



# RIDE FREE PROGRAM

## 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.\*
- Each participant's RTA-issued Ride Free Permit will be renewed every two years.

*\*If you do not qualify for the RTA's Ride Free Program, call 312-913-3110 for information about the Reduced Fare 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](https://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 request an application or find an RTA registration center:

VISIT **[RTAChicago.org](https://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 issue a Ride Free Permit within 3-4 weeks of receiving an application and ID. This permit allows you to ride free 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**.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When will I receive my permit?**

You should receive your permit three to four weeks after you have submitted an application. If you do not receive it within this time, please call RTA Customer Service at **312-913-3110**.

### **How long is my permit valid?**

The permit is valid for two years. You will be notified via U.S. mail when it is time for renewal. Please notify the RTA if your postal address changes.

### **What information is required for me to renew my permit?**

The first step is to renew enrollment in the Benefit Access Program. Once renewal is approved, submit a renewal application and identification to the RTA to obtain a new RTA Ride Free Permit.

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

**VISIT**  
**[illinois.gov/aging](http://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](http://RTAChicago.org)**  
**OR CALL 312-913-3110**

TRAVEL INFORMATION  
**VISIT [RTAChicago.org](http://RTAChicago.org)**  
**OR CALL 312-836-7000**



**Metra**

