



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

FLORIDA

Florida Fast Facts - 2016

State's Child Poverty Rate:	24.1%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	16.7%
StrikeForce State Since:	2016
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	36

Contacts

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

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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, Florida, 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.

Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

- Rural Economic Development Initiative
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- University of Florida
- Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
- Florida State University
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Studies
- Wealth Watchers Inc.
- Florida Regional Councils Association



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