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CHAPTER 1

Public Resources



City, county, state, and **federal** governments provide a range of services for their citizens. Do you know about what services are available in your community?

One of the best ways to locate public **resources** is to look in the local phone book or online directory. Usually, special pages provide phone numbers for government **agencies**. In the phone book, these pages are usually blue.

Federal

The national level of government.

Resource

Something that can be used for information or support.

Agency

A business or organization that provides a service to another business or organization.



A Range of Public Services

The following sections show some of the public services you'll probably see listed. Be sure to check for the same services under city, county, state, and federal governments.

Armed Services

Air Force/Department of	Marine Corps
Air National Guard	National Guard
Army/Department of Coast Guard	Navy

The National Guard: Always Ready, Always There

The National Guard is a state-level, reserve military force. That means its members are available when called on to protect people and property. The National Guard provides help during emergencies, such as storms and floods. It responds when called to duty by the US president or the state governor.

National Guard units provide help locally in their own states, across the nation, and even around the world.

National Guard members are sometimes called “citizen soldiers.” They serve in the Guard part-time and also have full-time jobs. To join, you must be a US citizen and a legal, permanent resident. You must also be age 17 to 35 and meet physical and moral requirements. Training involves one weekend each month and one two-week session each year. Guard members are paid and have the opportunity to learn new skills.





Certificates, Licenses, and Permits

- Birth and death certificates
- Driver's licenses
- Fish and wildlife licenses
- Marriage licenses
- Motor vehicle plates and registrations
- Passports



Community Services

- Abuse and assault hotlines
- Airports
- Animal control
- Better Business Bureau (BBB)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Employment assistance
- Fire department
- Food stamps program
- Garbage collection
- Handicapped services
- Highways
- Housing
- Neighborhood associations
- Parks and recreation
- Public libraries
- Public transportation
- Recycling
- Senior citizen services
- Unemployment
- Veterans' services



Government

- City hall
- Courts
- Drug enforcement
- Governor's office
- Post office
- Social Security office
- Voter registration/information



[FACT]

Chambers of Commerce

- Looking for business opportunities or connections in your area?
- Want to help at a community event?
- Concerned about challenges facing businesses in your neighborhood?
- Interested in improving local schools and other institutions?
- Moving to a new city or town?
- Planning a trip to a place you've never visited before?

Chambers of Commerce connect people in these and many other situations. Chambers exist at the local, regional, state, national, and even international levels. Any time you have a question about a place, it's a good idea to start with the area Chamber of Commerce. And if it can't help you, it probably will know who can.

Education

City, county, and state colleges and universities

Community education programs

Public kindergartens and elementary schools

Public middle schools and high schools

