

BOONE 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:



Households without Broadband:



Covered Population Demographics

There are **21,705** Residents in BOONE COUNTY



26%
Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

21.1%
of the population are aging individuals (65+)



24%
of the population are individuals living with a disability

7.8%
of the population are veterans



Why Digital Equity Matters in Boone 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.

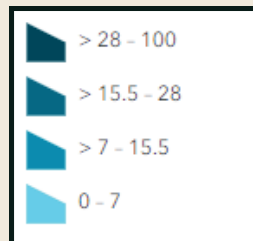


Civic Engagement:

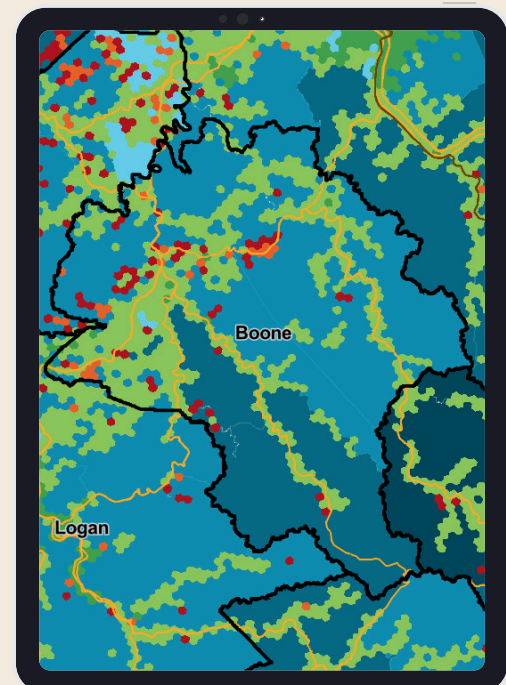
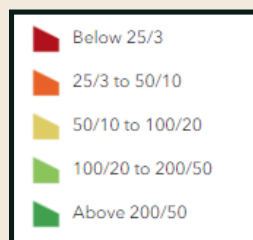
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Broadband Coverage in BOONE COUNTY

% of no broadband subscription



Claimed Speeds



Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Boone County in Fall 2024. GWV hosted community workshop and planning meetings. This factsheet highlights key points from those plans.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TABLE

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Limited access to affordable devices	Advocacy and Funding: Advocacy for funding programs for low-income residents (ACP), Subsidies for devices like mobile hotspots to fill in the gaps.
Lack of digital literacy and device training	Educational/Literacy based resources: Training and education on technology and devices; Training on appropriate devices for different needs Tailored resources for those with unique needs: Accessibility efforts such as translation apps and voice recognition for language barriers and disabilities
Local knowledge base	Development of local resources: Digital navigators available to the community; Live help from empathetic and sympathetic tech support to help residents use the devices and services they have already.

What would broadband access mean for Boone County?



Boone 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 Boone County can be found at

<http://generationwv.org/broadband>

SCAN ME

