



Department of the Interior's Key ARRA Project Opens in South Dakota

OFMC's [St. Francis Indian School](#) gymnasium and kitchen addition is the Department's 4,000th Project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



Cutting the ribbon during the May 18 opening of the St. Francis Indian School project are (from left) Marlene Short Bull, School Board Executive Secretary; Jesse Pease, Student Council President; David Brushbreaker, Board of Education President; Emery Isburg, OFMC Project Manager and Barry Mann, St. Francis High School Principal.



The new gymnasium and kitchen addition to St. Francis Indian School in South Dakota.

Announced as the 4,000th ARRA-funded project for the Department of the Interior, the \$8.1 million gymnasium and kitchen improvement at St. Francis Indian School, which formally opened May 18, was a result of the overall success of OFMC's use of ARRA funds.

Funding for the St. Francis project stemmed from OFMC's aggressive management of the Recovery Act's construction projects, through which OFMC saved \$33 million, or 11 percent, of the BIA's construction allocation under the Recovery Act. Some of these projects were bid at below the government estimate, thereby making ARRA funds available for the St. Francis project, as well as replacing the Kaibeto Boarding School in Arizona and completing the Santa Fe Indian School's wellness center in New Mexico.

In a September 2010 news release announcing the St. Francis project as the 4,000th ARRA-funded project for the Department, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said: "We're thrilled to be able to fund this project that will improve the learning environment for American Indian school children at St. Francis Indian School."