



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

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

# GEORGIA

### Georgia Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	24.8%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	17.6%
StrikeForce State Since:	2010
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	60
Total Outreach Events:	39
Number of Community Partners:	88
Total USDA Projects:	2,948
Total USDA Investments:	\$318 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

Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation  
Ben Hill County Development Authority  
Digging Roots Educational Farm  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Fort Valley State University & Cooperative Extension  
Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice  
Georgia Center of Innovation for Agribusiness  
Mc SEED  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
Southeast Agricultural Coalition  
University of Georgia & Cooperative Extension

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

#### Georgia Farmers and Ranchers are Growing Opportunities through Community Partnerships

Last year, McIntosh Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (SEED) partnered with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with the goal of improving delivery of NRCS programs to Georgia's socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in USDA StrikeForce counties. SEED is a grassroots, community-based organization with a mission to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of the community while providing quality education, better housing, recreational facilities, business opportunities and environmental protection and restoration.

By partnering with local community-based organizations, three USDA agencies—NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD)—are working to improve the Department's outreach to increase access and participation in the agencies' technical and financial assistance programs. Through StrikeForce, they have laid a foundation of cooperation and collaboration that has better served USDA's customers.

In the past year, numerous full and part-time jobs have been created, and additional jobs will be specifically targeted for young people—primarily high-school students—in an effort to get them more involved with their communities. SEED hopes the results will be a better appreciation for the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

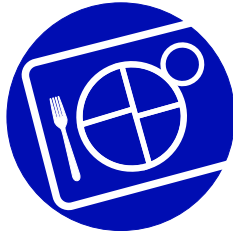
# StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in Georgia

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

## 2,948 Projects in 2015 = \$318 Million Invested



**380**  
Jobs Created  
or Saved



**6,272,685**  
Summer  
Meals for Kids



**649**  
Farmers  
Assisted



**8,275**  
Home  
Investments

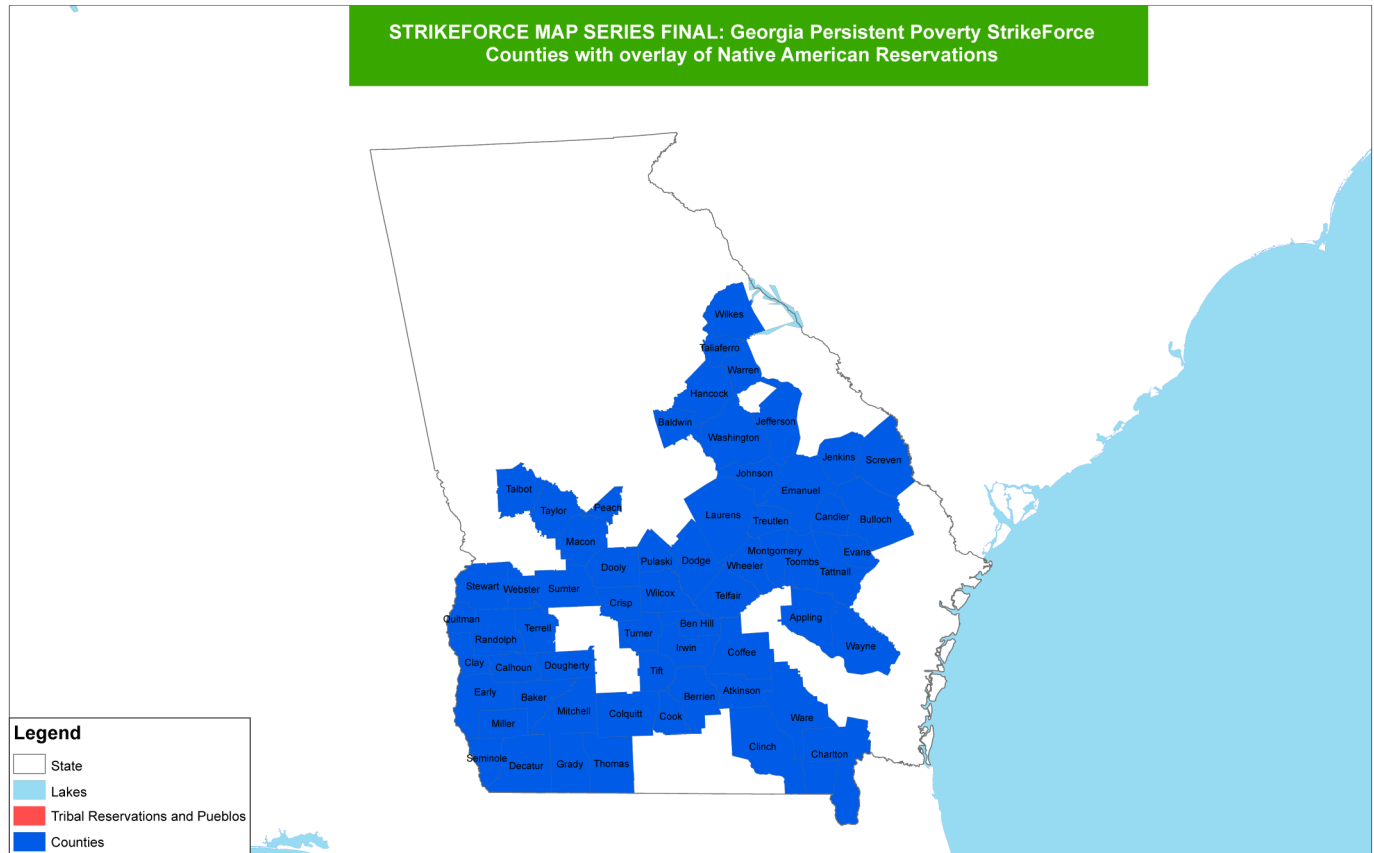


**1,182**  
Conservation  
Efforts



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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



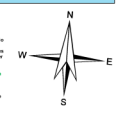
**Legend**  
 State  
 Lakes  
 Tribal Reservations and Pueblos  
 Counties

This map includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although these areas are associated with particular tribes and 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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0 20 40 80 120 160 Miles  
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