United States Department of Agriculture

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	26.1%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	17.3%
StrikeForce State Since:	2013
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	27
Total Outreach Events:	177
Number of Community Partners:	50
Total USDA Projects:	2,758
Total USDA Investments:	$436.6 million

Contacts

Contact us to be a partner, or to learn more about StrikeForce opportunities:

Kellee.Melton@sc.usda.gov
(803) 765-5681

Congressional Inquiries:
(202) 720-7095

Media Inquiries:
(202) 720-4623

Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Center for Heirs Property Preservation

Midlands Local Food Collaborative

Minority Landowner Magazine

South Carolina Community Loan Fund

South Carolina Rural Resource Coalition

South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts

South Carolina State University 1890 Extension Program

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

Small Farmer Has Big Impact on Her Land and Local Environment

In Eastover, S.C., small farmer Ann Pringle Washington began attending local outreach workshops to learn more about growing organic produce. While there, she learned about NRCS's conservation programs and services. After visiting the NRCS local office, she began developing a conservation plan focused on improving the farm operation and the health of its soil and water.

She and her husband qualified for Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding to help install a seasonal high tunnel with micro-drip irrigation, which will supply steady, direct water to crops while preventing excess runoff.

"This is going to allow us to have year-round access to fresh produce," Washington said. "The structure will also give us the advantage and flexibility to work the farm when we want to, even if the weather isn't suitable." Today, these family farmers are enjoying the advantages of extending their growing season, and are growing different crops, including tomatoes, jalapeños, eggplants, spinach and arugula. They are pursuing certification in USDA's National Organics Program.

StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity in South Carolina

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2,758 Projects in 2015 = $436.6 Million Invested

448 Jobs Created or Saved

3,872,397 Summer Meals for Kids
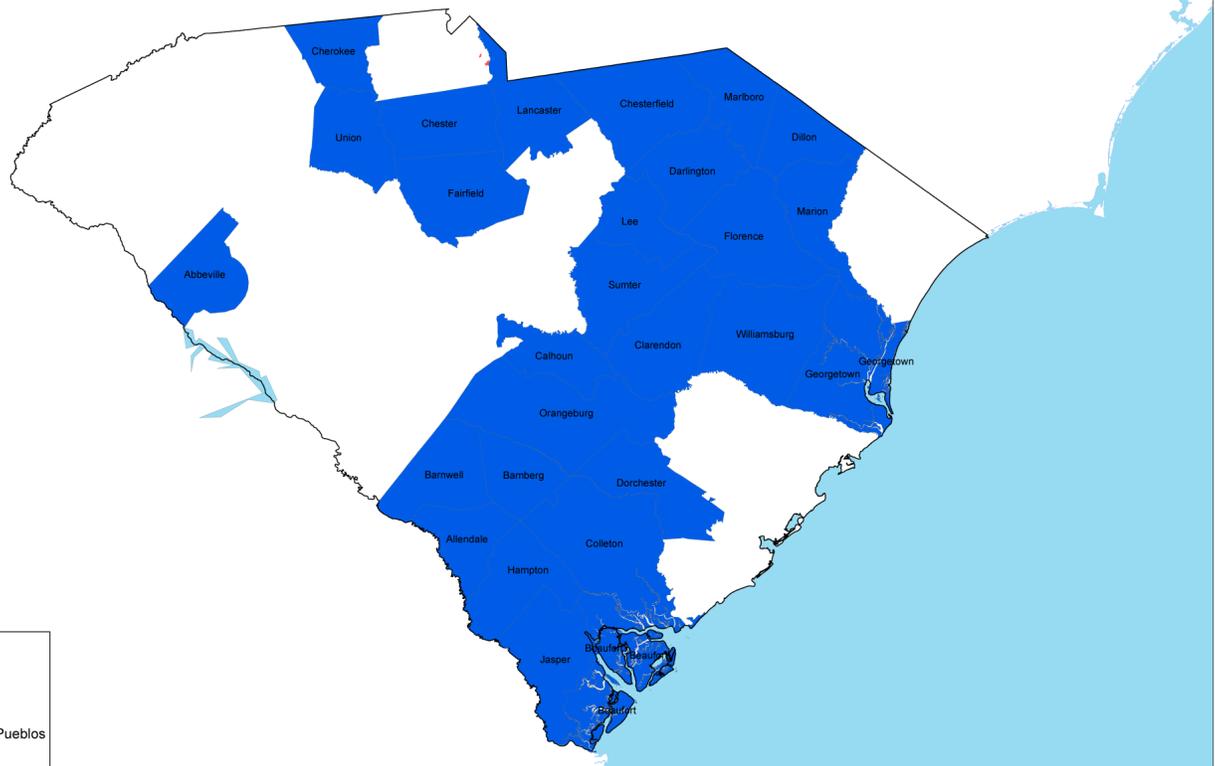
319 Farmers Assisted

8,408 Home Investments

622 Conservation Efforts

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

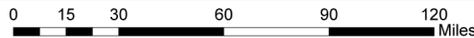STRIKEFORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: South Carolina Persistent Poverty StrikeForce Counties with overlay of Native American Reservations

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

0 15 30 60 90 120 Miles