



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



www.usda.gov/strikeforce

StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

NEVADA

Nevada Fast Facts - 2014

State's Child Poverty Rate:	22%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	16.3%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	17
Total Outreach Events:	48
Number of Community Partners:	14
Total USDA Projects:	1,194
Total USDA Investments:	\$190.8 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**

- Blue Lizard Farm
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Intertribal Agriculture Council
- Intertribal Council of Nevada
- Moapa River Paiute Tribe
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
- Small Business Administration
- Three Square Food Bank
- University of Nevada—Reno Cooperative Extension

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

Las Vegas Rock, Inc. (LVR) has been part of Nevada's mining business for decades. LVR rock was used in the original Flamingo Hotel and other architectural landmarks. When the housing crisis crippled Nevada's economy, LVR's business suffered. President Steve Wickman knew the company needed help to find new markets.

With a strong business plan and the support of a USDA Rural Development Business and Industry loan guarantee, LVR was able to secure a \$1.5 million USDA-backed loan to purchase a state-of-the-art, high-speed stone cutting machine. This investment speeded production ten-fold, and LVR was also able to enhance the finished quality of the meta-quartzite mined from their Rainbow Quarry. A year later, LVR benefitted from a second USDA business loan guarantee on a \$1.4 million loan to purchase equipment and secure working capital to increase operations.

As a result of the improvements, LVR has created 28 new jobs, and the business outlook is solid. They are providing rock to domestic projects like the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Fort Bliss, Texas, and are exporting to Costa Rica and Kuwait.

This business and others benefitted from concerted and collaborative outreach by numerous USDA agencies to address economic challenges in rural areas.



