LINCOLN 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%
LINCOLN COUNTY	13.4%

Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA	17.3%
LINCOLN COUNTY	18.1%

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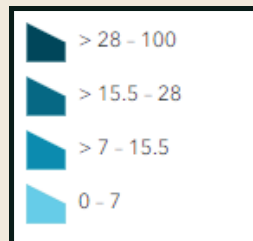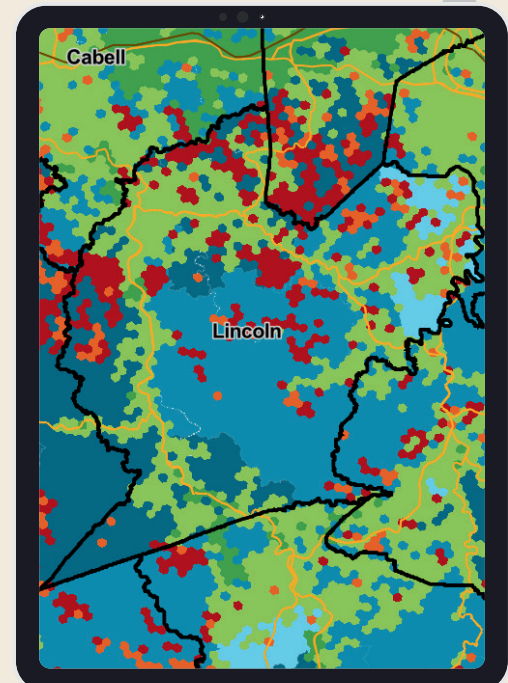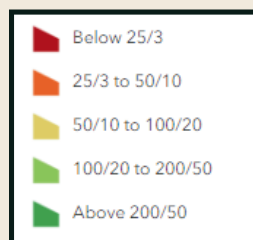
Civic Engagement:
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Covered Population Demographics

There are **20,410 Residents** in LINCOLN COUNTY

34.5%
Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

19.95%
of the population are aging individuals (65+)

18.7%
of the population are individuals living with a disability

5.8%
of the population are veterans

Broadband Coverage in LINCOLN 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

Cabell

Lincoln

BROADBAND

GENERATION WV

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TABLE

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Affordability of devices/technology, and services. Lack of affordable subscriber options.	**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 education on technology, lack of access to training about using digital resources/tools.	**Resource Development and Training:** Provide residents with short how-to resources for home reference. Offer flexible, all-day digital literacy classes at a central location to address transportation challenges, along with interactive online training for those needing more support. Connect individuals in recovery to rehab services to facilitate access to post-treatment training options.
Cyber security risks, fear around use of online services. Fear of AI	
Challenges for those with disabilities such as poor vision and dexterity issues, particularly in seniors.	**Device access for residents with disabilities:** There is lack of access to appropriate devices. Programming , needed to make a connection between what the specific disability is and the services/agencies they already work with. Help develop programs to provide appropriate devices to these residents.

What would broadband access mean for Lincoln County:

?

Telemedicine Cafes.
Opportunity
Health Sustainability
Hotspots
Help Equity
Programming
Communication
Participation

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

SCAN ME

BROADBAND

GENERATION WV