



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

SOUTH CAROLINA

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

South Carolina Fast Facts - 2014

State's Child Poverty Rate:	26.1%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	17.3%
StrikeForce State Since:	2013
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	27
Total Outreach Events in '14:	439
Number of Community Partners:	50
Total USDA Projects:	2,304
Total USDA Investments:	347.6 million

Contacts

Contact us to be a partner, or to learn more about StrikeForce opportunities:

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Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Center for Heirs Property Preservation
Midlands Local Food Collaborative
Minority Landowner Magazine
South Carolina Community Loan Fund
South Carolina Rural Resource Coalition
South Carolina Soil and Water
Conservation Districts
South Carolina State University 1890
Extension Program

Currently, 85 percent of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. More than one third of rural Americans, and one in four rural children live in poverty. Kids growing up in families earning twice the poverty threshold are nearly three times as likely as other children to have poor health, are more likely to finish two fewer years of school, and are more likely to earn half as much money in their adult lives.

Growing the economy by investing in rural communities and increasing opportunities for families is key to our Nation's future. In 2010, Secretary Vilsack established USDA's StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity to address the specific challenges associated with rural poverty. Since then, StrikeForce teams have collaborated with more than 500 community partners and public entities to bring targeted assistance to rural areas experiencing chronic poverty.

These efforts have invested more than \$16.5 billion to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources across twenty states. In 2015, StrikeForce expanded to include Oklahoma and Puerto Rico. Now, USDA StrikeForce teams will operate in 880 counties in 21 states and Puerto Rico. Each StrikeForce project is a commitment to America's economic future.

StrikeForce At Work

With various Orangeburg County government service—including the health department, police department, library, county assessments and town hall—scattered across Holly Hill, low-income residents with transportation issues found accessing services challenging. In addition the facilities, themselves, were outmoded and inadequate to meet current needs.

USDA Rural Development provided a low-interest \$2.2 million Community Facilities loan to renovate an aging school facility into a 26,000-square-foot multi-purpose municipal building to serve the lower portion of the county, including the towns of Holly Hill, Vance and Eutawville.

The new intergovernmental complex, which opened its doors in May of 2014, is centrally located and easily accessible for residents. Holly Hill Mayor William Johnson said he often drove by the vacant building and could never have envisioned such a facility. "We're really proud of this place," he said. "I want us to be one that stands out like a light. People all over South Carolina will know that we've come together as a team to prove that the state, county and municipality can work for the good of the citizens," he added.

Health director Dana Millet said, "I have seen lots and lots of health departments, but I do believe this is the finest health department in the state of South Carolina."



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