

The U.S. Department of Transportation's ADA regulations provide three categories of Paratransit eligibility:

ADA Paratransit Eligibility Category 1 = People who can't travel on the bus or train, even if it's accessible, because of a disability

This category includes people who are unable, due to a mental or physical impairment (including a vision impairment), to board, ride, or disembark from an accessible bus or train without assistance. For example:

- People with cognitive disabilities, if they do not know where to get off the bus or how to go to their destination from the bus stop.
- People with visual impairments, if they don't have the travel skills needed to navigate the route to their destination.
- A person with a visual impairment that allows him/her to see well enough to travel independently during the daytime but not at night.

ADA Paratransit Eligibility Category 2 = People who need an accessible bus or train

This category includes wheelchair users and other people with disabilities who can use an accessible vehicle but who want to travel on a route that is still inaccessible (not served by accessible buses or accessible trains and key rail stations).

ADA Paratransit Eligibility Category 3 = People who have a specific disability-related condition

This category includes people who have a specific disability-related condition that prevents them from traveling to a boarding location or from a disembarking location. Environmental barriers (distance, terrain, weather) or architectural barriers not under control of the transit agency (such as lack of curb ramps), that prevent an individual from traveling to or from the boarding or disembarking locations may form the basis for eligibility. For example:

- A person who uses a wheelchair may be able to negotiate a trip to the bus stop up a moderately sloped hill on a summer day, but not in the winter after a heavy snowfall. Then the user would be eligible for Paratransit.
- A person may be eligible if architectural barriers present safety hazards on the only route to the train station or bus stop.
- A person who walks with a cane and would need to travel 3/4 mile to the bus route, but she cannot walk that great a distance.
- People with disabilities that affect them very differently over time, such as multiple sclerosis. During some periods, they are able to go to the bus stop or train station. During other periods, they are not able to do so.

RIPTA manages the ADA program in Rhode Island. See its webpage link <http://www.ripta.com/ada>.



ADA

Application for RIPTA ADA Paratransit Service Certification word doc

Application for RIPTA ADA Paratransit Service Certification pdf

ADA Service is operated in compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA requires public transit operators to provide paratransit services for eligible people with disabilities that prevent use of general public transportation all or some of the time. It is not intended to be a comprehensive system of transportation that meets all the needs of persons with disabilities, and it is distinct from medical or human services transportation.

It is a shared-ride service, which means you are traveling with other people and is comparable to the level of service of RIPTA's fixed-route system.

Who Is Eligible?

- Anyone whose disability prevents the use of a regular lift or ramp equipped bus.
- Anyone whose disability prevents travel to or from bus stops.

How Do I Apply?

In order to use ADA Service you must complete and submit an application. Only completed, signed original applications, mailed or faxed, will be considered for review. Applicants will receive written notification of eligibility via U.S. mail within 21 days of submitting the completed application. For more information or to obtain an application, contact the The Ride Program at (401) 461-9760 or use TDD RI Relay at 1-800-745-5555 or 711.

What is the Next Step in The Eligibility Process?

If you are found eligible for ADA Service, the next step is to determine if your trips are ADA-eligible. This is done for each trip request. You can use ADA Service, just like the bus, for any reason. However, ADA Service is limited to areas where and when the fixed route bus operates. Both your pick up location and drop off location must be within 3/4-mile of a regular fixed route. The Ride Program will evaluate each trip you take to make sure it is within this 3/4-mile corridor.

What If I Am Not Eligible?

You may appeal the decision and/or take advantage of the reduced fare programs on RIPTA's fixed route system.

What Is the ADA Service Area?

Service is available in the same areas and at the same times as RIPTA fixed route services. If an area does not have regular bus service on Sundays, then ADA Service is not available on Sundays.

What is the ADA Fare?

The current one-way fare is \$4.00. If you are traveling with a Personal Care Assistant, the PCA is not charged a fare. Please have the exact fare amount ready to present to the driver. Drivers cannot make change for larger bills. RIPTA Riptiks may also be used in lieu of cash. Two Riptiks per one way trip.

Can Visitors to RI Use ADA Service?

