



Transit
Assistance

Ride Free



What is a Ride Free Permit?

Illinois residents who are enrolled in the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program (BAP) are eligible to ride on **CTA, Metra, and Pace for free.**

How do I know if I am eligible for a Ride Free Permit?

All new applicants must be enrolled in BAP to apply. If you have never applied for BAP, you must apply and be eligible for that program to qualify for a Ride Free permit. If you do not qualify for BAP, call **312-913-3110** for information about the RTA Reduced Fare Program.

What are the requirements for enrollment in BAP?

Illinois residents that fall below an income level set by the Illinois Department on Aging and who are 65 years of age or older, or who have a disability may be eligible.

How do I apply for BAP?

Enroll online at
[ilaging.illinois.gov/
benefitsaccess.html](http://ilaging.illinois.gov/benefitsaccess.html)
For more information call
BAP at 800-252-8966

How long does my Ride Free Permit last?

Your permit will be valid
for **5 years**.

How do I renew my permit?

To renew, all you will need to do is provide a current State of Illinois ID Card, Illinois Driver's License, or a Chicago CityKey card, indicating State of Illinois residency and complete RTA's online application at **fares.rtachicago.org** or complete the form on the back of the renewal letter that you'll receive around the expiration date of your current Ride Free card.

What's next?

Once your BAP eligibility has been approved, you can request a Ride Free application by:

- Visiting **fares.rtachicago.org**
- Scanning the **QR code** on the other side of this brochure with your smart phone
- Downloading it from **rtachicago.org/riders/free-and-reduced-fare-programs**
- Visiting your **registration center** for in-person assistance. Find a location at rtachicago.org

Once the RTA receives your application and verifies your Benefit Access Program eligibility, you should receive your Ride Free Permit within **7-10 business days.**

By applying online, your application will be processed faster. The online portal works on most PCs, laptops, smart phones, and tablets.

What do I need to apply for the Ride Free Permit?

- A photo of yourself that is 2 inches square
- A copy of your valid Illinois State ID, Illinois driver's license, or Chicago CityKey card

If applying online, you will be required to upload a picture of your ID and a separate photo of yourself. If you prefer to mail in the application, you must include a photocopy of your ID and also a separate photo of yourself.

How do I use my Ride Free Permit?

For CTA and Pace, tap your permit on the Ventra reader at either a rail turnstile or on a bus. When riding Metra, present your permit to the conductor on the train.



For more information on the
RTA Ride Free Program, call
312-913-3110.

For travel information, call
312-836-7000.

Scan here to
apply online

