

BENEFIT ACCESS PROGRAM

Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities Ride Free

Only individuals enrolled in the Illinois BENEFIT ACCESS PROGRAM are eligible

The Benefit Access Program offers seniors 65 years of age or older, or you must be 16 years of age or older and totally disabled before January 1 of this year. Individuals must be enrolled in the Illinois Benefit Access Program, free rides on Illinois fixed-route public transit systems.

ELIGIBILITY

The BAP Free Ride Program has one important qualifier: **Seniors and persons with disabilities who wish to qualify for the ride free transit benefit must apply using the Benefit Access Application and meet the eligibility requirements for benefits.** Only Illinois residents are eligible. Once they are enrolled and qualify, they will be eligible to apply for the MetroLINK BAP Program.

The Benefit Access Program is administered by the Illinois Department on Aging. Income limits to qualify for the ride free transit benefit are: **\$33,562** for a household of 1, **\$44,533** for a household of 2, and **\$55,500** for a household of 3. For more information, please contact one of the following agencies.

Illinois Department on Aging - www.illinois.gov/aging, 1-800-252-8966 or 711 (TRS)

The following agencies BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living – 501 11th St., Rock Island, IL 309-793-0090

Rock Island County Senior Center – 2221 11th Street, Rock Island, IL 309-788-6335

Individuals who are enrolled in the BAP and are eligible for the Transit Ride Free benefit, are required to complete an application at MetroLINK's Centre Station at 1200 River Drive, Moline, Illinois, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Applicants will need a valid photo I.D. (example: a valid State of Illinois Driver's License, State of Illinois Identification Card or a valid government issued picture I.D) AND THE BENEFIT ACCESS ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE from the Illinois Department on Aging.

The Social Security Number and Birth Date on the application are required for eligibility verification. After verifying eligibility with the Illinois Department on Aging, MetroLINK will issue a MetroLINK Ride Free ID Card.

Do I have to reapply every year?

No, Eligibility is good for two years under the Benefit Access Program. The two-year period starts at the time your application is approved. The term is noted on the Benefit Access Eligibility certificate.

How the Free Ride ID card will work?

The individual will show their MetroLINK Free Ride ID card to the driver each time you board the bus and you will be eligible to ride free of charge. If you do not present the Free Ride ID card when you board the bus, you will be required to pay full fare.

Other Illinois Transit Agencies?

MetroLINK will accept other transit agency BAP ID cards or the State of Illinois **Ride Free Transit Certificate**.

What if I lose my ID card?

If your MetroLINK Free Ride ID card is lost, there is a \$3.00 replacement fee.

For more information call 309-788-3360

January 6, 2023