CLAY 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%**

CLAY COUNTY **16.9%**

Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA **17.3%**

CLAY COUNTY **19.4%**

Covered Population Demographics

There are **8,049 Residents** in **CLAY COUNTY**

34.6% Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

21.2% of the population are aging individuals (65+)

23.2% of the population are individuals living with a disability

8.9% of the population are veterans

Why Digital Equity Matters in Clay 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.
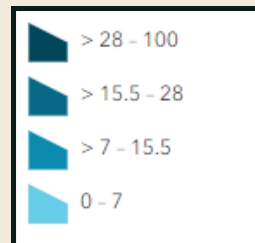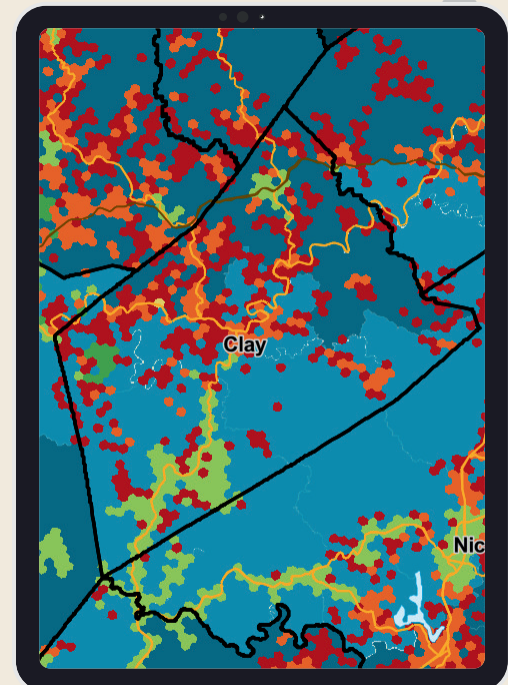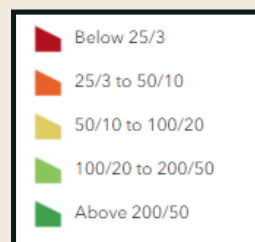
Civic Engagement:
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Broadband Coverage in CLAY 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

Clay

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PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TABLE

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Lack of access	**Continued broadband** build out and affordability efforts.
Lack of training/education	**Digital Navigators:** Placing digital navigators in community gathering spots such as libraries. **Digital Skills training:** Developing training and education programs for key populations
Fear of technology and privacy concerns	**Cybersecurity / scam prevention.** Including increased transparency from websites/apps and how they use the data they collect, increased training and knowledge to prevent scams and hacking
Distrust of ISPs	**Better Communication:** Increased transparency from internet service providers in the County about their plans and where service is planned.

What would broadband access mean for Clay County:

?

Education • Telehealth
Survival
Connection Training
Support Online
Remote
Safety Finances Healthcare
Necessity Access

Clay 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 Clay County can be found at
http://generationwv.org/broadband

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