



## END OF AN ERA: THE LAST PRINTED PAYSTUBS DONE

The days of paper paystubs and sign-in sheets to track employee attendance are about to end. With the rollout of the Employee Self-Service (ESS) portal, Cook County will no longer print and distribute paper paystubs to its 23,000 employees. The environmental impact of modernization here will be huge, not to mention the convenience of being able to log in from anywhere and have that information at your fingertips.



ESS is a web-based system that offers a single, secure source for the County employees to view their personnel and payroll information from any computer with an internet connection and browser. As of Dec. 1, 2015, County employees will get their information from the new system, except the Forest Preserves. The BOT projects savings of over \$20,000 per year.

ESS gives employees the power to view and print paystubs electronically. It also lets employees provide or alter their direct deposit instructions. It allows employees to view and print W-2 tax forms, benefits information and leave balances.

Cook County is also installing biometric time clocks, which are expected to cut payroll-related costs by minimizing payroll errors that occur with the time-worn manual process, and eradicating abuse by introducing better controls. Clocking in with a paper timecard or filling out a daily timesheet will ultimately be eliminated under the time and attendance project. A proximity card along with a biometric authentication will be used by employees each day to "sign" in and out.

### BOT Strategy

The addition of timeclocks fits in to the larger BOT strategy of reducing paper-based processes and finding economies of scale.

Platform Services had **19,991** print requests and printed **15,301,760** pages in FY2015. Through reforms and innovation we expect to print approximately **13,400,000** pages in FY2016, which is a **20.1** percent decrease from **16,776,631** in FY2014. Saving **3,376,631** sheets of paper will add up to **675** boxes, which weighs an astonishing **13,500** pounds or **6.75** tons. Being able to automate and integrate time tracking for the County's approximately **23,000** employees across more than **100** locations will improve efficiency, streamline operations and increase accountability and transparency. Thanks to this and other efforts, Cook County is projecting **\$14,600,000** in overtime reduction across all funds in the upcoming budget year.



## GIS PUTS REENTRY SERVICES ON THE MAP

Cook County Geographic Information Systems (GIS), in partnership with the Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections, created an application that allows former detainees released from the custody of the Sheriff to find helpful services in their communities on an interactive map. The Reentry Assistance Network map application provides locations of service providers and makes them searchable. The application can

also create a list of service providers based on a buffered distance from any address, which can then be printed out or saved for reference. The app can also provide directions to the service providers. The map will work on computers, tablets and mobile devices, allowing former detainees to access this information from any location. To view the map, type [cookcountyil.gov/sheriffreentryassistance](http://cookcountyil.gov/sheriffreentryassistance) into your browser and explore.

## FUN FACTS

- Did you know that there's one area of unincorporated Cook County that's surrounded on all sides by the City of Chicago? Mount Greenwood Cemetery!
- Did you know that 21 percent of Cook County residents were born outside the U.S.?
- The homeownership rate for Cook County is 58 percent, and 73 percent of Cook County residents drive to work.

For a treasure-trove of interesting facts see the GIS Maps and Data page at [cookcountyil.gov/maps-and-data](http://cookcountyil.gov/maps-and-data). GIS recently celebrated International GIS Day. An e-book with all the maps from the competition will be available shortly.



Cook County GIS Day

# OPEN GOVERNMENT THROUGH OPEN DATA

The Bureau of Technology oversees the County's open data catalog — [data.cookcountyil.gov](http://data.cookcountyil.gov) — that was established under the 2012 Cook County Open Government ordinance. The open data catalog provides the public with a wealth of information in the form of data sets from various systems and sources throughout the County.

While the original ordinance included the establishment of the open data catalog, it also stated that other key areas of open government be adopted by County agencies. These include:

- Creation of a data inventory of all data sources (open or internal);
- Creation of an open data catalog that allows the public to easily access data and for agencies to add to this catalog with data sets found in their data inventory;



Photo Credit: David B. Gleason on Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mindfrieze>

- Creation of an Open Government Plan by each agency that would describe how the agency will enhance and develop transparency, public participation, and collaboration.

### OPEN GOVERNMENT COMPLIANCE PLAN

In an effort to help agencies better understand the original Open Government Ordinance requirements, BOT has developed a compliance plan that is intended to not only inform agencies of those requirements, but also guide them through the process of achieving compliance. The plan will also create an

opportunity to identify outdated data sets and assist in making them current. We are also working on putting in place automation processes to help keep data current easier and less manual. The plan is starting pilot testing with select departments in early Q1 and will be moving to all Offices Under the President by early Q2, with additional outreach to Elected Official offices. We are also working with the Performance Management Office to track compliance by all agencies. If you have any questions about Open Data in Cook County, please feel free to email:

[Open.Data@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:Open.Data@cookcountyil.gov)