

Dubois County Digital Inclusion Plan - Draft 2

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Dubois Strong



Goal 1

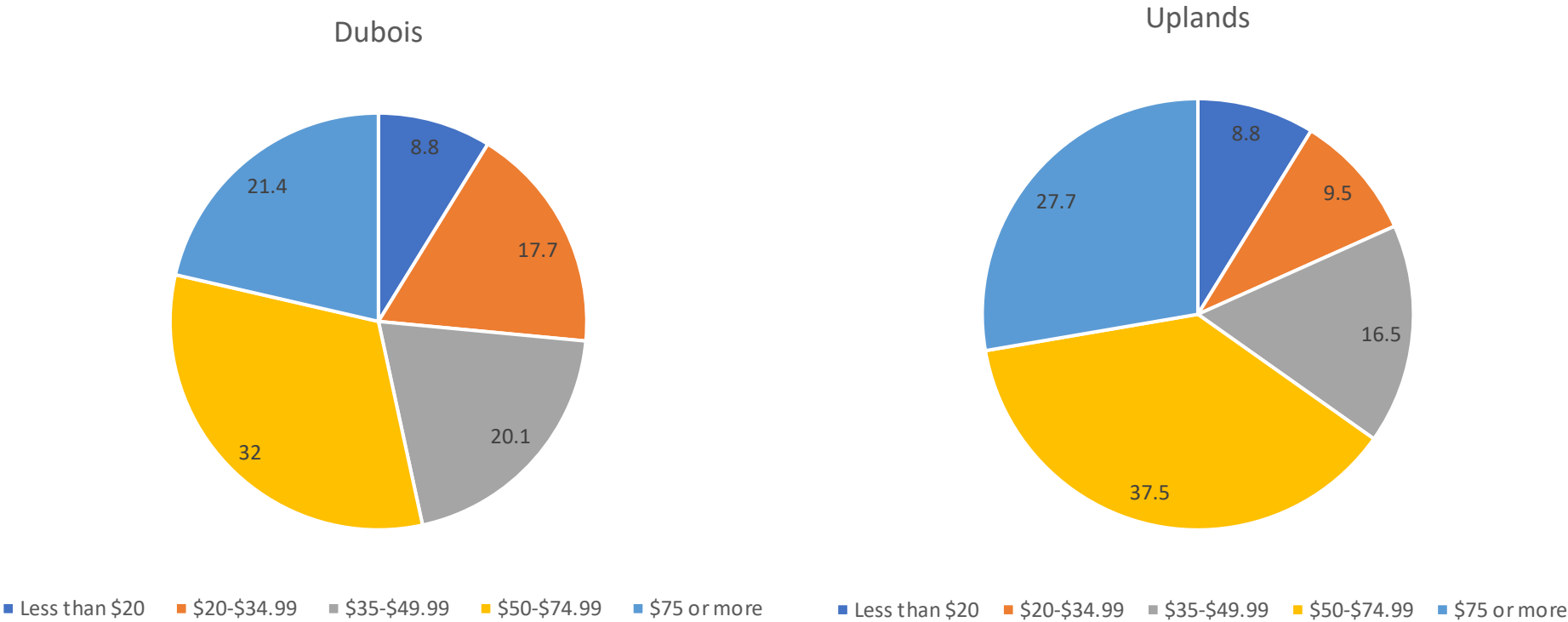
Build and increase access to affordable and adequate speed broadband connectivity throughout the county.



Goal 1 :: Home Internet Cost

Source: PCRD

Monthly internet service cost at home – internet only, no bundles



Regarding cost, survey respondents were asked to provide the monthly cost of internet only (not include cost of bundles; bundle cost data was also gathered but not included in the analysis). Overall, a little more than one-third (37.5%) of respondents in the region paid between \$50 and \$74.99 per month. Close to 28% paid \$75 dollars or more for internet only at home.

Strategy 1A

Work with existing internet providers to facilitate cooperation with local government identities on potential funding opportunities.

Strategy 1B

Facilitate meetings between the internet providers, the local rural electric cooperative and county government officials. For the purpose of pro-actively accelerating 'make ready' work performed by the rural electric cooperative. Make Ready includes the preparations for fiber optic cable to be attached to utility poles.

Strategy 1C

Ask county government officials and Dubois County Community Foundation to consider committing funds to the 'make ready' efforts.

Goal 2

Ensure residents have access to quality and reliable devices.



