



*Federal Government: SS.7.CG.3.13*  
**Government Obligations and Services**  
**VIDEO #1 SCRIPT**

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## **Obligations and Services: National Government Video #1**

1. Who should you call when water's not working in your house? How are speed limits on roads decided? Why are drivers' licenses issued by states? In order to answer these questions, you need to know types of government power and the different obligations of national, state, and local governments. In this video, we will look at the obligations of the national/federal government.

2. After watching the video, you will be able to:

- define the terms: enumerated, reserved, and concurrent powers;
- describe and classify specific services provided by the national government.
- understand the obligations and services of government at the federal/national level.

Let's get started!

3. Let's begin by looking at different types of government power: enumerated, reserved and concurrent.

4. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution lists the powers given to the legislative branch. These are called enumerated, or listed, powers. These powers are given only to the United States Congress.

5. Some examples of enumerated powers are the power to declare war, naturalize citizens, create post offices, pay for an army and navy, control immigration, and control trade. Remember, enumerated, or listed, powers are powers **ONLY** for the United States Congress.

6. Another type of government power is called reserved power. The Tenth Amendment states: "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." This means that the Tenth Amendment gives, or reserves, all of the powers that are not specifically listed for the national government to the states and to the people.

7. Some examples of reserved powers are the power to create an education system and the power to issue driver's licenses. Note that the powers of Congress listed, or enumerated, in Article I, Section 8, identify specific actions that Congress may take. There are no listed powers for states. This means that the powers reserved to the states are only limited when the national government decides to limit them.

8. A third type of government power is concurrent power. Concurrent powers are the powers that are shared by the national and state governments.

9. Examples of concurrent powers include: the power to collect taxes, the power to borrow money, the power to make laws, and the power to create and repair roads and highways.

10. Let's Check In – Can you match the government power with the correct definition?

11. ANSWER TO QUESTION

Well done!

12. Let's recap what we've learned so far. Enumerated, reserved, and concurrent powers are different types of government powers. Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution lists the enumerated powers of Congress. The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment reserves all the powers not listed in the Constitution to the states and the people, and concurrent powers are powers shared by both the national and state governments.

13. Now that we know the types of government powers that exist, let's take a look at how the levels of government use these powers fulfill obligations to the people. In this case, those of the federal/national government.

14. While the national government and state governments are given certain powers, they also have certain obligations they must fulfill. Sometimes, these obligations take the form of services provided to citizens. Each level of government provides services to the citizens and residents they serve.

15. Let's take a closer look at those obligations that involve the national government.

16. The national government has certain obligations and must provide certain services equally to all citizens of the United States. These services focus on issues that impact everyone, such as: national safety, national defense, and the general welfare.

17. The national government collects taxes in order to pay for services it provides to citizens. Some services the national government provides are helping the elderly and the poor get health care and housing, mail through the Postal Service, money and services to areas impacted by disasters, the military, and the Interstate Highway System.

18. When you think about the national government and its obligations and services, it is helpful to remember that the national government provides services to help ALL U.S. citizens.

19. Let's check in. Scenario:

Question: You served in the U.S. Army for eight years and are planning to go to college using a college scholarship provided by the government to military veterans. Why would you contact the federal/national government to make sure you get your scholarship money?

20. ANSWER TO QUESTION

21. Let's recap what we've learned so far. The national government is obligated to provide some services to US citizens. The national government provides its services through the collection of tax dollars. The national government focuses on providing services that impact national safety, national defense, and the general welfare of its people. Be sure to watch the video on local/state obligations to make sure you understand the different levels!