



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

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.



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Legend

- State
- Lakes
- Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
- Counties

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:
 ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers
 2000 Census Data
 2010 CENSUS TIGER DATA - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
 USGS National Hydrography Database data set
 NCES - ERS FY2010 School Lunch Participation CORE Data
 From U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education
 Statistics, see nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/nces.asp
 USDA/RD/GDW Data Sets Reflecting RD Program Specific Data
 USDA/RD/RUS, RBS, RHS, O&M/CIO Data Sources
 USDA/OIGIO/GEMO Departmental Data Resources
 Housing and Urban Development Data
 Environmental Protection Agency Data
 Title Atlas 2008

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 or Tribes. 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.

MAP PRODUCED BY:
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