Strategy 2A

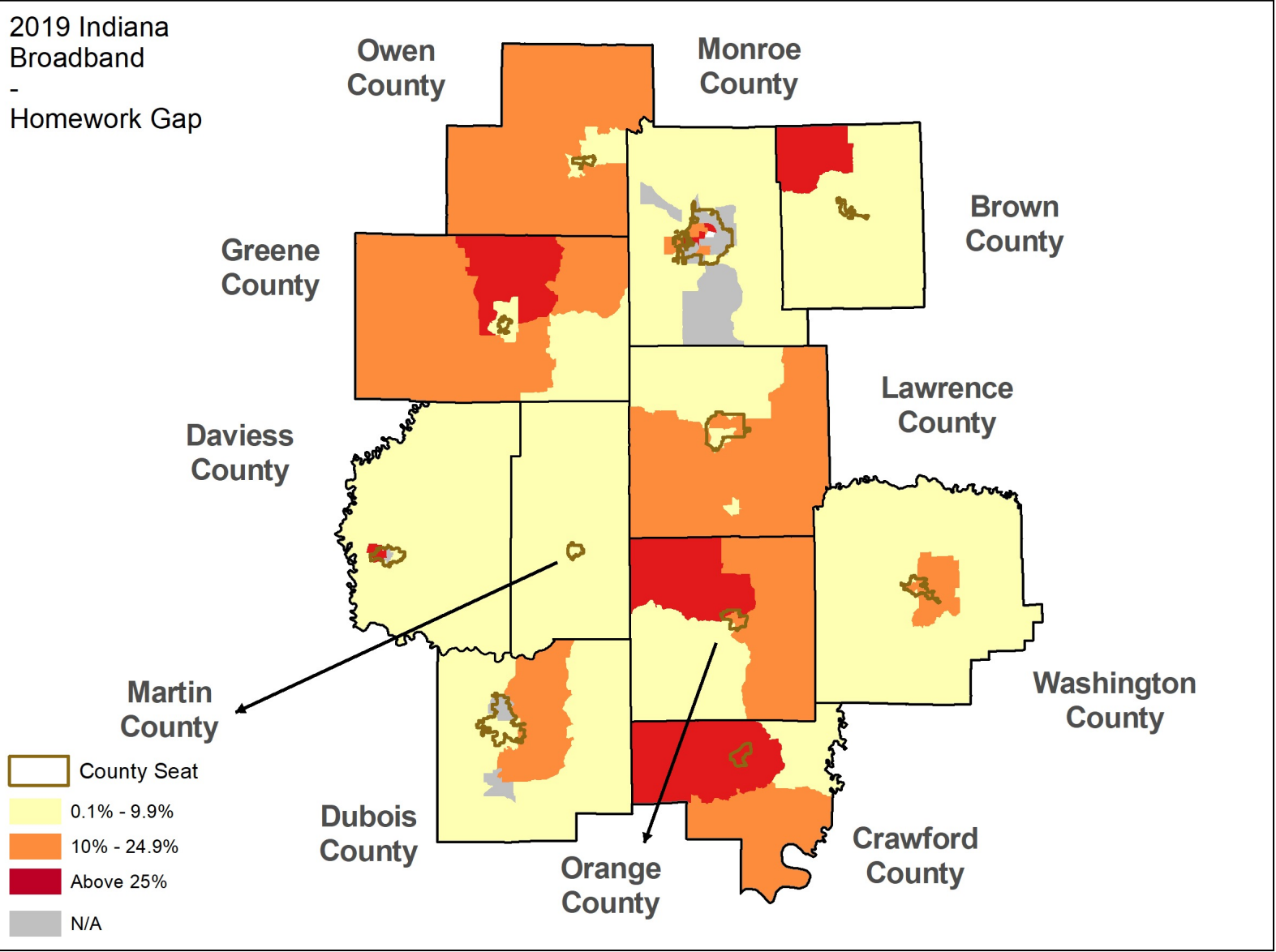
Identify businesses and community organizations who may be willing to donate money or devices, including desktops, laptops and tablets.

III. Homework Gap

Source: PCRD; 2015-2019 ACS

The map shows census tracts with the percent of children with a computer but no internet subscription as of 2019. A darker color indicates a higher percentage of children with no internet or homework gap.

Children with a computer but no internet	Homework Gap (%)
Brown	10.0
Crawford	19.5
Daviess	9.8
Dubois	4.2
Greene	14.6
Lawrence	10.4
Martin	6.7
Monroe	4.6
Owen	16.3
Orange	14.2
Washington	8.7
Indiana	7.7
Uplands	8.9



