

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 www.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:

Call **312-913-3110**,
or visit
www.RTAChicago.org

Travel Information
312-836-7000
www.RTAChicago.org



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 www.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.

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

**Ranges effective as of January 1, 2010*

For those 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 by visiting www.RTAChicago.com or by calling 312-913-3110.
- When applying, you will need a government-issued picture ID, your previous year's tax return and/or income information, and 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.

For those who are 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.

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.

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

- You will tap the permit when boarding CTA and Pace buses and CTA trains.
- When riding Metra, you must display the Ride Free Permit on board the train.
- You must reapply every other year for Benefit Access Program eligibility before receiving a new permit when your permit expires.