

WIRT 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%

WIRT COUNTY 15.7%

Households without Broadband:

WEST VIRGINIA 17.3%

WIRT COUNTY 21.7%

Covered Population Demographics

There are **5,202 Residents** in WIRT COUNTY



34.4%

Households with incomes at or below the national poverty level.

21.2%

of the population are aging individuals (65+)



24.4%

of the population are individuals living with a disability

9.6%

of the population are veterans



Why Digital Equity Matters in Wirt 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:

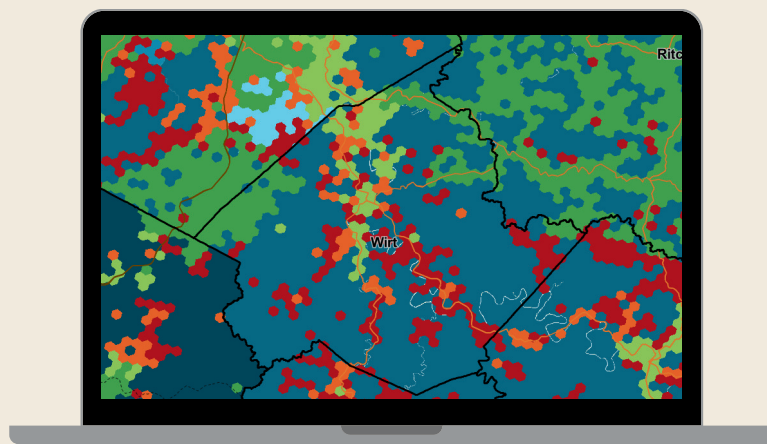
- High-speed internet fosters job opportunities, skills training, and remote work potential in rural communities.



Civic Engagement:

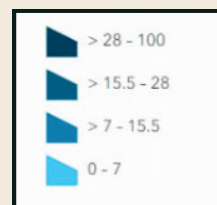
- Broadband helps residents participate in democracy, access public services, and stay informed.

Broadband Access in WIRT COUNTY



Claimed Speeds

% of no broadband subscription



BROADBAND

GENERATION^WV

Digital equity plans were completed by Generation WV on behalf of Wetzel 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
Lack of local capacity	Identify local partners who may already be doing this work to host/support programming.
Affordability	Financial assistance for broadband services and/or devices. This could be a subsidy for qualified individuals, cost breaks for certain populations from the local providers.
Lack of digital skills, knowledge and interest.	Implement digital skills programming: Device and internet skill training for residents at trusted locations.
Attitudes/fear around using digital resources.	
Device access	Specific device assistance, particularly for those with unique needs.

What would broadband access mean for Wirt County?



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