Strategy 2B

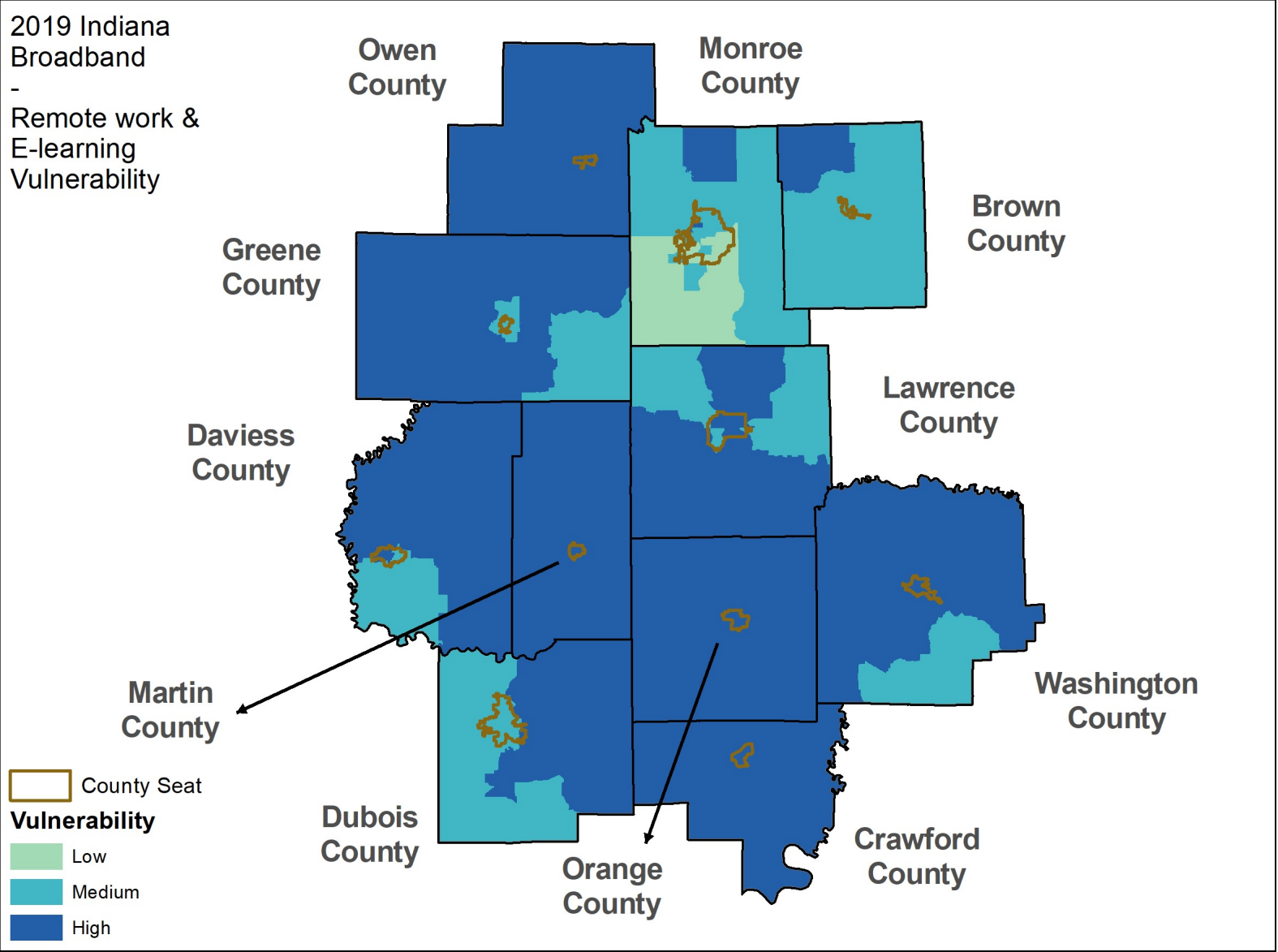
Work with the Dubois Library system to determine if they have a device loan program. If not, work with them to determine how to get a device loan program started.

III. Remote Work & e-Learning Vulnerability (ReV)

Source: PCRD; 2015-2019 ACS

The map shows the census tract in the region by level of vulnerability to engage in remote work or e-learning due to inadequate connectivity, higher share of children with no internet, or higher share of jobs not conducive to remote work. Table shows the percent of in highly vulnerable census tracts.

Households	High Vulnerability (%)
Brown	20.1
Crawford	100.0
Daviess	69.6
Dubois	37.0
Greene	74.8
Lawrence	67.9
Martin	100.0
Monroe	4.3
Owen	100.0
Orange	100.0
Washington	76.5
Indiana	31.5
Uplands	46.5



