

Services Offered by Local Government

Safety	Health	Common Good
Law enforcement	Vaccines	Storm water
Emergency medical services	Smoking regulations	Electric
Fire fighting	Disease control	Snow removal
Jails	WIC	Leaf removal
Animal control	Daycare license	Sidewalks
Neighborhood watch	Restaurant inspections	Trees
DARE	Prenatal programs	Drain commissioner
Marine patrol	Disability programs	Streets
Bicycle registration	Water	Parks and recreation
Lifeguard	Sanitary sewer	Refuse collection
Street lights		Recycling
		Library
		Zoo
		Airport
		Zoning

*this list is not intended to be exhaustive

Safety – in addition to law enforcement, safety includes drug prevention, crime prevention, safe vehicle operation, and inspections. Fire departments cover education programs for fire prevention.

Health – This is more than just the care of the sick, injured, or disabled. Health includes the prevention of health problems, including disease, environmental issues, or lifestyle choices.

Common Good – These services benefit the general community and not just a specific individual or interest group.

Sample student activities with connections to local government

Student Activity	Local government service
Got out of bed	
Took a shower	Water and sewer
Brushed my teeth	Water and sewer
Let my dog outside	Pet licenses and leash regulations
Rode in car to school	Maintain and control public roads
Went to softball practice	Establish, maintain, and control parks and recreation.
Helped make dinner	Water and sewer
Took trash out	Collect and dispose of waste
Did homework	
Watched TV	Control cable rights and awards cable franchises

Local Government Services Response Sheet #1

Name _____

Consider what you know about your own local government or that of another city, township, or village, and answer the questions below using complete ideas.

1. Name of city, township, or village _____

2. Is it a city, township, or village? _____

3. What do you think are the most important services that this local government provides? Name 5 of them.

4. If you walked around this community, what services would be visible? Name 3 of them.

5. Which service do you think is used **most** by citizens? _____

6. Which service do you think is used **least** by citizens? _____

7. What new service might you think this place should begin to provide? _____

8. If you were an adult, would you be willing to pay tax money to fund that new service? _____ Why or why not? _____

9. Which service is probably the most expensive to fund? _____

10. Which service is probably the least expensive to fund? _____

11. Services are normally grouped into which three categories?

1.

2.

3.

12. Below, write a paragraph describing a change you would make in services if you were a local leader. This could be a complete description of a **new** change **OR** a big change to a service that is already in place. Your paragraph must include:

- ✓ A clear description of the change
- ✓ At least 2 supporting details (This is a good idea because . . .)