engagement:
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Covered Population Demographics

There are **15,527 Residents** in **BARBOUR COUNTY**

32.3%
Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

20.8%
of the population are aging individuals (65+)

15.2%
of the population are individuals living with a disability

9.1%
of the population are veterans

Broadband Coverage in Barbour County

% of no broadband subscription

- > 28 – 100
- > 15.5 – 28
- > 7 – 15.5
- 0 – 7

Claimed Speeds

- Below 25/3
- 25/3 to 50/10
- 50/10 to 100/20
- 100/20 to 200/50
- Above 200/50

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PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TABLE

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Lack of local capacity	**Financial assistance for broadband services and/or devices.** This could be a subsidy for qualified individuals, cost breaks for certain populations from the local ISP etc.
Lack of educational opportunities	**Device and Internet Skill Training:** This solution provides hands-on training programs to enhance digital literacy, focusing on essential skills like online navigation, communication, and cybersecurity. Offered in community centers, libraries, and schools, these workshops aim to boost confidence and empower individuals to effectively use devices and access online resources.
Limited funding for key community resources	**Specific Device Assistance:** This solution provides targeted support for individuals in need of essential devices through partnerships with local organizations, offering affordable or subsidized options tailored to unique requirements.

What would broadband access mean for Barbour County: ?

Community Affordability Training Hotspots Technology Affordable Remote Literacy Devices Education Telehealth

Barbour County Next Steps

- Invite key community leaders and organizations to boost participation.
- Create a strategy to connect with underrepresented communities.
- Apply for grants to support digital equity initiatives.
- Set a timeline and framework for ongoing stakeholder input.

Digital Equity Plan:

The full Digital Equity Plan for Barbour County can be found at http://generationwv.org/broadband

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