



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

UTAH

Utah Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	15.6%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	10.2%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	5
Total Outreach Events:	7
Number of Community Partners:	24
Total USDA Projects:	824
Total USDA Investments:	\$128.6 million

Contacts

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

Wayne.Urie@ut.usda.gov
(435) 381-2300

Congressional Inquiries:
(202) 720-7095

Media Inquiries:
(202) 720-4623

Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Dine Agriculture, Inc.
Dine College
Indian Nations Conservation Alliance
Navajo Mountain Tribal Conservation District
Navajo Nation Bureau of Indian Affairs
Skull Valley Goshute Tribe
Shiprock Office of Youth Development
Ute Business Community

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

Federal, Local Government, Collaborate with Tribal Groups to Rebuild Historic Dam

The historic Shem Dam, located on land owned by the Shivwits band of Paiutes in Utah, was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Since then, it has been severely damaged due to flooding and other weather events. As a result of this damage, the dam posed an immediate threat to communities downstream.

The Washington County Department of Public Works applied for funding through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to address the dam's disintegration and protect communities from flooding along the Santa Clara River.

NRCS, the Shivwits band, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington County officials, and the local historical society agreed to rebuild the dam while maintaining its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Reconstruction was completed in June 2015. The Shem Dam Rehabilitation Project represents an important success story of collaboration between NRCS, the Shivwits Band of Paiutes and multiple other parties to develop a creative strategy for rehabilitating an historic structure. This will also allow a return to farming on part of the reservation.