Strategy 2C

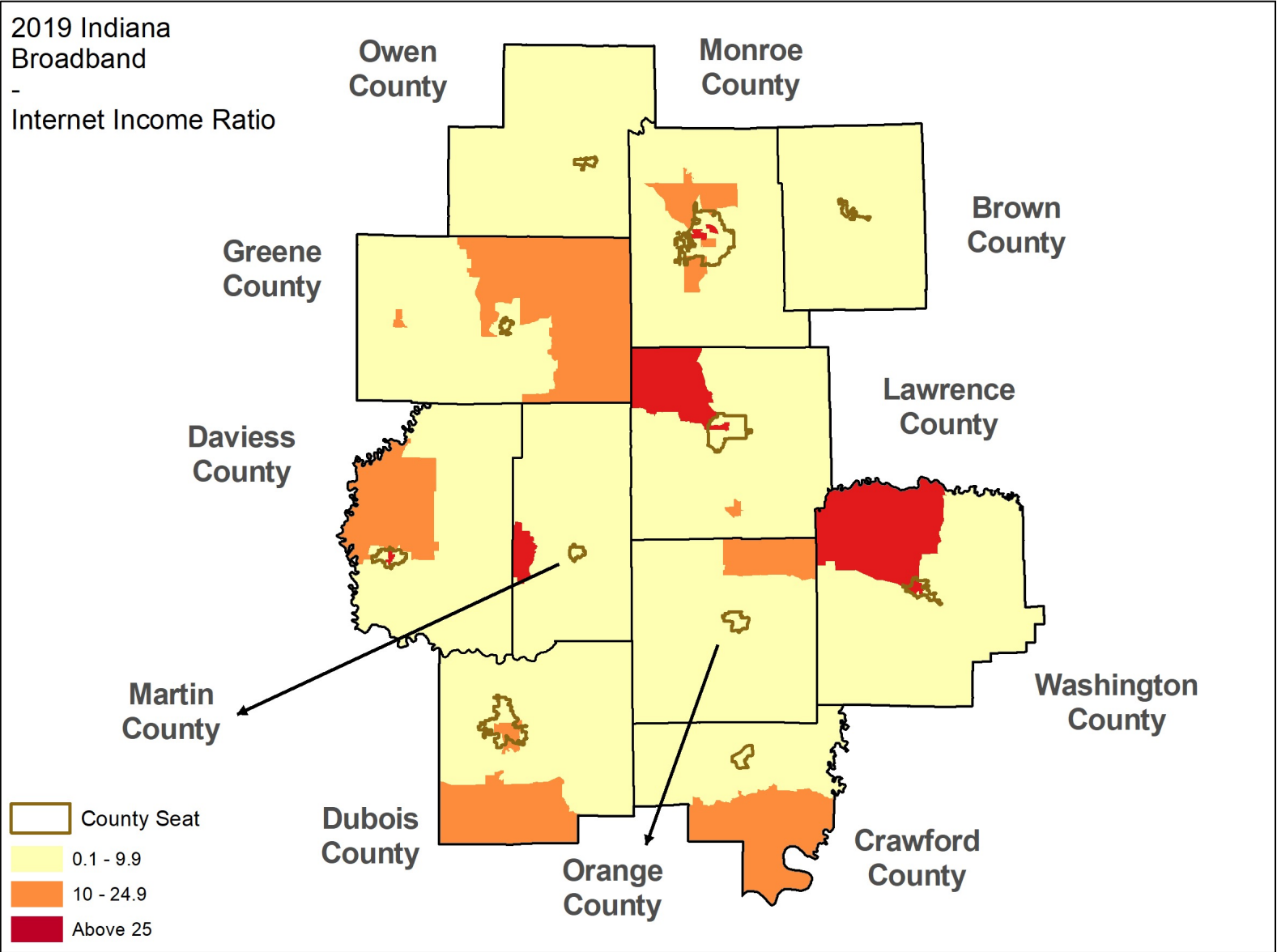
Partner with local nonprofits in the delivery of social programs to identify community residents in need of devices. Also, work with schools to identify students/families in need of devices.

III. Internet Income Ratio (IIR)

Source: PCD; 2015-2019 ACS

Map shows census tracts with the internet income ratio. A higher ratio indicates higher inequality regarding household income and internet access. For example, the share of low-income households without internet is 7.4 times higher compared to wealthier households in Washington County.

Households with no internet access	% < \$35k	% 75k +	IIR
Brown	34.0	14.1	2.4
Crawford	54.3	13.4	4.0
Daviess	48.7	12.5	3.9
Dubois	37.7	6.1	6.2
Greene	45.5	10.9	4.2
Lawrence	42.5	10.1	4.2
Martin	45.8	8.0	5.7
Monroe	23.9	5.0	4.8
Owen	45.3	11.9	3.8
Orange	42.8	15.9	2.7
Washington	54.6	7.4	7.4
Indiana	37.3	6.5	5.7
Uplands	37.0	8.4	4.4



