

Not enrolled in the benefit access program?

The Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program determines eligibility for low-income Illinois residents who are seniors or people with disabilities for free transit rides or discounted Illinois license plates.

Eligible residents must meet household income levels ranging from*



\$27,610 or less
for an individual



\$36,635 for
a two-person
household



\$45,657 for
a household of
three or more
people.

*Ranges effective as of
January 1, 2010

WHAT IS THE RIDE FREE PROGRAM?



- State legislation provides free rides on fixed-route transit (regularly scheduled CTA, Metra and Pace buses or trains) for any Illinois resident who is enrolled in the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program.*
- The RTA-issued Ride Free Permit will be renewed periodically.

**If you do not qualify for the RTA's Ride Free Program, call 312-913-3110 for information about the Reduced Fare Program.*

For more information or to enroll
in the Illinois Benefit Access Program:

VISIT
illinois.gov/aging
OR CALL **1-800-252-8966**

If you are already enrolled
in the Illinois Benefit Access
Program and need information
on the RTA Ride Free Program:

VISIT
RTAChicago.org
OR CALL **312-913-3110**

TRAVEL INFORMATION
VISIT **RTAChicago.org**
OR CALL **312-836-7000**



Metra



Mobility Services
Enhancing Transit Access

**RIDE
FREE
PROGRAM**





WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Low-income Illinois residents who are enrolled in the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program as a person with a disability or as a senior aged 65 or older.

All applicants must be enrolled in the Benefit Access Program to apply for a Ride Free permit.

Enroll by completing an online application at illinois.gov/aging

OR Call **800-252-8966** for more information.

Once your eligibility has been approved, you must contact RTA Customer Service to apply for the Ride Free Permit.

Currently enrolled in the Benefit Access Program but DO NOT have an RTA Ride Free Permit?

Enrollees will need to fill out an application to receive an RTA Ride Free Permit. Applicants can also request an application or find an RTA registration center:

VISIT
RTAChicago.org

OR CALL **312-913-3110**

When applying, you will need:

- government issued ID with valid Illinois address
- your previous year's tax return and/or income information
- a photo of yourself that is 2 inches square. Some community centers may charge up to \$5 for taking your photo.

After you apply for the RTA Ride Free Permit, the RTA will verify your Benefit Access Program eligibility and issue a Ride Free Permit within 3-4 weeks. This permit will allow for free rides on CTA, Metra and Pace fixed-route buses and trains.

Already enrolled in the Benefit Access Program and currently have an RTA Reduced Fare Permit?

Once a current RTA Reduced Fare Permit holder becomes enrolled in the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access program, the RTA will automatically verify eligibility and issue a Ride Free Permit within 3-4 weeks. This permit allows for free rides on fixed-route transit.

How do I use my Ride Free Permit to get free transit?

- **TAP** the permit when boarding CTA and Pace buses and CTA trains.
- **DISPLAY** the Ride Free Permit on board the train when riding Metra.
- **REAPPLY** every other year for Benefit Access Program eligibility before receiving a new permit when your permit expires.

RIDE FREE

To check on your Ride Free Permit status once enrolled in the Benefit Access Program, you can call RTA Customer Service at **312-913-3110**.