

Government

A **government** is the organization inside a state that controls the actions and policies of the state. A government has four main roles.

First a government makes laws. In this role, the government provides rules for how things inside the state are run. A government is also responsible for protecting the state. In this role, the government provides a military to defend the state against outside attack. Third, a government keeps order inside the state. It does this by establishing law enforcement agencies that deal with criminal activity. Finally, a government usually helps its citizens by providing services people need. This can be anything from a post office to paving streets to providing health care or unemployment benefits.

Government's Roles. Use the word bank below to complete the graphic organizer. Write the four roles in the stars. Then put examples of each role at each point of the stars. Each role has 4 examples.

Keep Order

Kids under 14 can't work

Army

The voting age is 18

Marines

Make Laws

Police

Protect the Country Highway Patrol

People have freedom of speech

Help Citizens

FBI

Retirement benefits

Highway system

Sheriff

Navy

Veterans' hospital

Air Force

Schools

Jobs must pay minimum wage