Strategy 2D

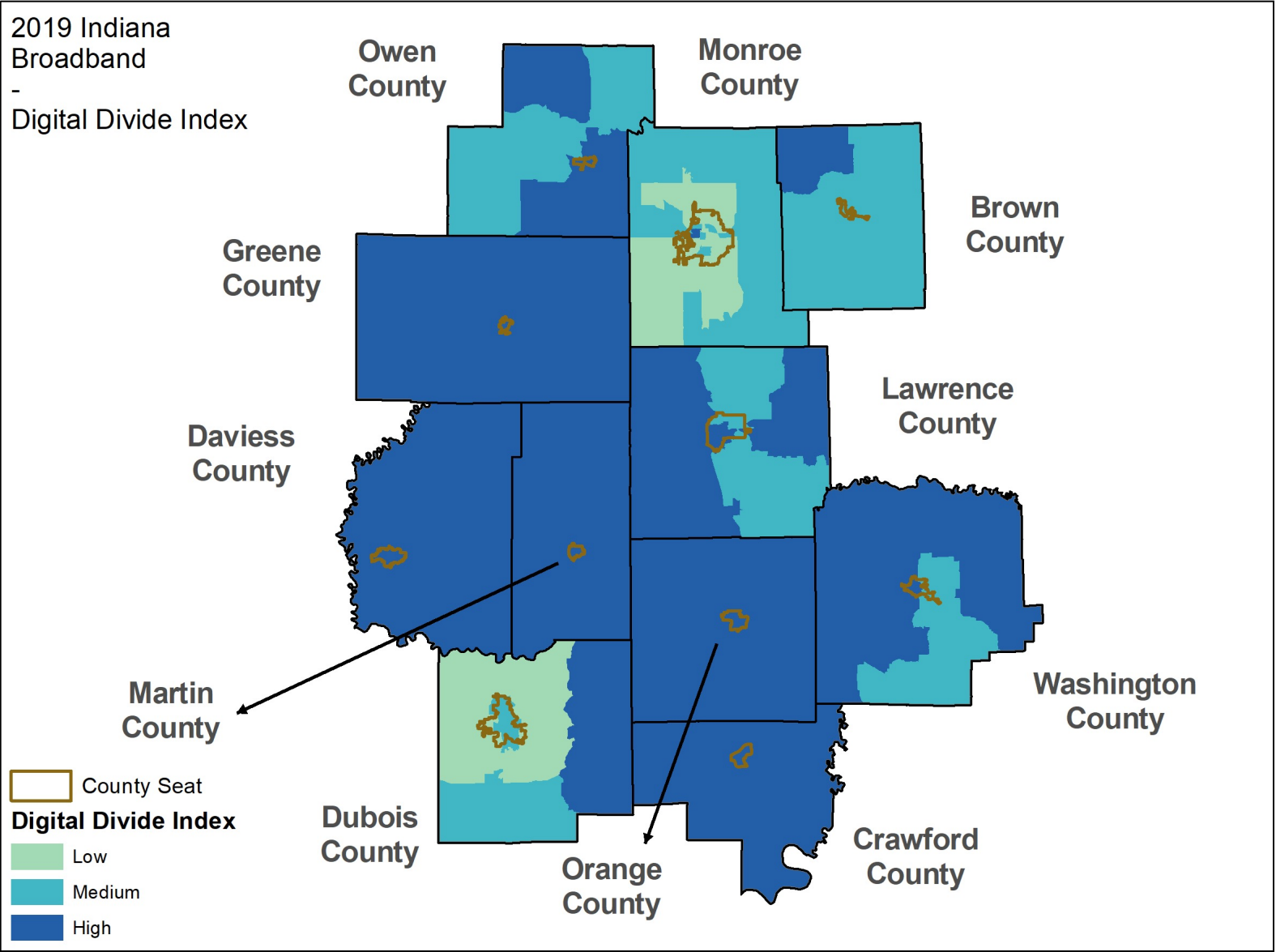
Collaborate with the Digital Fellows to develop a device donation/recycling/reuse program for used devices.

III. Digital Divide Index

Source: PCRD; 2015-2019 ACS

The map shows census tracts and their digital divide index (DDI) score. DDI includes 10 variables divided into infrastructure/adoption (INFA) and socioeconomic (SE) scores ranging from 0 to 100 where a higher score indicates a higher divide. For example, a higher SE score implies more efforts on relevance & literacy while a higher INFA score implies more efforts to improve infrastructure or adoption. Data used to calculate the scores included all tracts in the state.

