



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

[www.usda.gov/strikeforce](http://www.usda.gov/strikeforce)

# UTAH

### Utah Fast Facts - 2014

State's Child Poverty Rate:	15.6%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	10.2%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	5
Total Outreach Events:	20
Number of Community Partners:	24
Total USDA Projects:	894
Total USDA Investments:	\$148 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

Dine Agriculture, Inc.  
Dine College  
Indian Nations Conservation Alliance  
Navajo Mountain Tribal Conservation District  
Navajo Nation Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Skull Valley Goshute Tribe  
Shiprock Office of Youth Development  
Ute Business Community

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

Geographic and economic isolation in Utah's high poverty rural and tribal communities creates challenges for residents to connect with funders and service providers. Through the StrikeForce initiative, USDA has conducted extensive outreach in high poverty areas across the state, with a specific focus on reservations and Native American communities. As a result, USDA has made a number of critical investments to bring economic security to communities in need.

Building on existing relationships, USDA Rural Development has funded the materials needed for a volunteer work group to weatherize and make essential health and safety repairs to homes on the Navajo Reservation. To date, the efforts have helped repair 40 homes, giving families safe, warm places to live. Rural Development also awarded \$120,000 to help Four Corners School in southern San Juan County purchase six vehicles that will transport students and staff to remote locations as part of a public lands conservation training program. In addition, more than \$8.4 million in USDA business loan guarantees and 26 percent of Utah Rural Development's economic development grants were directed to business assistance, energy, and value-added agriculture projects in persistent poverty communities across the state.



Updated March 2015

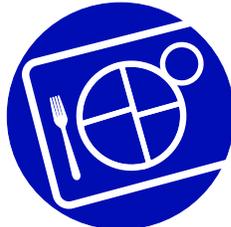
# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Utah

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## 894 Projects in 2014 = \$148 Million Invested



**11**  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



**840,631**  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



**75**  
Farmers  
Assisted



**827**  
Home  
Investments

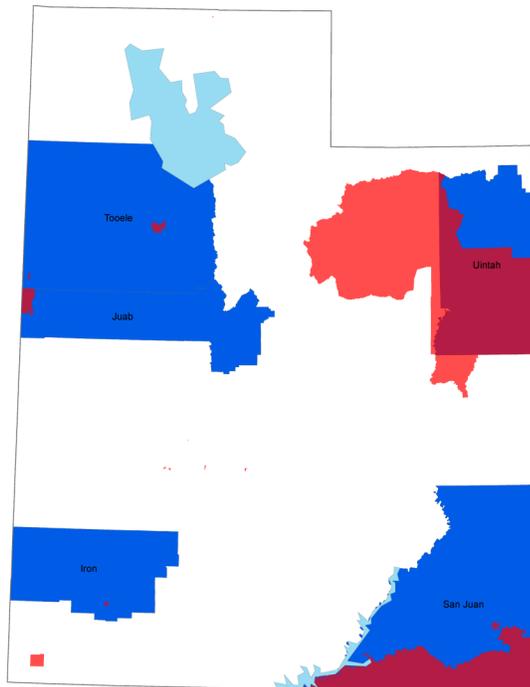


**74**  
Conservation  
Efforts



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### STRIKEFORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: Utah Persistent Poverty StrikeForce Counties with overlay of Native American Reservations



**Legend**

- State
- Lakes
- Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
- Counties

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:  
ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layer  
2000 CENSUS TRACT DATA - CENSUS, Tiger g00  
2010 CENSUS TRACT DATA - CENSUS, Tiger g10  
USGS National State Boundaries data set  
NCEI: 816 PF 0101 Special Lands Participation CODE Data  
From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education Statistics, [nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/ipedsdatasys/](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/ipedsdatasys/)  
USDA/ODJWD Data Data Reflecting RD Program Specific Data  
USDA/ODJWD: RUS: RUS: OMB/DOJ Data Sources  
USDA/ODJWD: Departmental Data Resources  
Housing and Urban Development Data  
Environmental Protection Agency Data  
New Area 2002

This map includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although these areas are associated with particular tribes and tribes have certain jurisdictional authorities and treaty rights in these areas, many Rural Development investments in these areas only in part benefit American Indians, or in fact may not benefit any American Indians at all. Please contact Rural Development's Native American Coordinator or Rural Development Staff in Oklahoma to verify whether or not particular investments within Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas are indeed investments benefiting American Indians.

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