



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

# SOUTH DAKOTA

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

### South Dakota Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	18.1%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	12.8%
StrikeForce State Since:	2013
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	13
Total Outreach Events:	24
Number of Community Partners:	31
Total USDA Projects:	1,274
Total USDA Investments:	\$76 million

### Contacts

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### Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Department of Housing and Urban  
Development

Enterprise Communities

Great Plains Native Asset Building  
Coalition

GROW South Dakota

Oglala Lakota College

Sinte Gleska University

South Dakota Governor's Office of  
Economic Development

South Dakota Indian Business Alliance

South Dakota Office of Tribal Relations

South Dakota Native Homeownership  
Coalition

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

USDA officials joined other federal, state, and Tribal leaders to announce \$1.97 million to Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation (CDC) for a community center serving the Oglala Lakota community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The announcement was made at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Regenerative Community, which plans to build additional housing, a small farm, an aquaponics greenhouse, a grocery store, powwow grounds and a youth center on the Reservation.

"The lack of affordable housing and non-existent or crumbling infrastructure has locked too many tribal communities in a cycle that makes economic opportunity nearly impossible." said Leslie Wheelock, USDA's Director of Tribal Relations. "With creative public-private partnerships and smart investments like the Regenerative Community and critical housing and supporting infrastructure, we can break that cycle. This will be another example of how targeted, place-based, community economic development can work and another demonstration of the Obama Administration's commitment to the future of Indian Country."

USDA financing for this project comes from USDA Rural Development and covers various needs for the community. The first loan is the Rural Housing Site loan for \$489,000 to assist with the development of the streets and utilities for 23 lots. Another loan received was the Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance grant for \$300,000 to establish a self-help program that will begin construction of 12 new homes. The third set of loans made available to this community include the Water and Waste Disposal fund of \$301,000 and Water and Waste Disposal Native American Set-Aside grant for \$672,000 for drinking water and sewer systems. Finally, there was another Water and Waste Disposal loan of \$271,000 and a grant of \$209,000 for the storm drainage project.

# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in South Dakota

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

## 1,274 Projects in 2015 = \$76 Million Invested



**55**  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



**597,963**  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



**258**  
Farmers  
Assisted



**972**  
Home  
Investments

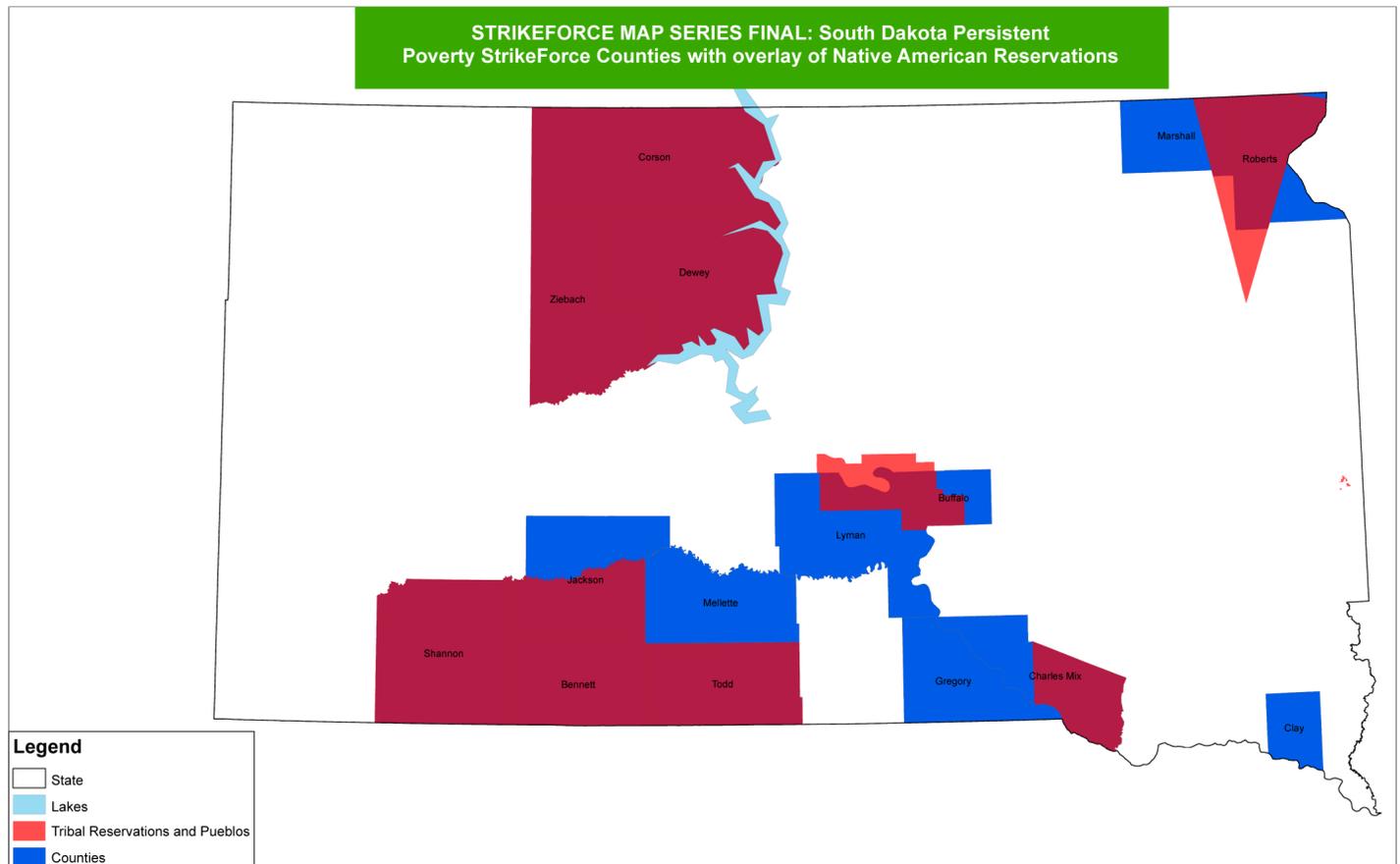


**328**  
Conservation  
Efforts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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



**Legend**  
 State  
 Lakes  
 Tribal Reservations and Pueblos  
 Counties

This map includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although these areas are associated with particular tribes and these 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 or Tribes. These general Rural Development to Native American, Coordinator or Rural Development staff in Oklahoma to verify whether or not particular investments with Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas are indeed investments benefiting American Indians.

MAP PRODUCED BY:  
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0 15 30 60 90 120 Miles  
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