After the Storm

How federal actions can help a whole community

4.C.1.1.B "Examine the responsibility of the United States of America's government as it relates to the promotion of the common good (e.g., security of the people, law and order, general welfare)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one action the U.S. government takes and circle words that show how people benefit. Use your marks to think about how each action serves the common good.

Helping a Community After a Hurricane

1. A hurricane is moving toward the coast. The National Weather Service, a federal agency, tracks the storm and sends warnings. Families use the warnings to find safe places before strong winds arrive. Local officials may tell people when to leave, but the federal warning helps many communities prepare. By sharing storm information, the U.S. government helps protect people's safety, a part of the common good.

2. After the storm, a governor asks for federal help. The president declares a major disaster, allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, to provide aid. FEMA works with state and local officials to get supplies to people and help pay for repairs to public buildings. A repaired public school can serve many families again. Federal aid supports people's general welfare when a disaster harms a community.

3. The government must also use disaster aid fairly and lawfully. Federal rules say what disaster money may pay for. Workers check records to make sure money meant for public repairs is not used for private shopping. Federal officers can investigate if someone steals federal supplies. These actions help keep order and protect shared resources, so more people can get the help they need.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do National Weather Service warnings help the government protect people's safety?

2. Why does helping repair a public school support people's general welfare?

3. How does checking records of disaster spending help protect the common good?

4. How do storm warnings and federal disaster aid help people in different ways?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A storm cuts power to several towns for days. In two sentences, describe one realistic way the U.S. government could help and explain how it would serve the common good.

ANSWER KEY

After the Storm

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one action the U.S. government takes and circle words that show how people benefit. Use your marks to think about how each action serves the common good. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do National Weather Service warnings help the government protect people's safety?	**They help families find safe places before strong winds arrive and help communities prepare.**
2	Why does helping repair a public school support people's general welfare?	**The repaired school can serve many families again.**
3	How does checking records of disaster spending help protect the common good?	**It helps make sure money meant for public repairs is not used for private shopping.**
4	How do storm warnings and federal disaster aid help people in different ways?	**Warnings help people prepare and stay safe before the storm. Disaster aid helps people get supplies and helps repair public buildings afterward.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a major disaster is declared, federal workers could help local officials get emergency generators to hospitals. The generators would keep important medical equipment running for people who need care.

Accept other passage-based explanations that connect a federal action to a benefit for the community. For Your Turn, accept a realistic federal role and a clear explanation of how people benefit.