



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

LOUISIANA

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

Louisiana Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	27.3%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	20.6%
StrikeForce State Since:	2015
Number of StrikeForce Parishes:	44
Total Outreach Events:	45
Number of Community Partners:	30
Total USDA Projects:	4,202
Total USDA Investment:	\$524 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

Campti Field of Dreams
LSU AgCenter
Southern University AgCenter
Morehouse Black Farmers Association
Rapides Community Ministries
Trailblazer RC&D
Acadiana RC&D
Capital Region RC&D
Louisiana State Association of Cooperatives
Southern Rural Development Center
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights (OASCR) entered into an agreement with KIPP New Orleans Schools for the purpose of constructing a high tunnel structure on the campus of the school. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the campus of Carter G. Woodson to commemorate the development of the new USDA school garden. Dr. Joe Leonard, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and Kevin Norton, State Conservationist in Louisiana, were in attendance.

KIPP New Orleans Schools is a Louisiana non-profit organization dedicated to empowering students with the knowledge and skill they need to become successful in college and beyond. The organization is part of the national Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) network of schools. KIPP alumni graduate from college at a rate over four times higher than the expected rate for students with similar demographics. There are ten KIPP schools in New Orleans serving over 4,000 students in grades K-12. KIPP Central City Academy opened in 2007 and serves 420 students in grades 5-8.

Seasonal high tunnels help extend local growing seasons and can help bring locally grown vegetables to urban and suburban areas. This partnership will provide educational, hands-on, and outreach opportunities to the 420 middle school students of KIPP Central City Academy in New Orleans. The school's new high tunnel structure at the Carter G. Woodson campus will help students develop an understanding of the importance and value of growing fresh produce in a school setting.

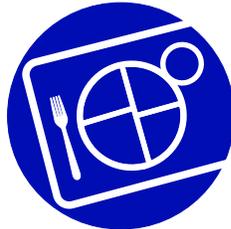
StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Louisiana

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

4,202 Projects in 2015 = \$524 Million Invested



146
Jobs Created
or Saved



4,551,751
Summer
Meals for Kids



476
Farmers
Assisted



11,255
Home
Investments

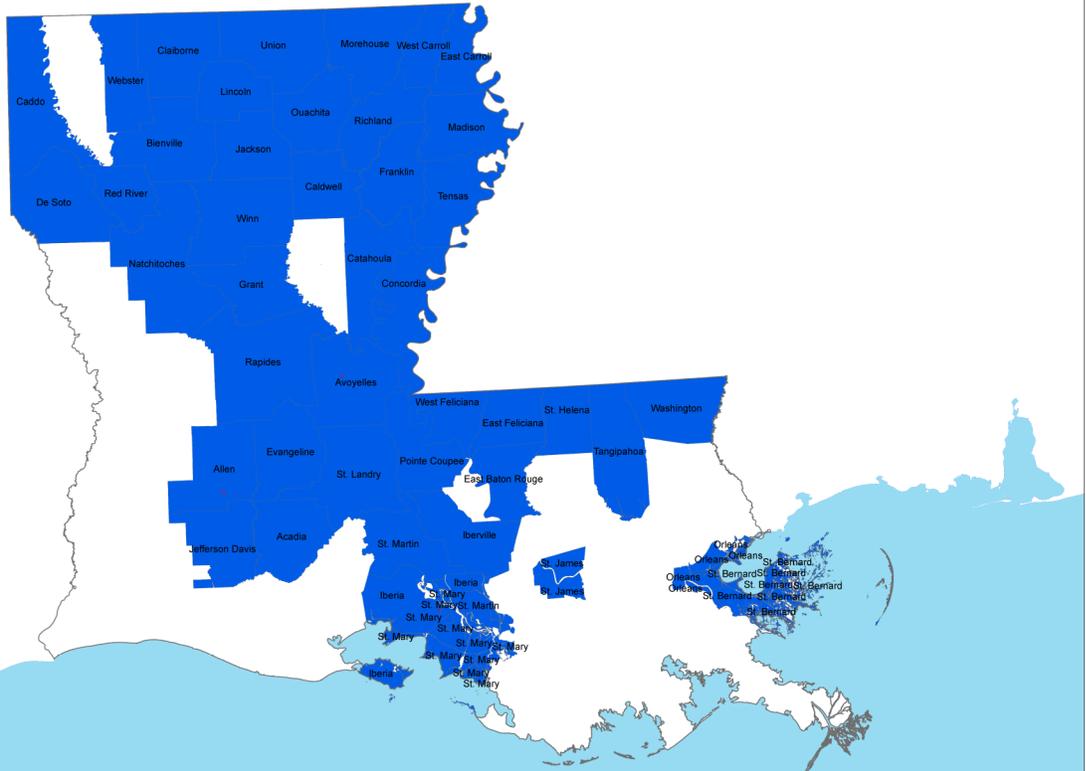


997
Conservation
Efforts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

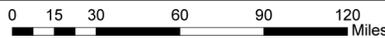
STRIKE FORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: Louisiana Persistent Poverty Strike Force Counties with overlay of Native American Reservations



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 Boundaries Data set
 N.C.E.S. 1995 PFD (1) Special Local Participation CORE Data
 From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education Statistics
 USARDC/DZM Data Sets (Rural Development Program Specific Data)
 USAND RUS: 1995-1998 OMB/CDO Data Sources
 USDAO/CIGMO Departmental Data Resources
 Housing and Urban Development Data
 Environmental Protection Agency Data
 Title 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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