



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

# NORTH DAKOTA

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

### North Dakota Fast Facts - 2015

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:	91
Number of Community Partners:	35
Total USDA Projects:	310
Total USDA Investments:	\$31.7 million

### Contacts

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### Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

4-H  
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 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

#### Spirit Lake Nation Benefits From Cooperation and Investment

In a part of North Dakota untouched by the oil boom, the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe is faced with many challenges. Among their concerns are children's well-being and education, as well as job creation. After identifying a need to improve and consolidate their Head Start facilities, the Cankdeska Cikana Tribal College approached RD for assistance. An initial \$4.4 million loan for a central facility was expanded to \$8 million to account for increased construction costs and to accommodate the harsh winters. The Tribe, HHS and Casey Family Services are also partnering with the college to improve services to the youth.

The college also received a \$1 million Rural Development Business Grant to upgrade the only restaurant and grocery store on reservation and create a business incubator, with potential local foods impact. There is already a small farmers market that plans to expand. Cankdeska Cikana also benefits from National Institute for Food and Agriculture funding and recently hosted a Native American student STEM research symposium.

Due in part to a deepened relationship with USDA, NRCS hosted a summer conservation camp and has expanded access to conservation programs. The Food and Nutrition Service's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations has a renovated warehouse and is improving service for their families. They are also partnering with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa on a number of initiatives.

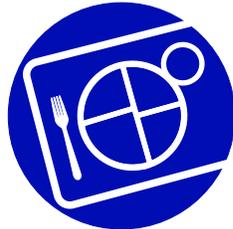
# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in North Dakota

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

## 310 Projects in 2015 = \$31.7 Million Invested



**35**  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



**239,863**  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



**78**  
Farmers  
Assisted



**820**  
Home  
Investments

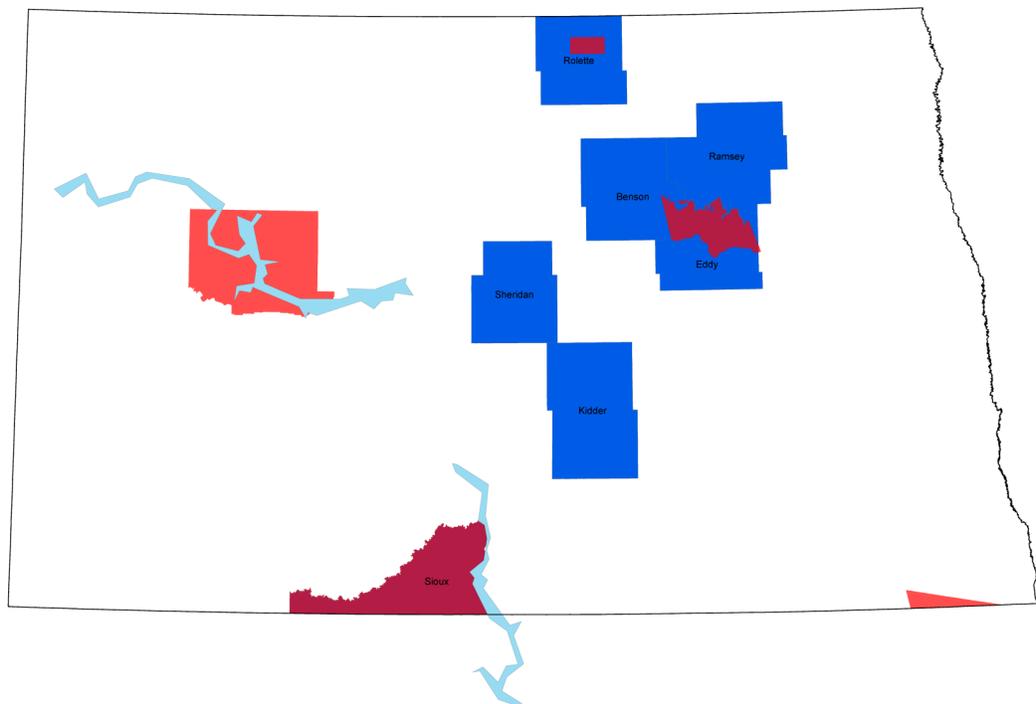


**154**  
Conservation  
Efforts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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



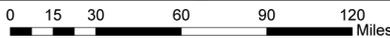
**Legend**

- 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 TRACES Data - CENSUS Tiger g00  
 2010 CENSUS TIGER Data - CENSUS Tiger g10  
 USGS National Water Resources Data  
 N.C.E.S. 1995 PFD (S) Special Needs Participation CORE Data  
 From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education Statistics  
 USDA/RSW Data Sets Reflecting RD Program Specific Data  
 USDA/RSW Data Sets Reflecting RD Program Specific Data  
 USDAO/CEQMD 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 those 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.

MAP PRODUCED BY:  
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