What is a General Business License?
A General Business License (GBL) is required for businesses in the unincorporated area of Cook County engaged in general sales, that provide a service, engage in office operations or businesses that do not fall under another license category and are not exempt from County licenses.

Examples of Business that require a General Business License:
A General Business License may also be required for businesses that are not included below:

- General Merchandise/Department Store
- Home Centers/Hardware Stores
- Nursery/Garden Centers
- Clothing or Shoe Stores
- Jewelry Stores
- Sale of Computers, Cameras or Tv
- Pharmacies and Drug Stores
- Cosmetics, Perfume, Beauty Supplies Shops
- Optical Goods Stores
- Flower Shops
- Art Dealers
- Office Supplies/Stationary Stores
- Musical Instrument and Supplies
- Book Stores/News Dealers
- Compact Discs, Tapes and Records Stores
- New/Used Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, or Boats
- Mechanical Repair and Maintenance Shops
- Automotive Parts and Accessory Stores

FEE: The fee is $40.00 for a 2-year license.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Applications will only be accepted online. Please Visit: www.cookcountygov.com/gbl

ALL BUSINESSES MUST HAVE A GBL by May 1, 2011
The following information is required to complete an application:

A) Name, residence address and social security number of every owner or any individual who owns 25 percent or more interest in the business.
B) The exact business address and PIN number where the property is located.
C) A description of the business activity.
D) State of Illinois Business Tax Number (IBT).
E) Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).
F) Assumed Business Name Certificate number if operating as a Sole Proprietor.
G) Any other document required by the Director of Revenue or a designee in accordance with their procedures. Please see the GBL application for the full list of applicable information required.

DID YOU KNOW?
- If you have multiple business locations, each location requires a separate business license.
- All applications for a GBL will be subject to review by various County departments including: 1) Building & Zoning; 2) Environmental Control; 3) Office of the Sheriff; 4) Department of Public Health, and; 5) Department of Revenue. Check the zoning of your business ahead of time.

WHEN IS A GENERAL BUSINESS LICENSE NOT REQUIRED?
- You do not have to obtain a Cook County GBL if you are required to obtain another Cook County license. For example: if you are required to procure a Cook County Liquor or Retail Food License you do not have to obtain a GBL.
- If you are exempt by any Federal or State Law or County ordinance.

For more information regarding your General Business License, please visit:
www.cookcountygov.com/gbl
Or call the Department of Revenue at 312-603-6870 and press option 6.