



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

NORTH DAKOTA

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

North Dakota Fast Facts - 2014

State's Child Poverty Rate:	16.1%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	10.5%
StrikeForce State Since:	2013
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	7
Total Outreach Events:	104
Number of Community Partners:	35
Total USDA Projects:	279
Total USDA Investments:	\$26 million

Contacts

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

Marion.Houn@nd.usda.gov
(701) 530-2059

Congressional Inquiries:
(202) 720-7095

Media Inquiries:
(202) 720-4623

Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

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Cankdeska Cikana Community College

North Dakota Farmer's Union

North Dakota State University and
Cooperative Extension Service

Sitting Bull College

Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

United Tribes Technical College

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

The Spirit Lake Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota has 11 Head Start classrooms scattered across the 405-square-mile reservation. The classes are held in trailers at least 30 years old, with only one kitchen delivering meals by bus. The system is inefficient and all locations are in great need of repair.

USDA Rural Development provided a \$4.4 million Community Facilities loan for a new Head Start center that will consolidate all of the Head Start classes under one roof and accommodate up to 175 children, ranging from infants to 6-year-olds. The 38,000-square-foot facility will house 14 classrooms, a kitchen, nurse's headquarters, teacher's lounge, multi-purpose room, and an outdoor fenced play area.

The tribe's children, who are called 'wakanyeja' or 'sacred little ones' in the Dakota language, joined the groundbreaking in September 2014 wielding little shovels. This USDA investment in the new facility will help protect and nurture the tribe's sacred little ones for generations to come.

Also in 2014, President Obama visited the nearby Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. As a result, he launched the White House Council on Native American Affairs and the Generation Indigenous Initiative to improve opportunities for Native American Youth.