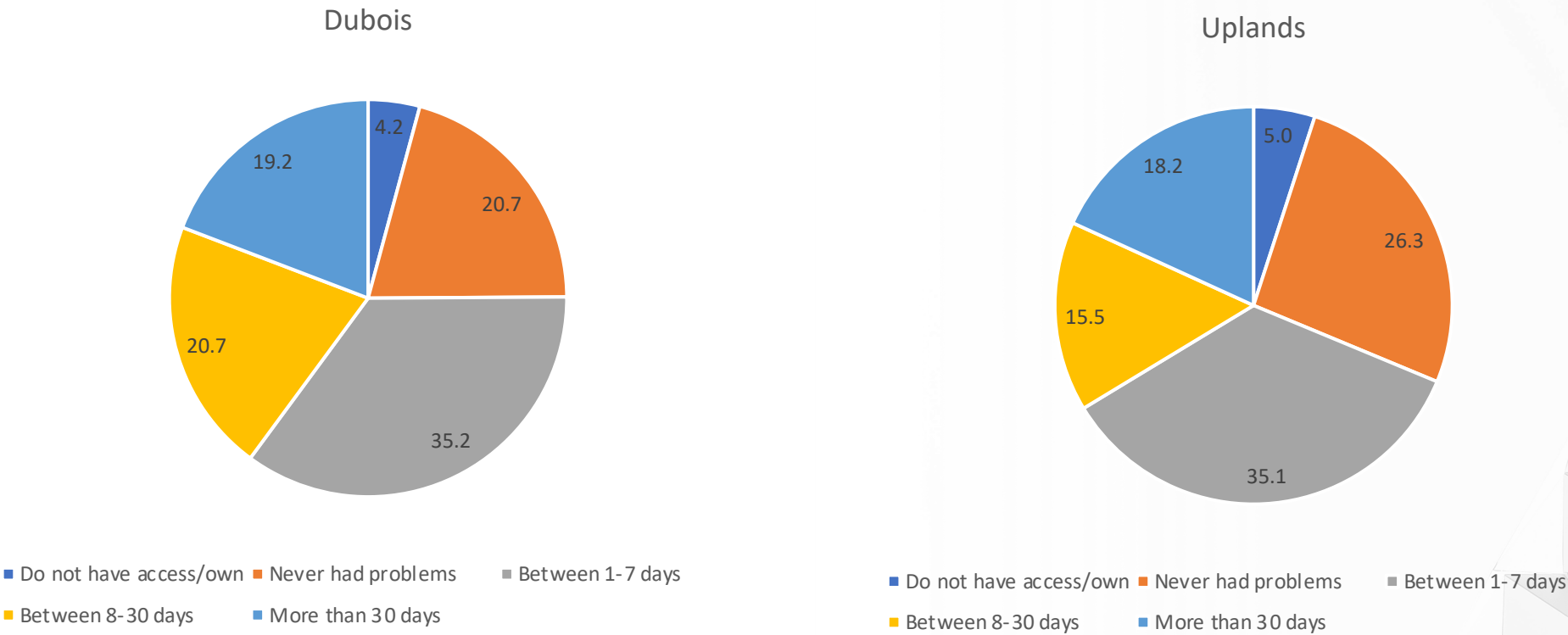
County	SE	INFA	DDI
Brown	53.8	36.1	37.1
Crawford	100.0	79.2	100.0
Daviess	65.5	32.8	41.4
Dubois	36.6	30.8	22.5
Greene	71.8	36.5	48.1
Lawrence	70.0	28.0	40.1
Martin	73.3	36.4	48.9
Monroe	39.0	31.3	24.3
Orange	92.8	30.1	55.4
Owen	71.3	40.2	50.9
Washington	74.7	30.0	44.5



IV. Device & Internet Access: Days without Internet

Source: PCRD

Due to unpaid bills, broken devices, unreliable service, running out of minutes/data, etc.



While individuals may have access to the internet at home or elsewhere, they may still encounter internet access problems due to unpaid bills, broken devices, unreliable service, running out of minutes/data, etc. Overall, close to one-fifth (18.2%) of respondents in the region reported being without internet for more than 30 days over the past year. Close to two-thirds reported not having internet for at least one day. Note that the “do not have access” is not necessarily the same as the “no home internet access” share shown in slide/page 28.

Goal 3

Improve digital literacy and skills among all residents.



