StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity

Purpose
Encompassing 11 Ohio counties, StrikeForce leverages the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s arsenal of resources to address persistent poverty across America. Using mid-decade census demographic data, USDA identifies tracts with more than 20 percent poverty and then focuses on sub-pockets of chronic poverty. Team members will collaborate with state and local officials as well as community leaders to increase awareness of USDA programs and help build long-term, self-sustaining economic viability through intensive outreach and technical assistance.

Impact
Supports economic viability and increases access to infrastructure, housing and business services in “last mile” parts of the rural U.S., where 85 percent of the country’s persistent poverty is found.

Promotes food security and access to markets, including expansion of USDA’s Summer Food Service program. Focuses on funding for beginning farmers and ranchers, small business growth and improved conservation practices.

Expanded outreach to potential StrikeForce partners means more constituents and Non-Government Organizations learn about USDA’s competitive grants, loans & loan guarantees as well as nutrition assistance programs.

How you can get involved:
• Become a StrikeForce partner!
• Participate in StrikeForce “listening” surveys
• Identify or become a Summer Feeding Site sponsor
• Host a “USDA Day” to showcase USDA programs
• Help us promote Strike Force successes
• Provide meeting rooms and other resources for StrikeForce events

To get involved, contact:
Vince Paumier
Community Economic Development Specialist/StrikeForce Coordinator
USDA Rural Development
vince.paumier@oh.usda.gov

usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=STRIKE_FORCE

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved
OSU Extension

This initiative is new, with StrikeForce only recently expanding to include Ohio. We’d love to partner with OSU and any college, department or unit that expresses a desire to help.

Community Partners Involved
State and national elected officials
County Commissioners
Township Trustees
Mayors
Village Planners
County Economic Development Offices
Community Action Commissions and Agencies
Ag producers
Commodity groups
Rural businesses

Federal Agencies:
Housing and Urban Development
The Small Business Administration
Economic Development Administration
Appalachian Regional Commission

State Agencies:
Ohio Development Services Agency
Ohio Housing Finance Agency
Ohio Department of Agriculture

Non-Profits:
Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACENet)
Rural Action
Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG)
Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association (OMEGA)
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC)
Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
The Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD)
Finance Fund
Various port authorities