



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

# SOUTH CAROLINA

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

### South Carolina Fast Facts - 2015

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| State's Child Poverty Rate:     | 26.1%           |
| State's Overall Poverty Rate:   | 17.3%           |
| StrikeForce State Since:        | 2013            |
| Number of StrikeForce Counties: | 27              |
| Total Outreach Events:          | 177             |
| Number of Community Partners:   | 50              |
| Total USDA Projects:            | 2,758           |
| Total USDA Investments:         | \$436.6 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

Center for Heirs Property Preservation  
Midlands Local Food Collaborative  
Minority Landowner Magazine  
South Carolina Community Loan Fund  
South Carolina Rural Resource Coalition  
South Carolina Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts  
South Carolina State University 1890  
Extension Program

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 1,500 community partners and public entities to bring targeted assistance to rural areas experiencing chronic poverty.

These efforts have invested more than \$23.5 billion to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources across more than twenty states. In 2016, StrikeForce expanded to include Florida, Missouri, Montana, and Ohio. Now, USDA StrikeForce teams will operate in 970 counties in 25 states and Puerto Rico. Each StrikeForce project is a commitment to America's economic future.

### StrikeForce At Work

#### Small Farmer Has Big Impact on Her Land and Local Environment

In Eastover, S.C., small farmer Ann Pringle Washington began attending local outreach workshops to learn more about growing organic produce. While there, she learned about NRCS's conservation programs and services. After visiting the NRCS local office, she began developing a conservation plan focused on improving the farm operation and the health of its soil and water.

She and her husband qualified for Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding to help install a seasonal high tunnel with micro-drip irrigation, which will supply steady, direct water to crops while preventing excess runoff.

"This is going to allow us to have year-round access to fresh produce," Washington said. "The structure will also give us the advantage and flexibility to work the farm when we want to, even if the weather isn't suitable." Today, these family farmers are enjoying the advantages of extending their growing season, and are growing different crops, including tomatoes, jalapeños, eggplants, spinach and arugula. They are pursuing certification in USDA's National Organics Program.



# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in South Carolina

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

## 2,758 Projects in 2015 = \$436.6 Million Invested



**448**  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



**3,872,397**  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



**319**  
Farmers  
Assisted



**8,408**  
Home  
Investments

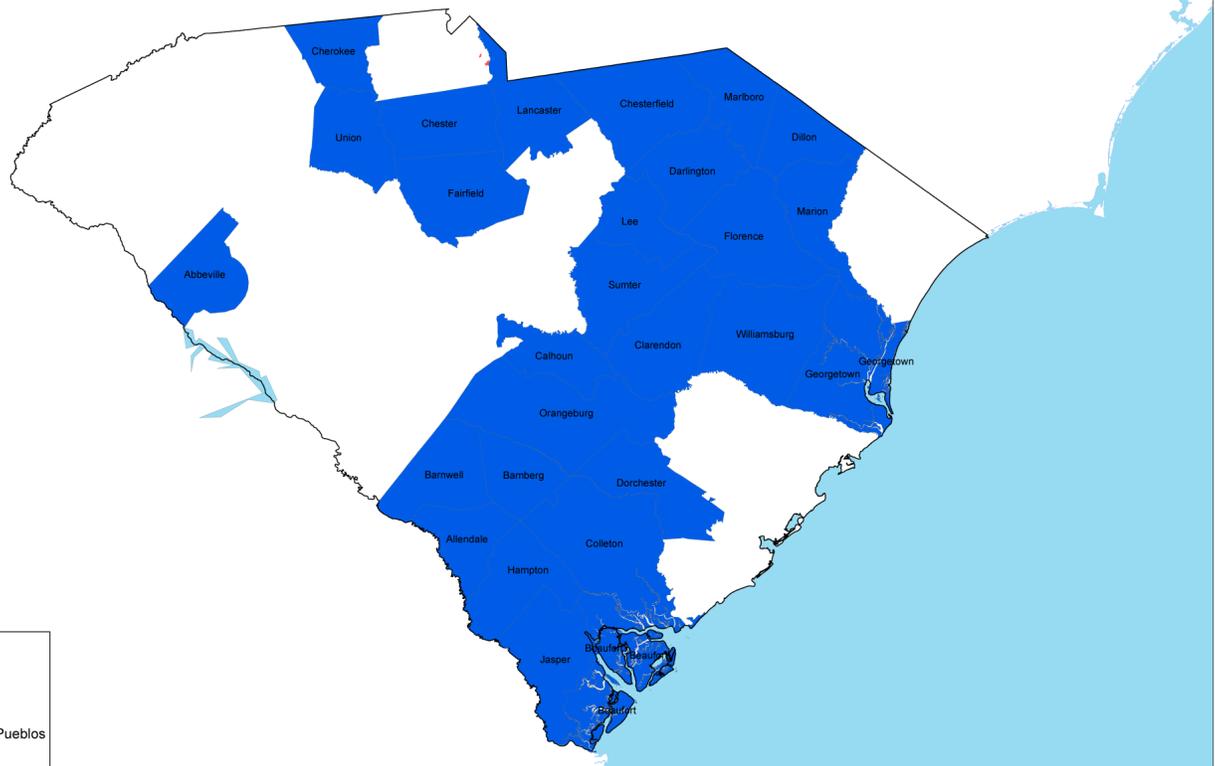


**622**  
Conservation  
Efforts



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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



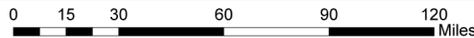
**Legend**

- State
- Lakes
- Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
- Counties

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:  
 ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers  
 2000 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS\_TIGER.gdb  
 2010 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS\_10TIGER.gdb  
 USGS National State Boundaries data set  
 NCEES - ESIP F 2010 School Lunch Participation CORE Data  
 From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/coredata/>  
 USDOAGRICULTURE Data Sets Reflecting RD Program Specific Data  
 USDOAGRICULTURE RUS, REB, RHC, OMACO Data Sources  
 USDOAGRICULTURE Departmental Data Resources  
 Planning and 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.

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