Opening a Business?

We are here to help!



GETTING A BUSINESS STARTED

1. Determine a Location

The City maintains a map of available properties at www.crystallakeretail.com Can't find a site that fits your needs? No problem, contact the City to assist in your search at (815) 356-3737.

2. Verify Zoning and Use

Verify that your use is allowed in the zoning district your site is located. The zoning map is available online and the permitted use table can be found in Article 2 of the Unified Development Ordinance on the City's website.

3. Pre-Application Meeting/ Walk-thru

Staff and the business owner can work together to identify and discuss code requirements, the permit process and if any public hearings are required. The meeting can be on-site or at City Hall.

4. Apply for Permits and Licenses

The following permits and licenses are required in the City of Crystal Lake:

- Building permits
- Sign permits
- Outdoor seating permits
- Occupancy permit
- Liquor license
- Massage license
- Tattoo Parlor License

City of Crystal Lake

Community Development Department
(815) 356-3605

LOCAL BUSINESS PARTNERS

Downtown Crystal Lake
Diana Kenny
(815) 479-0835
https://downtowncl.org

Crystal Lake Chamber
Philip Fritsche
(815) 459-1300
https://www.clchamber.com

Small Business Development Center
Kristi Patterson
(815) 455-6098
https://www.mchenry.edu/isbdc/

McHenry County EDC
Jean Schober
(815) 893-0895
https://mchenrycountyedc.com

Women's Business Development Center
Chicago Chapter
(312) 853-3477
https://www.wbdc.org

Fox Valley SCORE
Larry Bussow
(630) 375-6026
https://foxvalley.score.org

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Entrepreneurs looking to grow or expand in Illinois can receive assistance from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. If you would be creating or retaining jobs in Illinois, you could qualify for tax incentives, workforce development assistance, and infrastructure support. For more information visit: https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/

Local Lenders

For a list of Small Business Association Lenders visit:
https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/il/chicago

Business Templates

The creation of a business plan and other financial plans are often required by banks to qualify for loans and ensure the long term viability and success of your business. Here is a business resource that offers free sample templates to get you stated. For templates go to: https://www.score.org/resource/business-planning-financial-statements-template-gallery