

BRAXTON 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:



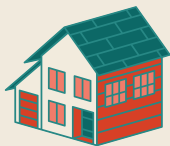
Covered Population Demographics

There are **12,505 Residents** in
BRAXTON COUNTY



34.43%

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.



24.1%

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



18.5%

of the population are individuals living with a disability

10.8%

of the population are veterans



Why Digital Equity Matters in Braxton 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:

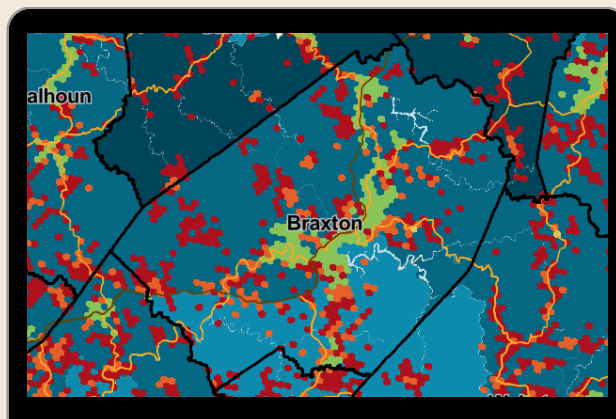
- High-speed internet fosters job opportunities, skills training, and remote work potential in rural communities.



Civic Engagement:

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

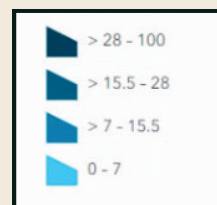
Broadband Coverage in BRAXTON COUNTY



Claimed Speeds



% of no broadband subscription



BROADBAND

GENERATION^W_V

Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Braxton 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
Baseline broadband access in the county	Better Connectivity: Install more cables and towers and maintain them with local workers.
Affordability of broadband service.	Offer financial assistance for broadband through subsidies and cost breaks for qualified individuals, while linking affordability initiatives with education and exploring tax policies to support those in need.
Affordability and accessibility of devices necessary to use the internet	Provide discounts on equipment with training, assist the elderly with device costs, collaborate with organizations for affordable access, and offer virtual enhancements for individuals with physical challenges.
Lack of digital literacy training available, particularly for specific populations like seniors and disabled individuals.	Hire community technology experts for repairs and home visits , while combining affordability measures with education through internet service discounts tied to ongoing training, incentives for continued education, technology classes, and job training partnerships, ensuring access for seniors to learn about rapidly changing devices.

What would broadband access mean for Braxton County:



Braxton 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 Braxton County can be found at <http://generationwv.org/broadband>

SCAN ME

