



Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Free or Reduced RTA Fare Cards Are Available for Older Adults**

Starting September 1, some older adults who have Seniors Ride Free cards will no longer be eligible for free rides on CTA, Pace and Metra buses and trains. The program will be limited to low-income seniors who meet income requirements set by the Illinois Department on Aging Circuit Breaker program.

Under new state legislation, only Illinois residents age 65 and older who have applied for and qualify for the Illinois Department on Aging's Circuit Breaker program will be eligible for an RTA (Regional Transit Authority) Senior Circuit Ride Free permit. All other residents 65 and older will be eligible for a Reduced Fare permit.

Circuit Breaker provides grants to older adults and persons with disabilities to help reduce the impact of taxes and prescription medications.

Income guidelines for Circuit Breaker are:

\$27,610 – 1 person household

\$36,635 – 2 person household

\$45,657 – 3 person household

RTA is notifying everyone who currently has a Seniors Ride Free card of the changes. Those who already are enrolled in Circuit Breaker will be told that they automatically qualify. RTA is also sending letters to Illinois seniors who are enrolled in Circuit Breaker but are not in Seniors Ride Free telling them they are eligible. The letter includes an application form.

Older adults who do not have Seniors Ride Free cards are also encouraged to apply for Circuit Breaker in order to qualify for the new permit.

Those who are not eligible may receive Reduced Fare permits, which are available to all residents over 65.

**What to do if you are 65 or older and are enrolled in Circuit Breaker:**

- If you have a Seniors Ride Free card, do nothing. RTA will send you the new Senior Circuit Ride Free permit. Only the new permits will be accepted after September 1. If you do not receive your permit by August 15, call the RTA at (312)913-3110.
- If you do not have a Seniors Ride Free card but would like to have the new Senior Circuit Ride Free permit, fill out the application form in the letter you received from RTA.
- If you have questions, call **RTA** at (312)913-3110. You may also call **AgeOptions** at (708)383-0258.

**What to do if you are 65 or older and are not enrolled in Circuit Breaker:**

- If you think you are eligible for Circuit Breaker based on the income guidelines above, call **AgeOptions** at (708)383-0258 for assistance applying for Circuit Breaker and the Senior Circuit Ride Free permit. You may also call the **Illinois Department on Aging** at (800)624-2459 or go to [www.cbrx.il.gov](http://www.cbrx.il.gov).

**What to do if you are 65 or older and are not eligible for Circuit Breaker:**

- If you already have a Seniors Ride Free card, RTA will contact you before August 12 with instructions for obtaining the Reduced Fare permit.
- If you do not have a Seniors Ride Free card, you may apply for a Reduced Fare permit. Information is available from RTA at (312)913-3110 or [www.RTAchicago.com](http://www.RTAchicago.com).

**AgeOptions** and its network of community agencies are the principal source of information regarding senior services in suburban Cook County, Ill. A nonprofit organization located in Oak Park, AgeOptions has served the older adults of suburban Cook County and their caregivers as an Area Agency on Aging since 1974. For more information, please visit the Agency website at [www.ageoptions.org](http://www.ageoptions.org).

**AgeOptions** connects adults age 60 and over with resources and service options so they can live their lives to the fullest and remain in their homes as long as possible. In 2010 we met the needs of more than 198,500 individuals in 130 communities within 30 townships that have a diverse population of 460,000 older adults. AgeOptions advocates, plans, develops and funds programs and coordinates a network of community-based senior service agencies to ensure an effective and efficient system of service delivery. Support is provided through the Older Americans Act, Illinois General Revenue Funds, local funds and individual contributions.