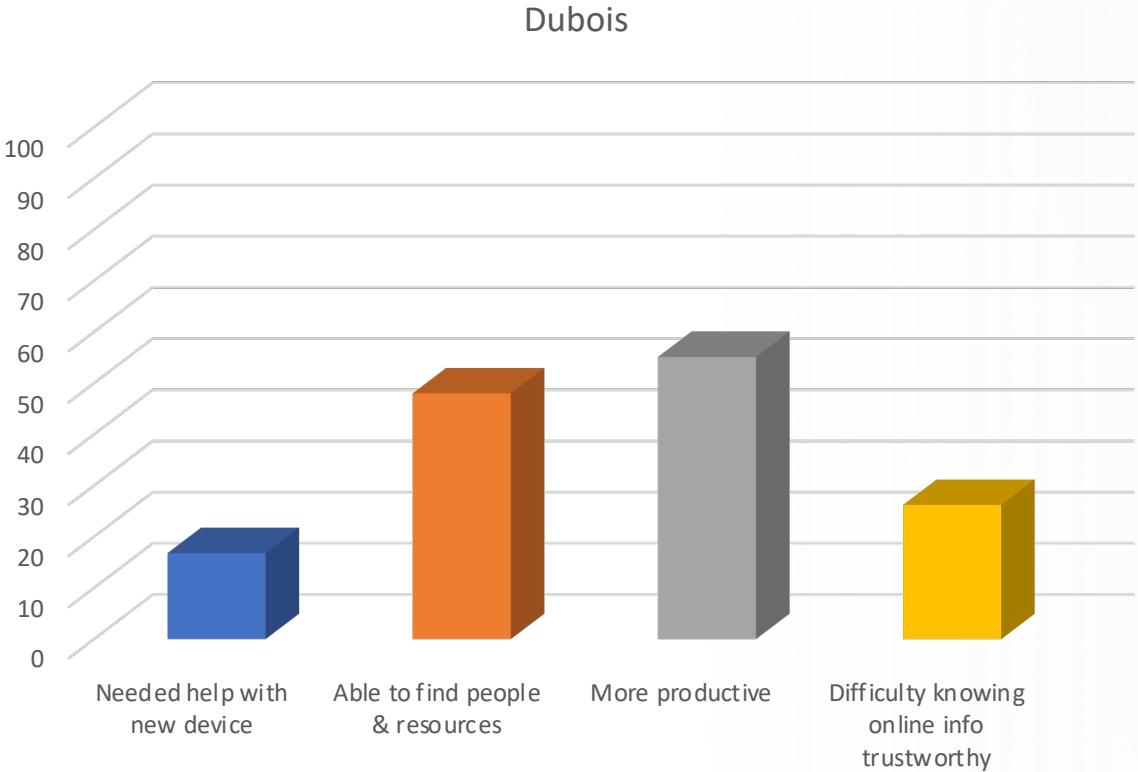
Strategy 3A

Partner with the local chambers of commerce, Vincennes University Jasper and local computer services providers to present free or low cost computer literacy classes.

IV. Utilization & Resourcefulness: Device & Internet Use

Source: PCRD

Percent responses indicating statements described them well or very well



A key component of digital utilization and resourcefulness is being able to access people and resources that can help with using devices and the internet as well as being comfortable with information encountered online. Graph shows the percent of survey respondents who felt the device and internet use statements described them well or very well. Noteworthy is the fact that more than half of respondents in all counties felt devices and the internet made them more productive, implying residents in the Uplands region value the internet and, in some cases, a friendly tech support environment may be the barrier to unleash the technology’s potential.

Strategy 3B

Collaborate with the Latino community (ALASI organization) to offer low cost or no cost digital literacy training.

Goal 4

Integrate digital inclusion strategies into community, economic, and workforce development.



Strategy 4A

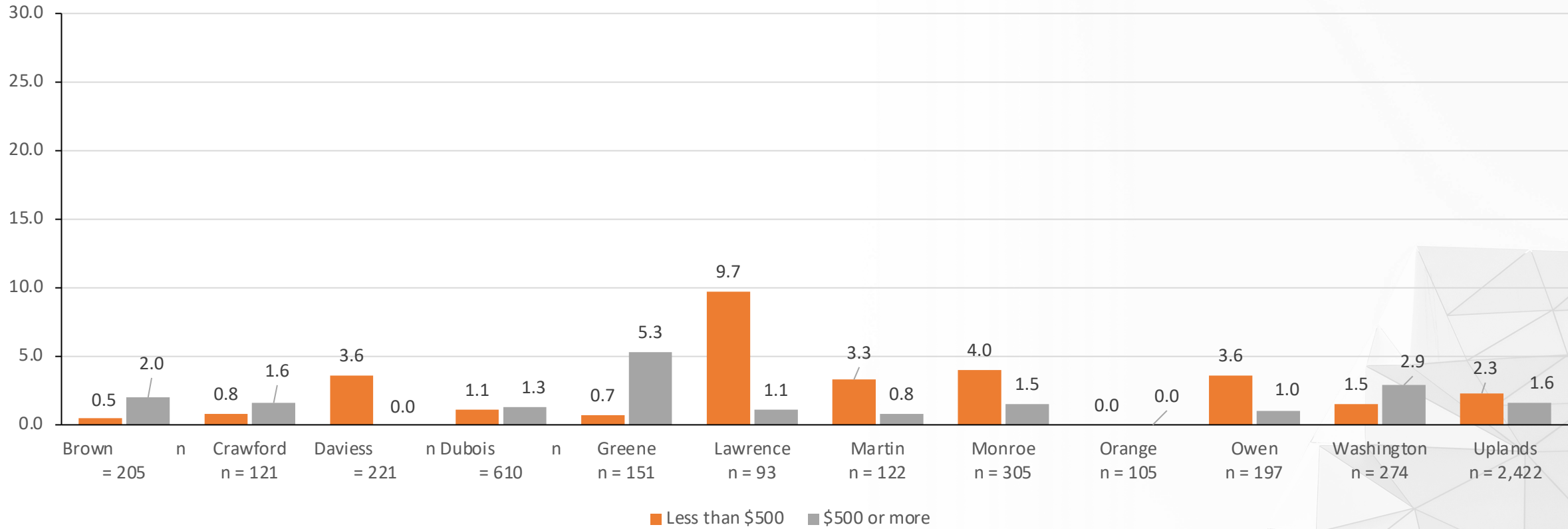
Partner with the ROI STEM fellows in all four county school corporations. STEM Fellows work to advance science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities in Indiana Uplands schools.

