



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

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

# ARIZONA

### Arizona Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	24.3%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	18.9%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	15
Total Outreach Events:	114
Number of Community Partners:	52
Total USDA Projects:	3,299
Total USDA Investments:	\$416.9 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

Arizona Cattle Growers Association  
Arizona Department of Agriculture  
Arizona League of Cities & Towns  
Arizona Public Service  
Campesinos Sin Frontera  
Cochise College  
Native American Tribes  
Navajo Nation Dept. of Agriculture  
Navajo Nation Dept. of Natural Resources  
Salt River Project  
Southwest Indian Agricultural Association  
University of Arizona 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 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.

### USDA Helps in Thaw of Former Bennett Freeze Area of the Navajo Nation

It's been a successful year in Arizona's StrikeForce counties, especially in the region known as the Former Bennett Freeze Area in northcentral Arizona on the Navajo Nation. The area's leadership has begun systemic changes to offset decades of neglect in the area, impoverished by a Congressionally-mandated freeze on development enacted 40 years ago and finally lifted in 2009. USDA Rural Development targeted the area for assistance through the StrikeForce Initiative.

A number of projects sponsored by tribal and non-profit organizations are providing technical support to local farmers and starting to bear fruit. For example, Leupp Family Farms (LFF) has expanded on its previous Farm to School Grant to receive a \$18,000 Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant to increase the capacity and productivity of local growers. LFF also received a \$26,268 Value Added Producer Grant to expand the development and marketing of traditional foods to local markets.



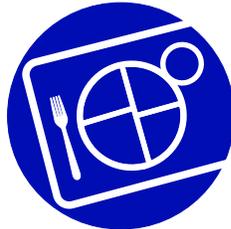
# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Arizona

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

## 3,299 Projects in 2015 = \$416.9 Million Invested



**531**  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



**2,643,838**  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



**246**  
Farmers  
Assisted



**4,695**  
Home  
Investments

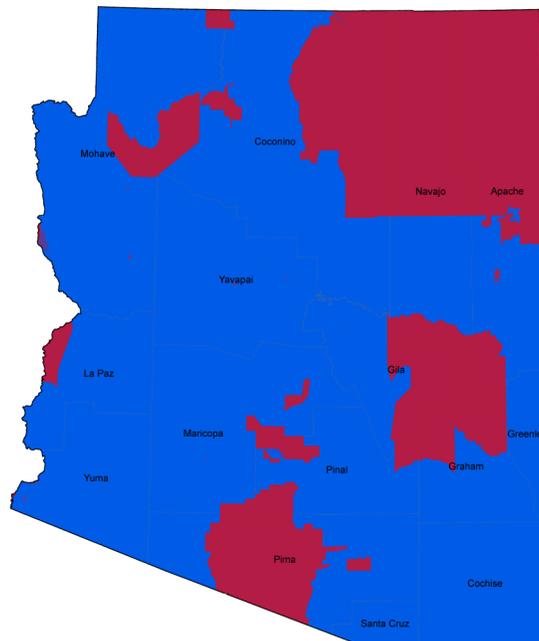


**156**  
Conservation  
Efforts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### STRIKEFORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: Arizona Persistent Poverty StrikeForce Counties with Native American Reservation overlay



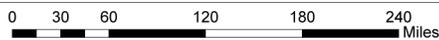
#### Legend

- State
- Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
- Counties

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:  
ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers  
2000 CENSUS TRACES Data - CENSUS Tiger g00  
2010 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS Tiger g10  
USGS National State Boundary Data set  
N.C.E.S. 1998 PFD (1) School Lunch Participation CORE Data  
From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education Statistics - data.gov  
USDA/RD/CZ/DW Data Sets Reflecting RD Program Specific Data  
USDA/ND RUS DISE TRF OMB/CDO Data Sources  
USDA/OCE/OWD Departmental Data Resources  
Housing and Urban Development Data  
Environmental Protection Agency Data  
Tribal Areas 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 at all. 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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