



Transit
Assistance

Travel Training Program



What is Travel Training?

The RTA Travel Training Program helps people with disabilities and older adults learn how to use Metra, Pace, and CTA buses and trains.

Travel Training helps people become more independent in their travel. By learning how use public transportation, riders experience more convenience and cost savings than using other forms of transportation.

How much does it cost?

Travel Training is free except for the cost of transit fares during training sessions.

Who provides Travel Training?

Travel Training sessions are led by professionals who are knowledgeable about accessible public transportation and have training and experience working with older adults and people with disabilities.

What is required to participate in Travel Training?

People with disabilities and older adults are eligible to participate in Travel Training. Participants must be interested in learning how to use Metra, Pace, or CTA public transit, have basic community safety skills, and be able to meet with a travel trainer weekly until they finish training.

What skills might a participant learn during Travel Training?

The skills needed to achieve travel independence is unique to each participant.

A participant may learn how to:

- 1. Plan accessible trips by identifying and using accessible features**
- 2. Travel safe and learn what to do if lost on transit**
- 3. Pay the fare on transit and learn about payment options**
- 4. Use landmarks to remember where to get on and off the bus or train**
- 5. How to signal the bus driver to get off the bus**



What types of Travel Training are offered?

Trainers will meet participants at their home or agreed upon location. The trainer will assess each participant's skill level, set goals, and determine the type of training that would best meet their needs.

The RTA Travel Training Program offers two types of one-on-one training:

1. Trip Training

Trip Training provides repetitive training to participants who need step-by-step directions.

Participants will work with a travel trainer to learn how to travel to locations they visit on a regular basis.

During training, participants will repeat the steps to their locations until demonstrating they can complete all steps independently, safely, and without help from their trainer.

2. Orientation Training

Orientation Training focuses on learning accessible features in transit vehicles and stations.

Participants will work with a travel trainer to receive a general introduction to transit accessibility.

During Orientation Training, travel trainers may take participants to a bus garage or rail station to practice boarding transit vehicles to build confidence.

The goal of Orientation Training is to provide an overview of accessibility features on transit so that participants can apply this knowledge to travel on any bus or train in the transit system.



How do I sign up?

For more information on how to enroll in the Travel Training Program, call **312-913-3120**.

You can also email **TravelTraining@rtachicago.org**.

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