

OH SNAP..



**NEIGHBORS.
EMPOWERED.**

RTA Pilot Program — As you begin to share information with neighbor about this program, here you will find the information needed to steer them to the application.

How to get Access

All SNAP recipient household members living within the six-county region are eligible for the Access Program. The total number of individuals receiving SNAP benefits in the region in 2020 was approximately 1.2 million. Of those, approximately 777,000 (63 percent) are adults.

Beginning Jan. 16, riders can apply at [GetAccess.org](https://getaccess.org), by calling RTA Customer Service at 312-913-3110 or by visiting one of 62 registration sites in person. The RTA will ensure adequate increased staffing levels and provide accessible documents for applications in-person and online. Once the customer is found eligible, the process for receiving and using the permit will mirror the existing free and reduced fare programs, currently taking 7-10 business days from the date of application. The Access Pilot Program launches on Feb. 1

Other fare programs

The RTA's current Reduced Fare program is a federally mandated program providing approximately half-priced fare across all three regional transit operators — CTA, Metra and Pace — for people with disabilities and adults 65 and older. The Ride Free program is a State of Illinois-mandated, means-tested program providing free public transportation for people with disabilities and adults 65 and older who qualify for the Illinois Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program. The RTA operates the eligibility process for both fare programs, and there are currently 263,000 eligible customers in total for both.

Click here to begin: <https://fares.rtachicago.org/>

Once there, neighbor can choose:

- Apply or replace your Access Pilot Program Permit.
- Apply, Reduce, or renew your RTA Ride Free, Reduced Fare, or ADA Paratransit Permit.

Here's what neighbors will see once the click on each of the links:

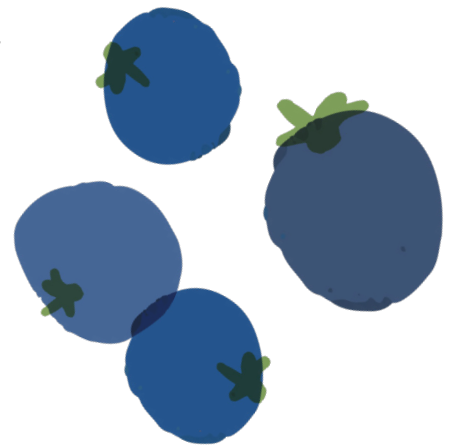
Apply or replace your Access Pilot Program Permit:

Access is a pilot program running through July 31, 2025, that provides a reduced fare on all Metra lines and zones for individuals living in households enrolled in the Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and who live within the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) six-county region (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties).

All members of the household between the ages of 12 and 64 are eligible to apply for an Access Pilot permit but will need to provide a valid/not expired State of Illinois ID card/driver's license or Chicago City Key card with the same address that is on the SNAP decision notice.

If you are over the age of 65, you will be provided with a Senior Reduced Fare permit that allows you additional access to Metra, CTA, and Pace buses and trains.

If you are currently enrolled in an existing RTA fare program, you will not be eligible for the Access pilot permit, as your current RTA permit provides additional benefits that the Access permit currently does not offer.



In Order to complete this process, you will need:

1. A smart phone or tablet. With your device, you will be able to take pictures of yourself and the documents listed below to complete this process.

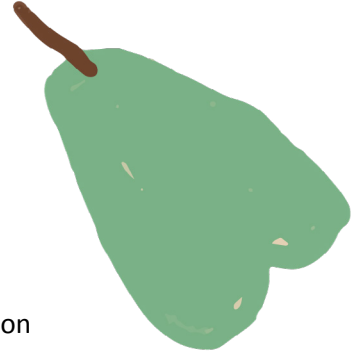
OR

2. For customers using a computer, you will need to have the documents listed below uploaded onto your computer.

Documents required to complete this process:

New Access Pilot Permit

- You will need to provide:
 - A current color photo that clearly shows your face.
 - A valid/not expired State of Illinois ID card/driver's license or Chicago City Key card with an address that matches the address on the SNAP decision notice.
 - A copy of your SNAP decision notice dated within 1 year of your Access application that demonstrates current eligibility.



Replacement Access Pilot Permit

- You will need to provide:
 - A valid/not expired State of Illinois ID card/driver's license or Chicago City Key card with an address that matches the address on the SNAP decision notice.

Apply, Reduce, or renew your RTA Ride Free, Reduced Fare, or ADA Paratransit Permit

<https://fares.rtachicago.org/welcome>

In order to complete this process, you will need the following:

- If you use a smart phone or tablet, you will be able to take pictures of yourself and the documents listed below to complete this process.

OR

- For customers using a computer, you will need to have the documents listed below uploaded on your computer.

Permit Card Replacement Customers will need the following:

- **Ride Free:** You will need a valid/not expired State of Illinois ID card/driver's license or Chicago CityKey card.
- **Reduced Fare:** You will need to provide a valid/not expired State ID card/Driver's License, passport, Chicago CityKey card, or U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).
- **ADA Paratransit:** You will need to provide a valid/not expired State ID card/Driver's License, passport, Chicago CityKey card, or U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

For low-income customers 16 years of age or older with a qualifying disability applying for the Ride Free Program for the first time:

- You will need to complete the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program (BAP) Application and be found eligible in advance of applying for an RTA Ride Free permit
- To apply for or verify your BAP eligibility, click on this link www.illinois.gov/aging

- Once you complete the BAP application process, please check back at www.illinois.gov/aging in 3 business days to see if you have been approved or need additional documentation
- Once approved, you should return to this electronic portal to complete your Ride Free application

For customers applying for the Reduced Fare Program:

Persons 65 or older

- You will need to provide a valid/not expired Government Issued ID for age verification

Persons with Disabilities

- You will need to provide proof of disability by submitting one of the following:
 - Doctor's Validation
 - Medicare Validation
 - Social Security Validation
 - Veterans Validation
 - State Disability ID Card
- If providing Doctor's Validation, click on this link to print the required form and have your doctor complete and sign it,

OR

- Provide a statement from your doctor stating that you have a permanent disability on professional letterhead or a prescription form
- After collecting the necessary documentation, you will be required to upload it in this electronic portal in order to apply for a Persons with Disabilities Reduced Fare permit

Documents required to complete this process:

New Customers will also need the following:

- **Ride Free:** You will need to provide a valid/not expired State of Illinois ID card/driver's license or Chicago City Key card, and a current 2" X 2" color photo that clearly shows your face.
- **Reduced Fare:** You will need to provide a valid/not expired state ID card/driver's license, passport, Chicago City Key card, or U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) and a current 2" X 2" color photo that clearly shows your face. Also, you will need to provide either proof of disability or age verification further in this process.

Renewal Customers will also need the following:

- **Ride Free:** You will need a valid/not expired State of Illinois ID card/driver's license or Chicago City Key card.
- **Reduced Fare:** You will need to provide a valid/not expired state ID card/driver's license, passport, Chicago City Key card, or U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Green Card). Also, you may need to provide either proof of disability or age verification further in this process.

Have more questions or need help,
reach out to Northern Illinois Food Bank SNAP Hotline:

(844) 600-7627

SNAP@northerilfoodbank.org

SolveHungerToday.org/snap-food-stamps



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