

## Guides to Getting Started:

- [“Step by Step Guide to Starting a Business in Illinois”](#) (Illinois Department of Commerce)
- [“Checklist for Starting a Business”](#) (Internal Revenue Service)
- [“Business Checklist”](#) (Small Business Development Center of Pennsylvania)

## Local Agencies That Can Help:

### [Shah Center for Corporate Training and the Illinois Small Business Development Center](#)

(McHenry County College)

Offers free one-on-one business counseling; teaches the class "Starting a Business in Illinois" monthly for a small fee (currently \$25) as well as other classes; offers grant assistance, and more. (4100 W. Shamrock Ln., McHenry, IL 60050; phone 815.455.8593)

### [SCORE](#)

SCORE provides free one-on-one counseling and mentoring from experienced businesspeople, as well as email counseling. Find informational articles, business plan templates, sample financial forms and free online courses on its website. SCORE also offers workshops on business topics. Counseling sessions can be scheduled at various locations throughout the Chicago area. **NOTE: SCORE volunteers offer counseling at the Shah Center – see above – on the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00am-noon. Call 815.479.7709 to make an appointment.**

### [SCORE Chicago](#)

(Citibank Center, Suite 1150, 500 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60661; phone 312.353.7724)

### [SCORE Fox Valley Chapter](#)

(1444 North Farnsworth, Room 504, Aurora, IL 60505; phone 630.375.6026)

## Other Local Business Resources:

- [Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [City of Crystal Lake, Planning and Economic Development Department](#)
- [Downtown Crystal Lake](#)
- [McHenry County Clerk’s Office \(Business Registration Services\)](#)
- [McHenry County Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [Illinois Business Portal](#)
- [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#)
- [Illinois workNet website](#)

## Books to Check Out:

Most business books are in the **650 section** of the Library. Find books on business plans, legal considerations, obtaining financing, personnel, bookkeeping, marketing, taxes, home-based business and more. The Library also has many books on running specific types of businesses. Click here for a list of [New Business Books](#) available at the library.

## Reference Books:

Library reference materials are available to help you find statistics and demographics and helpful information for completing business plans.

- [Encyclopedia of Business Information Sources](#) - Find information on starting specific businesses.
- [Small Business Sourcebook](#) - Get information on many types of small businesses: start-up guidance, trade journals, associations, sources of statistical information, trade shows, franchise and business opportunities, etc.
- [Encyclopedia of Associations](#) - Identify trade and professional associations in your field; associations are good sources for statistics for business plans. This directory is also available as an [online resource](#).

## Library Subscription Databases:

\*[DemographicsNow Business and People Edition](#) - Get detailed demographic and consumer buying information to help with business planning and marketing.

\*[ReferenceUSA](#) - A nationwide yellow pages database with information on 14 million U.S. businesses. Searchable by type of business (e.g., yellow page heading), geographical area (city, county, state), or by size of company (number of employees or annual sales). Provides contact information for each company, names of owners/officers, etc.

\*[Small Business Resource Center](#) - Learn how to start, finance, or manage your small business. Resources include sample business plans, how-to guides, articles and websites.

(\*These are subscription databases available in the library or 24/7 to CLPL cardholders. To connect from home, have your Crystal Lake Library card barcode number ready.)

## Reference Staff:

Library reference staff members are available to help answer your questions. You may schedule a free one-on-one appointment with the business librarian for help with looking for business information. Call 815.526.5155 for more information.

**Crystal Lake Public Library**  
126 Paddock St.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
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[www.cipl.org](http://www.cipl.org)

