

NICHOLAS 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 **24,624** Residents in Nicholas COUNTY



25.56%

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

22.8%

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



22.8%

of the population are individuals living with a disability

7.6%

of the population are veterans



Why Digital Equity Matters in Nicholas 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:

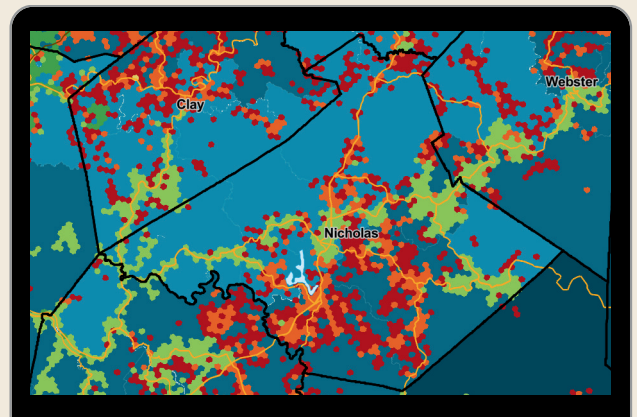
- High-speed internet fosters job opportunities, skills training, and remote work potential in rural communities.



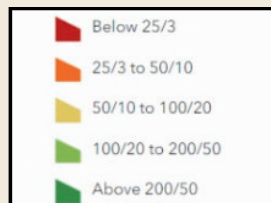
Civic Engagement:

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

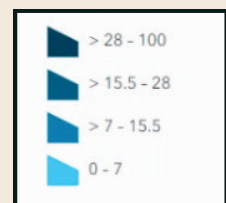
Broadband Coverage in NICHOLAS COUNTY



Claimed Speeds



% of no broadband subscription



BROADBAND

GENERATION^W_V

Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Nicholas 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
Affordability	Affordability and Device Access: Implement payment assistance programs for seniors and students, prioritize unserved areas for broadband deployment, and develop technology assistance programs to provide affordable devices and assistive technology.
Lack of digital skills training and education	Digital Literacy and Community Support: Offer workshops for seniors and children on digital skills and app safety, establish a Community Connector program, enhance telehealth access, and include cybersecurity training to ensure safe online navigation and promote internet safety awareness.
Privacy and trust concerns, a lack of desire to learn about technology.	
Lack of access	ISP/Private sector relationships: Private funding for community networking, providers working to increase goodwill, trust, and subscriber cooperation Government and Public Sector support. Government streamlining permitting to help deployment efforts

What would broadband access mean for Nicholas County:



Nicholas 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 Nicholas County can be found at

<http://generationwv.org/broadband>

SCAN ME

