



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

COLORADO

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

Colorado Fast Facts - 2014

State's Child Poverty Rate:	17.3%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	12%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	31
Total Outreach Events:	200
Number of Community Partners:	76
Total USDA Projects:	2,250
Total USDA Investments:	\$586 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

Adams State University
Colorado Acequia Association
Colorado Cattle Women Inc.
Colorado Foundation for Agriculture
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Farmers Union
Colorado State University Extension Service
Food Bank of the Rockies
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hunger Free Colorado

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

"We had lived in a rental house since my daughter was five months old, and as she got older I realized we both needed space to grow," said Brittany Trujillo. As a single mother to a three-year-old daughter who works in a grocery store, homeownership seemed distant. One day, a co-worker told Trujillo how she had purchased her first house with financing assistance from USDA Rural Development.

Trujillo contacted USDA and worked with Rural Development to begin the process. "Brittany was a very good candidate for our housing program," said USDA loan specialist Tineel Baroz. "She had sufficient repayment ability, stable and dependable income and an established credit history."

Trujillo qualified for a Single Family Housing Direct Loan with no down payment and affordable rates. Within three months of submitting her paperwork, Trujillo found an eligible property and was able to move from her one-bedroom rental into a three-bedroom, 1,280 square-foot home in Alamosa. Today, Trujillo is excited to be able to invite friends and family to stay in the extra bedroom, and her daughter is thrilled to have a room decorated with cartoon kittens to call her own. Moving forward, this investment in homeownership will help Trujillo and her daughter build equity and assets for the future.

The Trujillo family is one of 122 Colorado families living in StrikeForce areas to receive homeownership assistance from Rural Development in 2014.



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