Who Is Helping?
Government & Community Groups

Who is helping with the community need you've identified? Learning about who addresses this need in the world can help you plan your service learning experience, find partners to work with, and make your contribution count.

Government agencies and community organizations are two kinds of groups that help with community needs. They work to meet immediate needs and to find long-term solutions. Government agencies and community organizations are:

- *local*—in your town and city

- *regional*—in your state or province

- *national*—across your country

- *international*—across the globe (While no single government agency is "international," the United Nations organization is one way the governments of many nations work together to meet needs.)

Where to begin? To learn about government and community groups, contact social service departments or the office of an elected official in your area. You might also start with an organization such as a food bank or animal shelter that helps with the problem.

Research Tips

Phone book—the front pages often list local, state, and national government offices.

The Internet—government offices and many community organizations have easy-to-use Web pages with information about issues and how to learn more.

School office—ask if there are lists of community organizations the school works with already.

Elected officials—they often have people on staff to answer questions and provide contact information and resources.

Phone Call Tips

1. Write a list of questions you want to ask.

2. Practice with a friend before making calls.

3. Begin by introducing yourself and briefly describing what you're working on. Then ask if this is a good time to talk.

4. Let the person know how long the call will take.

5. Follow up with a thank-you card or an email.

Complete the chart on the next page to see how government and community groups help with the need you've chosen. You may decide to work on your own, with a partner, or in small groups.

What Government and Community Groups Are Doing About _____

Identify a Group That Is:	Key Issue	Web Sites/Other Contact Info	What They Are Doing	How Kids Can Help
Local:				
Regional:				
National:				
International:				