

# ROANE 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%

ROANE COUNTY 17.7%

### Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA 17.3%

ROANE COUNTY 27.1%

## Covered Population Demographics

There are **14,027 Residents** in  
ROANE COUNTY



**37.64%**

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.



**22.5%**

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



**23.2%**

of the population are individuals living with a disability

**9%**

of the population are veterans



## Why Digital Equity Matters in Roane 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.

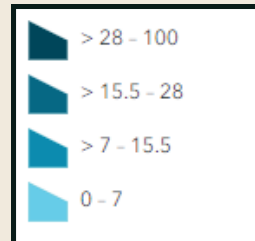


### Civic Engagement:

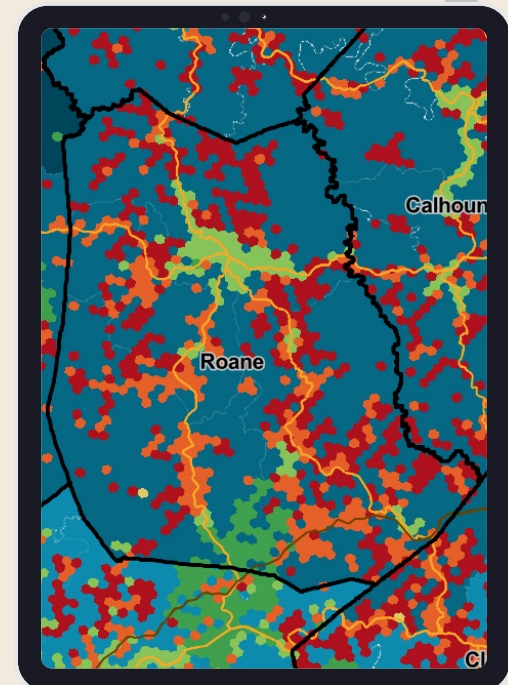
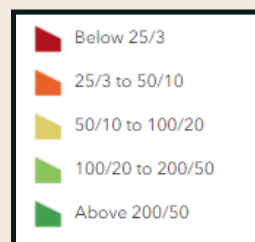
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

## Broadband Coverage in ROANE COUNTY

% of no broadband  
subscription



Claimed Speeds



**BROADBAND**

**GENERATION<sup>W</sup><sub>V</sub>**

Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Roane 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
<p><b>High cost of service and devices</b></p>	<p><b>Affordability and Financial Support:</b> Offer low-cost services and affordable devices; Provide grants, loans, and trade-in/recondition programs to make technology more accessible.; Education and Training on the programs that exist</p>
<p><b>Trust lack of training and education for digital skills</b></p>	<p><b>Develop digital skills training programs,</b> especially for seniors and those in rehabilitation. Provide workshops, educational programs, and local training sites, for instance utilize community resources like libraries, churches, and civic groups as educational hubs; Address the lack of tech training in schools by involving consultants or high school students.</p> <p><b>Local digital skills resource:</b> Use navigators and community training to guide individuals.</p> <p><b>Outreach and Support:</b> Improve communication and advertising for programs and events; Ensure device access and offer choices.</p> <p><b>Employment and Community Development:</b> Focus on creating job opportunities to reduce high unemployment rates.; Use grant programs to support employment initiatives including digital skills.</p>
<p><b>Lack of transportation to existing resources like libraries</b></p>	<p><b>Improving Infrastructure and Accessibility:</b> Expand internet availability in rural areas; Provide better transportation options for accessing digital services.; Ensure internet access is reliable and affordable.</p>

**What would broadband access mean for Roane County?**



## Roane 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 Roane County can be found at

<http://generationwv.org/broadband>

SCAN ME

