



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

OKLAHOMA

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

Oklahoma Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	23.7%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	16.9%
StrikeForce State Since:	2015
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	32
Total Outreach Events:	33
Number of Community Partners:	15
Total USDA Projects:	3,648
Total USDA Investments:	\$314 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

Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC)
Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA)
Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service
Choctaw Nation
Cherokee Nation
Muscogee Nation
Chickasaw Nation
Eastern Oklahoma State College
Northeastern Oklahoma College (NEO)
FirstNet
Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS)
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Small Business Administration (SBA)
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF)

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 College of the Muscogee Nation in Oklahoma is a new partner with USDA. Soon after obtaining their designation as a Tribal Land Grant University, the college became eligible to compete for USDA funds and promptly was awarded two grants through the USDA's Community Facility program.

The first grant of \$125,549 was used to make improvements to the campus' student center, which included the construction of a cafeteria, a fitness facility, and equipment for the student library. In addition, the size of the library was increased by 30% and now has two new study rooms to allow student groups to work collaboratively without disturbing other visitors within the library.

The USDA's Community Facility program allotted another \$145,302 to assist with the development of the Mvskoke Cultural Community Garden. They also received technical assistance from NRCS.

As part of an Earth Day celebration, they were joined by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and USDA Rural Development State Director for the official groundbreaking of the garden.

"Conservation and preservation are at the heart of this garden," said Director Ryan McMullen. "Not only does it represent the Muscogee people's commitment to environmental stewardship, it seeks to preserve their language and cultural traditions."

The Muscogee Nation College President, Robert Bible, provided a tour of the garden site. The site includes a pond that will provide the water for the garden's drip irrigation system, outdoor classroom space and signage identifying culturally significant plants in the Mvskoke language.

StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Oklahoma

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3,648 Projects in 2015 = \$314 Million Invested



237
Jobs Created
or Saved



1,787,762
Summer
Meals for Kids



1487
Farmers
Assisted



5,556
Home
Investments



1,041
Conservation
Efforts

