

June 2, 2014



Dear Disabled Ride Free Permit Holder:

Your current RTA Ride Free permit, which entitles you to ride CTA, Metra and Pace at no cost, **expires on June 30, 2014**. If you wish to renew your RTA Ride Free permit, you must immediately certify that you are eligible for the program by enrolling in the State of Illinois Benefit Access Program.

The RTA is required by law to issue Ride Free permits to qualifying persons with disabilities. Our records show that you originally qualified for the Ride Free permit under the former Circuit Breaker program, which became the Benefit Access Program (BAP) on January 1, 2013. In order to renew your RTA Ride Free permit, your eligibility must be re-confirmed through the Benefit Access Program.

Please note that it may take up to 4-6 weeks for your eligibility to be approved through the Benefit Access Program. Therefore, in order to continue receiving free rides, you must complete the steps to confirm your eligibility immediately.

There are several ways to confirm your eligibility through the Benefit Access Program:

1. From any computer, you can visit the Illinois Department of Aging Benefit Access Program website at www.illinois.gov/aging and click on the "Benefit Access" tab.
 - ✓ The State only allows application online, not in writing or over the telephone
 - ✓ You will need to submit documentation online, which may require you to scan documents to your computer to submit them online
2. If you need assistance filling out the online form to confirm eligibility for the Illinois Benefit Access Program, you may call the Illinois Department of Aging at (800) 252-8966.

Again, **your RTA Ride Free permit expires on June 30, 2014**. In order to continue to receive the benefits of the RTA Ride Free permit program you must be certified through the Benefit Access Program. All Ride Free permit holders must activate new Ride Free permits before using it.

Thank you for your cooperation and for riding transit in the RTA region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Redden', is positioned above the typed name of the Acting Executive Director.

Leanne P. Redden
Acting Executive Director

175 W. Jackson Blvd,
Suite 1650
Chicago, IL 60604
312-913-3200
rtachicago.org

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SEE BACK PAGE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

To receive assistance with the Illinois Benefit Access Program

Illinois residents can visit www.rtachicago.com/ridefree to find the most convenient location.

Please check individual sites for hours of operation.

In order to be eligible for a Ride Free Transit Card

- You must be a resident of Illinois
- You must be 65 years or older by December 31, 2014
OR be 16 years of age or older before January 1, 2014 and totally disabled
- Your income must be less than:
 - + \$27,610 for 1 person household
 - + \$36,635 for 2 person household
 - + \$45,657 for 3 person household

To apply in person, you must bring:

- Social Security Number
- Government-issued identification that verifies your age (driver's license, state ID card, passport, etc.)
- If you are married and live with your spouse, bring your spouse's correct Social Security Number and date of birth. Your spouse must have a Social Security Number for you to apply.
- Your 2013 Federal 1040 Tax Return. If you did not file a Federal 1040, you will need proof of Social Security Number and SSI Benefits (Form SSA-1099)