

CALHOUN 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%

CALHOUN COUNTY 16.8%

Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA 17.3%

CALHOUN COUNTY 31.7%

Covered Population Demographics

There are **6,279** Residents in CALHOUN COUNTY



40.46%

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

25%

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



24.1%

of the population are individuals living with a disability

9.7%

of the population are veterans



Why Digital Equity Matters in Calhoun 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.

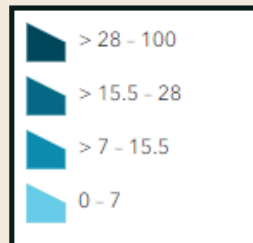


Civic Engagement:

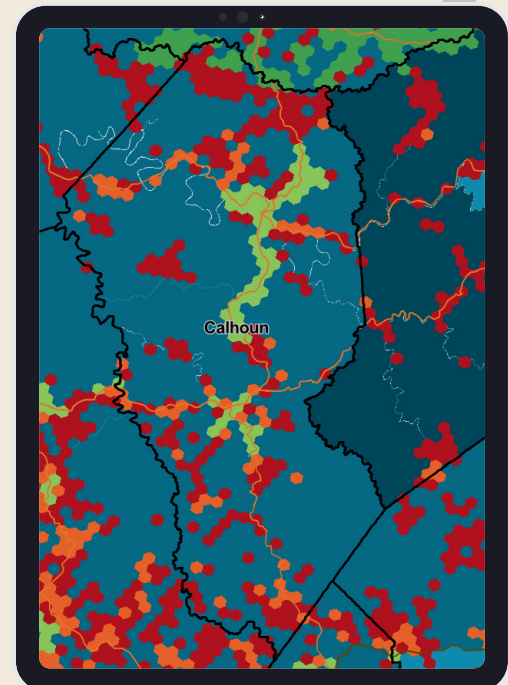
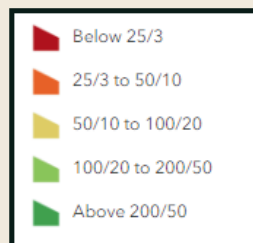
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Broadband Access in CALHOUN COUNTY

% of no broadband subscription



Claimed Speeds



Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Calhoun 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
Fear and generational distrust of technology	Implement a Digital Navigator model that pairs veterans, seniors, and other distrustful populations with mentors for ongoing support and training to increase their trust in using online resources.
Lack of rural internet service	Establish a partnership between private service providers and the government during infrastructure buildout in rural areas, where ISP technicians offer basic digital literacy training while installing services.
Device accessibility and affordability, including for those with disabilities and who need technology	Enhance device access and support by partnering with local maintenance and repair businesses, agencies to assist with device purchases (such as COAs, schools, and veterans' organizations), and anchor institutions to facilitate borrowing or renting equipment for residents.
Lack of digital skill training for a variety of age ranges, school through seniors.	Implement online tutorials at libraries and high schools , along with free educational training programs for seniors, to help reduce their fear of using digital resources.

What would broadband access mean for Calhoun County:



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

