

# SUMMERS 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%

SUMMERS COUNTY 25.4%

### Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA 17.3%

SUMMERS COUNTY 30.8%

## Covered Population Demographics

There are **11,985** Residents in  
SUMMERS COUNTY



**31.14%**

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

**26.3%**

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



**30.4%**

of the population are individuals living with a disability

**9.6%**

of the population are veterans



## Why Digital Equity Matters in Summers 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.

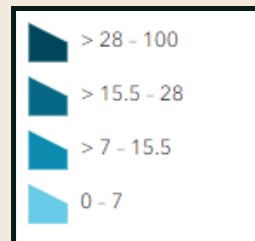


### Civic Engagement:

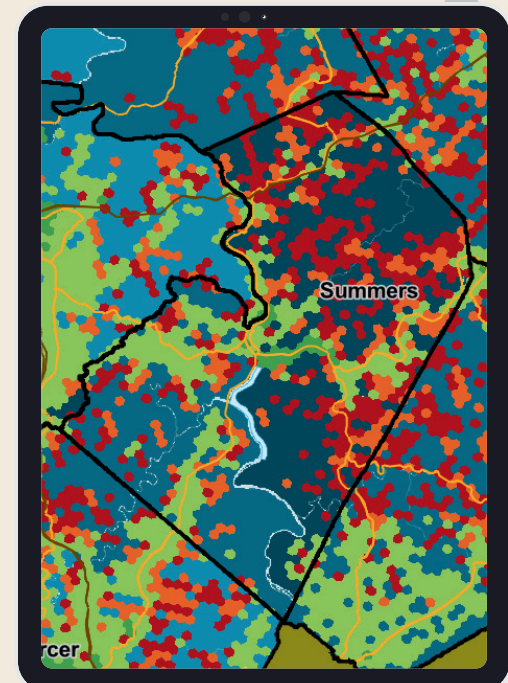
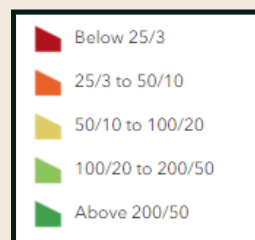
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

## Broadband Coverage in SUMMERS COUNTY

% of no broadband  
subscription



Claimed Speeds



**BROADBAND**

**GENERATION<sup>WV</sup>**

Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Summers 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
<b>Affordability, cost of service</b>	<b>Affordability:</b> Device access / Affordability programs, work to Refund ACP
<b>Lack of digital skills training and lack of instructors to train people</b>	<b>Meeting residents where they are for training:</b> Going into communities to host training in trusted locations - churches/school systems as education hubs; Trainers going into nursing homes and training 1on1; Peer training programs
<b>Fear of technology</b>	<b>Cybersecurity and safety resource:</b> Local resource to set up cybersecurity & how to do updates; More ad-free online content, less spam ads
<b>Accessibility for those with devices</b>	<b>Ensuring ADA compliance and website/app design</b> including accessibility measures for those with disabilities

What would broadband access mean for Summers County:



## Summers 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 Summers County can be found at <http://generationwv.org/broadband>

SCAN ME

