



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

NEW MEXICO

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

New Mexico Fast Facts - 2015

State's Child Poverty Rate:	30%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	21.5%
StrikeForce State Since:	2012
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	30
Total Outreach Events:	35
Number of Community Partners:	110
Total USDA Projects:	1,722
Total USDA Investments:	\$239 million

Contacts

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

Kristin.Grahamchavez@nm.usda.gov
(505) 761-4404

Congressional Inquiries:
(202) 720-7095

Media Inquiries:
(202) 720-4623

Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Luna County
Middle Region Council of Governments
Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development Capacity
New Mexico Acequia Association
New Mexico State University
Santa Clara Pueblo
Santo Domingo Pueblo
Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute
Southwestern Regional Housing & Community Development Corp.
Taos Pueblo
Zuni Pueblo

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

Partner Helping Native American Tribes Access USDA Programs

The Northern Pueblos Housing Authority (NPHA) is a small non-profit organization that provides much needed technical assistance and support to three northern New Mexico Pueblos (tribes) — the Pueblos of Picuris, San Ildefonso and Tesuque.

NPHA manages and delivers high quality grant funding for new housing construction and rehabilitation projects in pueblo areas. Over the years NPHA has helped with the funding of over 500 affordable housing units and rehabilitated over 200 homes occupied by Native American residents in its service area.

The NPHA expanded its services to the three Pueblos to provide additional technical services. This was made possible through funding of \$1.44 million from USDA's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI).

NPHA used the RCDI award to fund capacity-building community and economic development opportunities for the three small Native American Pueblos. Their work at Picuris Pueblo resulted in a recent \$150,000 USDA loan and grant for the addition of solar panels to their fire station.

The station previously had no heat and the fire truck had to sit empty in the winter. If the truck was filled with water, it could freeze and be destroyed.

Now, the Picuris people have year-round fire protection. Picuris has mutual aid agreements with nearby Hispanic heritage communities and can now respond more effectively to fires throughout this remote, high mountain country.

