If you want to operate any business on the public sidewalks or streets you would need a general vendors license. However the sign-up for the general vendor waiting list closed in November. Only veterans are not required to be on the general vendor waiting list to get a general vendor license. You should discuss other options with NYC Dept. of Small Business Services . Here is a link to their website.

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/html/home/home.shtml>

The last day to sign up for the waitlist was November 2016. Last time, it took 16 years to complete the waitlist.