FAYETTE 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%
FAYETTE COUNTY	14.8%

Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA	17.3%
FAYETTE COUNTY	21.5%

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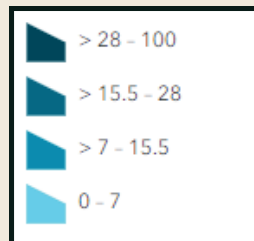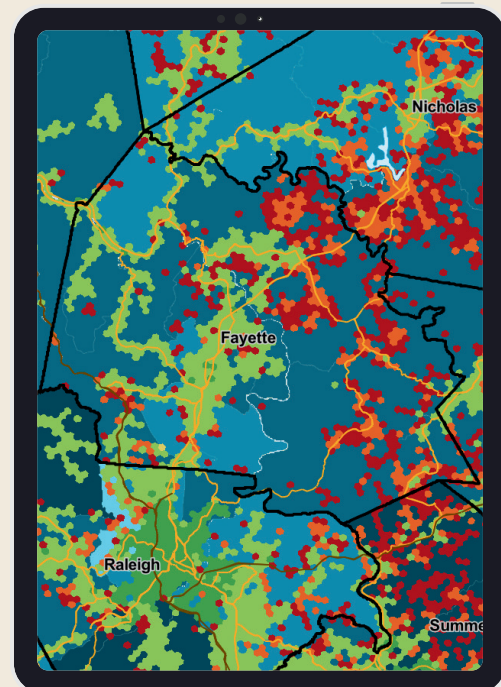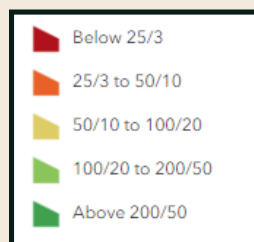
Civic Engagement:
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Covered Population Demographics

There are **40,545 Residents** in **FAYETTE COUNTY**

30.4%
Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

21.9%
of the population are aging individuals (65+)

24.3%
of the population are individuals living with a disability

8.5%
of the population are veterans

Broadband Coverage in FAYETTE 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

Nicholas

Fayette

Raleigh

Summe

BROADBAND

GENERATION WV

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TABLE

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Ensuring residents are connected and able to keep pace with changing technology	**Increasing connectivity** through existing and new technologies, providing support for residents to access satellite internet, towers for expanded mobile access. Set up programs to provide mobile hotspots Increase the number of ISPs in the county to encourage competition.
Affordability	**Improved affordability** through a variety of proposed solutions from affordability programs to offering regulated rates. Develop programming for affordable upgrades and/or trade ins on technology, not just phones, but laptops etc.
Digital literacy issues, basic literacy challenges	**Education/training efforts:** Set up mobile training labs with hotspots. Expand training areas in all three districts, including transportation to training sites and schools. More funding to existing schools, increase teacher pay and have less consolidation, more resources for rural communities.

What would broadband access mean for Fayette County:

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Availability Safety
Reliable Telework
Comfort
Community Affordable Success
Choice
Training Healthcare Education

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

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