

# WEBSTER 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%

WEBSTER COUNTY 14.7%

### Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA 17.3%

WEBSTER COUNTY 23.8%

## Covered Population Demographics

There are **8,362 Residents** in  
WEBSTER COUNTY



**31.36%**

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

**24%**

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



**24.2%**

of the population are individuals living with a disability

**10.3%**

of the population have low literacy rates



## Why Digital Equity Matters in Webster 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.

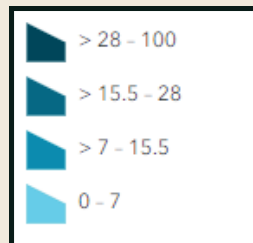


### Civic Engagement:

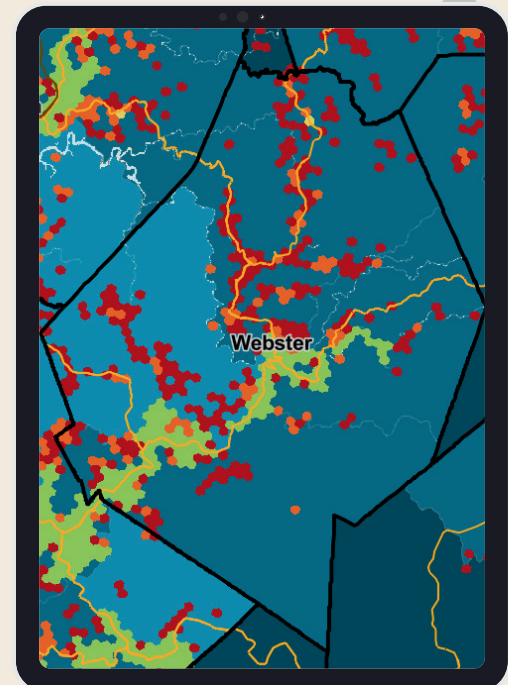
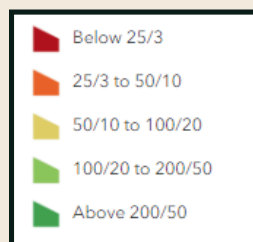
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

## Broadband Coverage in WEBSTER 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 Webster 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 of devices/technology, and services. Lack of affordable subscriber options.</b>	<b>Advocacy and Funding:</b> Advocacy for funding programs for low-income residents (ACP), Subsidies for devices like mobile hotspots to fill in the gaps.
<b>Lack of education on technology, lack of access to training about using digital resources/tools.</b>	<b>Digital Skills Education and Outreach:</b> Suggest implementing free classes on internet access and device usage for all ages, along with workshops and school collaborations. Resources may include inclusive apps for individuals with disabilities and initiatives to raise community awareness about modern payment and voting methods. Focus on grant writing and outreach campaigns for seniors to enhance educational opportunities and connections in higher education and employment.
<b>Resistance to changing technology</b>	
<b>Lack of access to devices</b>	<b>Device access:</b> supply simple device for necessity (medical and other reasons), Find funding opportunities for programs to loan out equipment, Check out devices from libraries, grants/government funding to provide tools for vulnerable populations

What would broadband access mean for Webster County:



## Webster 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 Webster County can be found at

<http://generationwv.org/broadband>

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