Individuals visiting Rhode Island from other states are eligible for ADA Service for 21 days without submitting an application to RIPTA. The total of 21 days may be consecutive or accrue over several visits to Rhode Island. Any visitor wanting service for more than 21 days must complete an application and be approved for RIPTA ADA Service. Visitors, please make advanced arrangements by calling (401) 461-9760 or RI Relay at 711.

Download the Application for RIPTA ADA Paratransit Service Certification

Or contact The Ride Program to request an application at (401) 461-9760.

The ADA application is provided in pdf form for your convenience. You may download it and print it. After completing the application, please follow directions for mailing it to The Ride Program. If you have any questions or need help filling in the application, please call The Ride Program at (401) 461-9760.

Appeals

All applications are reviewed by the ADA Coordinator. If the ADA Coordinator feels that an application should be denied, the application is sent to an outside consultant for additional review. If the consultant agrees that the application should be denied, you will receive a letter explaining the reasons for the denial and the appeal process. Written requests for an appeal must be received by RIPTA within 60 days of the denial. A hearing officer will set up a time for an appeal hearing, during which you can present additional information. You will not be eligible for service pending the decision of the appeal. RIPTA will respond within 30 days of the appeal hearing.

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

705 Elmwood Ave.

Providence, RI 02907

401-784-9500

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RIPTA Facts & Figures

- [Civil Rights - Title VI](#)
- [Financial Statements](#)
- [RIPTA By-Laws & Chapter 39](#)
- [RIPTA Operating Budget](#)

Related Links

- [Office of the Secretary of State](#)
- [Transit Partners](#)
- [US Department of Transportation](#)

ADA Application for RIPTA ADA Paratransit Service Certification

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires comparable public transportation services (**Ride** paratransit) for persons with disabilities who are unable, because of their disability, to use a regular fixed route RIPTA bus .

If you believe you have a disability which prevents you from using a regular RIPTA bus, please complete this application and return it to the below address. If you are found to be eligible, you may be approved for all, or only some trips.

It is important to note that all parts of this application must be completed, including the sections required by the Health Care Professional. **You, as an applicant, are responsible for the completion of this entire eligibility application.** You may also be required to complete a professional evaluation at a test facility of RIPTA's choosing.

RIPTA will notify you within 21 days of receiving your **completed application** regarding your eligibility for ADA Paratransit Service.

Copies of this application are available in accessible formats upon request.

Note: There is a charge of \$4.00 each way for all Ride ADA trips. If you can use a regular RIPTA bus, call 784-9500 ext. 604, to apply for a free or half-fare bus pass.

Send completed application to:

RIPTA
ADA Coordinator
705 Elmwood Ave.
Providence, Rhode Island 02907

**Need ADA Questions Answered?
Call (401) 461-9760
TDD RI Relay (800) 745-5555 or 711**

Fax Number: (401) 461.8210

**Section I
Personal Information**

Please Print

1. First Name: _____ Middle Initial: ___ Last Name: _____

2. Address: _____ Apt. # _____

3. City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

4. Date of Birth: _____ Male Female
(Month/Day/Year)

5. Daytime Phone: _____ Cell: _____

6. Social Security Number: _____

7. Do you use the Ride Program for medical, nutrition or day care trips? _____

8. Language Ability (Please Check All That Applies)
 English Spanish Other (Please Specify) _____

9. Emergency Contact Name: _____ Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____

10. Relationship: _____ Home Phone: _____

11. Please Describe Your Disability And Explain How It Prevents You From Using
RIPTA's Regular Bus Service:

12. Is This Condition Temporary? Yes No

If Yes, Expected Duration? _____

Section I
Personal Information (Continued)