STEM Fellows expose our region's youngest learners to STEM exploration and regionally relevant career pathways that they can pursue beginning in elementary school and into postsecondary education and careers.

IV. Internet Benefits: Promotions

Source: PCRD

Obtained a promotion due to online training/education over the past year

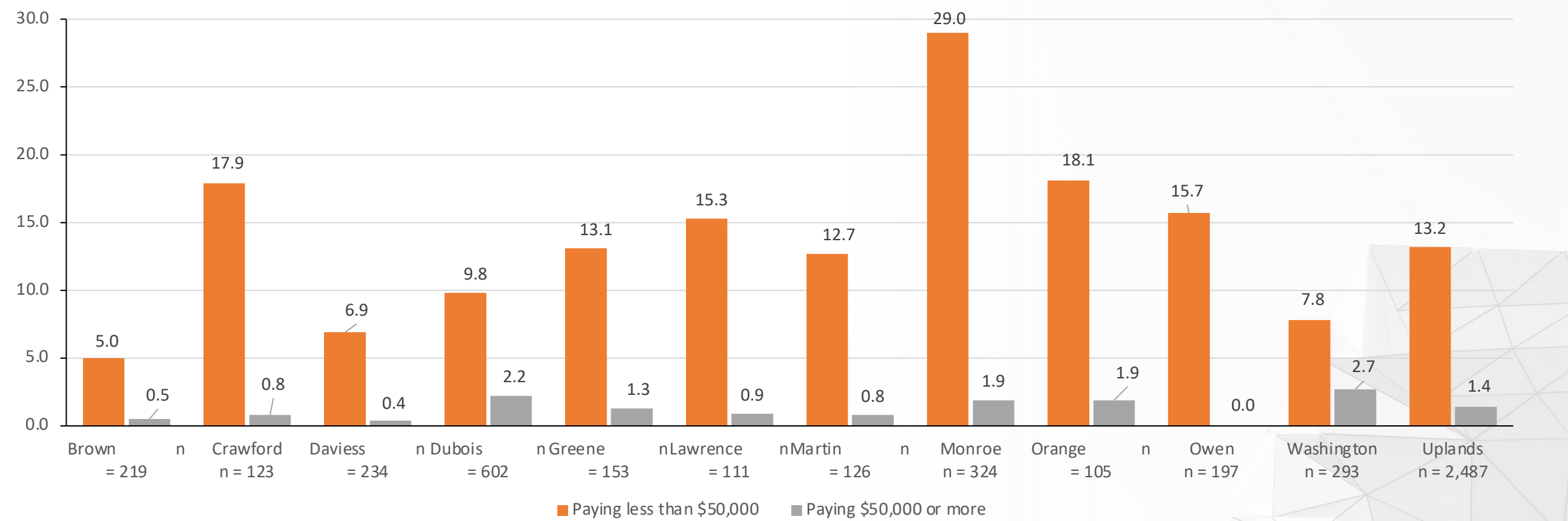


Regarding obtaining promotions, most survey respondents said they did not obtain one over the past year due to online education/training. Again, keep in mind this survey was conducted amidst a pandemic. Regardless, some counties in the region did report some promotions. For example, 9.7% of survey respondents in Lawrence County said they obtained a promotion resulting in a salary increase of less than \$500 per year. Greene County, on the other hand, had the highest share (5.3%) of those reporting obtaining a promotion resulting in an annual increase of \$500 or more per year. Another reason for why most respondents did not obtain a promotion may be due to the absence of promotions in the job market for reasons beyond online activity.

IV. Internet Benefits: Jobs

Source: PCRD

Obtained a job found/applied online over the past year



Close to 15% of survey respondents in the region said they secured a job they found and/or applied for online over the past year. The overall share was higher than those reporting a promotion (see slide/page 49). Monroe County had the highest percentage (29%) of those securing a job paying less than \$50,000 annually over the past year while Washington County had the highest share (2.7%) of those finding a job online paying \$50,000 or more per year. Again, our survey was conducted amidst a pandemic-induced economic crisis and the complexity of the job market will not be explained mostly by digital inclusion. However, it does provide valuable information that can be tracked over time to see if these metrics improve once digital inclusion strategies are implemented.

Goal 5

Work to establish and sustain a digital equity ecosystem*.

**Digital equity ecosystems are defined as the interactions between individuals, populations, and their larger socioeconomic and technical environments that play a role in shaping digital inclusion work.*



Strategy 5A

Expand the digital advisory team into a broader coalition of digital inclusion stakeholders in the community. This coalition can monitor implementation of the plan and review progress twice per year, coordinate networking around digital inclusion, and serve as a liaison to additional community coalitions.