

Pine Ridge Promise Zone

Second Round



Lead Organization:

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation

Population:

35,000

Poverty Rate:

49.15%

Unemployment rate:

21.8%

Key Partners:

Oglala Sioux Tribe; Pine Ridge Bureau of Indian Affairs; Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing Authority; Oglala Sioux Land Office; Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing; Oglala Sioux Natural Resources Regulatory Agency; Oglala Lakota College; Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial; Pine Ridge Chamber of Commerce; Oglala Sioux Tribe Environmental Project; Oglala Sioux Tribe Utility Office; Lakota Funds; Native American Natural Foods; Oglala Sioux Tribe Health Administration; Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation; Oglala Sioux Tribe Rural Water; Tusweca Tiospaye; Pyatt Studio LLC; Village Earth

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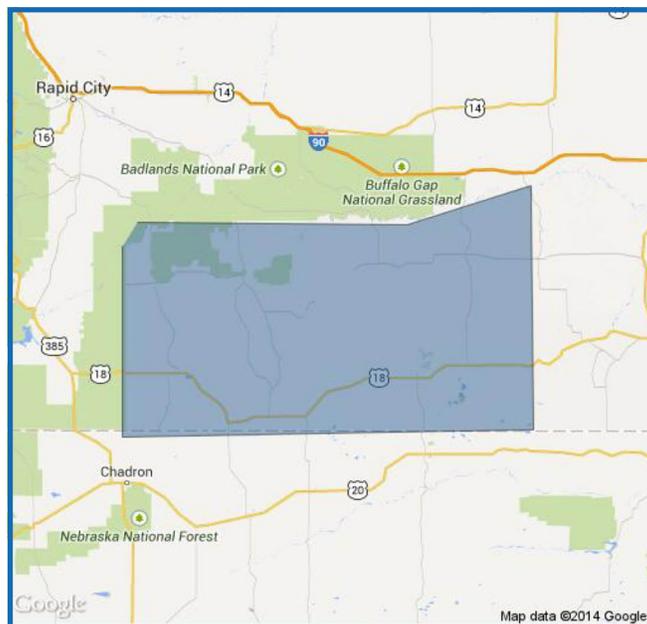
About The Pine Ridge Promise Zone Area

The Pine Ridge Tribal Promise Zone is situated on the Indian Reservation of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in the southwest corner of South Dakota.

The area is home to nearly 35,000 residents, nearly half of whom live below the poverty level. The region has a chronic housing shortage and needs investment to develop reliable water, sewer and solid waste infrastructure. Unemployment rates are high among residents, and approximately 53% of students do not receive a high-school diploma. Substance abuse is pervasive and affects 99% of residents directly or through a member of their close family. The prevalence of alcohol and drug use threatens public safety as 90% of violent crimes on the reservation are attributed to substance abuse.

Pine Ridge Promise Zone Leadership and Goals

The Pine Ridge Promise Zone is being led by the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation which, in partnership with key local and regional organizations, will take a holistic approach to addressing the area's most challenging issues. The Pine Ridge Promise Zone Plan builds on the regional planning effort initially undertaken via a Federal planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. To address systemic poverty, violence, and



economic distress and revitalize the region, this plan focuses on creating worker-owned businesses, developing innovative solutions to infrastructure challenges, and expanding good quality, affordable housing. The Promise Zone designation will catalyze efforts among the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota to meet the six goals that have been identified as instrumental to increasing the quality of life and accelerating efforts to create comprehensive community revitalization:

- Create Jobs Improve Educational Opportunities
- Increase Economic Activity
- Improve Public Safety
- Increase Access to Affordable, Energy-Efficient
- Develop Infrastructure

“The Tribe sees [Promise Zones] as a model for building other energy efficient planned developments across the Reservation as a way to alleviate the housing crisis, create jobs and move our community forward, and we are looking forward to seeing our community build its capacity to take on this challenge.”

Bryan V. Brewer, Former President, Oglala Sioux Tribe