13. Are There Any Other Health Conditions Or Disabilities Which Affect Your Ability To Use The Bus? Yes No

If Yes, Please Explain: _____

Section II
Mobility Information

14. Which Of These Mobility Aids Or Equipment Do You Use To Help You Get Where You Need To Go?

Cane
 White Cane
 Walker
 Crutches

Manual Wheelchair
 Power Wheelchair
 Powered Scooter/Cart
 None of the Above

Service Animal
 Picture Board
 Alphabet Board
 Other

Does wheelchair/mobility device exceed 30 x 48 inches or 600 pounds? _____

15. Using A Mobility Aid, Or On Your Own, How Many Blocks Can You Walk On Level Ground (*1 block = 500 feet*)?

Number of Blocks: _____

16. Do You Require An Escort Or Attendant When You Travel?

Yes

No

17. Does Your Disability Prevent You From Getting To Or From A Bus Stop?

Yes

No

Please Explain: _____

Section II
Mobility Information (Continued)

18. Can You Climb Three Steps With Railings Without Assistance?

Yes

No

Please Explain: _____

19. Is your Ability To Travel Or Wait Out-Of- Doors Affected By Extremes Of Hot Or Cold Weather?

Yes

No

If Yes, Please Describe Conditions You Cannot Tolerate? _____

20. Are You Able To Board Or Disembark From A Standard Transit Bus With A Wheelchair Lift?

Yes

No

Explanation If Needed: _____

Section II
Mobility Information (Continued)

21. Are You Able To Get Around Independently Without Assistance?

Yes

No

22. Are You Able To Ask For, Understand And Follow Directions?

Yes

No

23. If This Application Has Been Completed By Someone Other Than The Applicant, That Person Must Complete The Following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You Have Now Completed The Applicant's Section Of The Eligibility Application. Please Give This Entire Application To The Health Care Professional Most Familiar With Your Functional Limitations.

I hereby authorize RIPTA and its RIdE Program to receive any of my protected health and personal information, and to disclose any of This information to the appropriate entities responsible for the payment of health care operations, treatment or otherwise permitted Or required by the Privacy Rule and in compliance with all HIPAA Federal Regulations.

I understand that in order to allow RIPTA to evaluate my application, it may be necessary to contact the Health Care Professional who completed Section III of this application, and that I may be required to complete a professional evaluation at a test facility of RIPTA's choosing.

I also authorize that health care professional to utilize my RIdE ID Number to schedule RIdE trips on by behalf. My Signature below will provide that authorization.

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section III
Health Care Professional Verification

***This Portion Of The Application Form Is To Be Completed
By A Health Care Or Rehabilitation Professional, Usually
A Doctor or a Nurse.***

Section III Is Intended Not As Verification Of Applicant's Medical Condition, But To Determine The Effect Of The Medical Condition On The Applicant's Ability To Independently Use A Regular RIPTA Bus On His / Her Own.

All Questions Must Be Answered For This Application To Be Considered Complete.

**Note: Each regular RIPTA bus is equipped with a wheelchair lift.
Also, if the applicant can use a regular bus, they are probably eligible for a free or 1/2 fare bus pass.**

24. Applicants Name: _____

25. Capacity In Which You Know This Applicant: _____

26. Medical Diagnosis Or Condition Causing Disability That Prevents The Applicant From Getting To, Boarding And/Or Riding On A RIPTA Bus On His / Her Own.

27. Is Condition Temporary? Yes No

28. Can The Applicant Ever Ride On A Regular RIPTA Bus? _____

When, Under What Conditions? _____

29. Is The Applicant Able Or Unable To Perform The Following Activities?

(a). Able To Climb 3, 12 Inch Steps On A RIPTA Bus Without Assistance?

Able Unable

(b). Able To Get To/From A Regular RIPTA Bus Stop Without Assistance?

Able Unable

(c). Able To Board Or Disembark Independently From A Standard RIPTA Bus With A Wheelchair Lift?

Able Unable

(d). Does The Applicant Require An Attendant/Escort When Traveling?

Yes No

30. If The Applicant Has A Cognitive Disability, Is The Person:

(a). Able To Read Informational Signs, Ask Or Follow Directions?

Able Unable

(b). Able To Get Around Independently?

Able Unable

If No, Please Explain: _____

31. **Health Care Professional Name:** _____

Health Care Professional Title: _____

Office Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Office Phone Number: _____ **Fax:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

**Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
Attention: ADA Coordinator
705 Elmwood Ave.
Providence, RI 02907**