



# OP-ENS Newsletter

Our Peers – Empowerment and Navigational Supports

## Welcome to the OP-ENS Study!

OP-ENS was created by leaders in the disability community and UIC's Program for Healthcare Justice to tackle the challenges that people with disabilities face when trying to get the healthcare they need and deserve.

OP-ENS draws on the disability community's strengths and knowledge to break down barriers to care by providing information and support.

Every month, you will get a newsletter with useful information and resources about health and well-being for people with disabilities.

### Better health for people with disabilities



Over **1 BILLION** people globally experience disability



**1 in 7** people

People with disabilities have the same general health care needs as others

But they are:

**2x** more likely to find health care providers' skills and facilities **inadequate**

**3x** more likely to be **denied** health care

**4x** more likely to be treated **badly** in the health care system



**1/2** of people with disabilities cannot afford health care

They are: **50%** more likely to suffer catastrophic health expenditure



These out-of-pocket health care payments can push a family into poverty

Rehabilitation and assistive devices can enable people with disabilities to be independent



**200 MIL** people need glasses or other low-vision devices and do not have access to them



**70 MIL** people need a wheelchair. Only **5-15%** have access to one

**360 MIL**

people globally have moderate to profound hearing loss

Production of hearing aids only meets:

**10%** of global need **3%** of developing countries' needs



Making all health care services accessible to people with disabilities is achievable and will reduce unacceptable health disparities



remove physical barriers to health facilities, information and equipment



make health care affordable



train all health care workers in disability issues including rights



invest in specific services such as rehabilitation

Source: World report on disability: [www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report)

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#### Did you know?

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) offers job training and placement referrals through a community partner network.

Job seekers with disabilities are referred by MOPD's Employment Services staff to community-based organizations, WIPA Program Partners, and SSA Employment Network agencies for job training and placement assistance including:

- Resume writing
- Job readiness training and preparation
- Employer connection for job openings
- One-on-one counseling to assess skills, identify barriers to employment, and advise on issues related to health care and state/federal benefits.

For more information contact the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities at 312-744-7050 or [www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mopd.html](http://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mopd.html)



**Program for Healthcare Justice for People with Disabilities**

# Navigating Public Transportation in the Chicago Area



## The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

RTA runs all public transportation in Chicago, including the CTA trains and buses, Metra trains, and Pace services.

RTA also decides who qualifies for public transportation services for people with disabilities.



## Transportation Services for People with Disabilities

RTA offers public transportation services for people with disabilities such as:

- **Accessible Fixed Routes**: Dozens of accessible bus routes. No need to book in advance.
- **ADA Paratransit**: Point-to-point rides for people with disabilities. Rides must be booked ahead of time.

## Reduced Fare Permit

The RTA Reduced Fare Permit lets people with disabilities (and a guest) ride CTA, Pace, and Metra for a lower cost.



Reduced fares for CTA:

- **Buses** - \$1.10
- **Trains** - \$1.25

### *Do I qualify to receive reduced fare?*

If you receive Social Security benefits and/or have proof from a doctor saying you are a person with a disability, you may qualify for reduced fare.

### *How do I apply for a Reduced Fare Permit?*

- **Online** – Download an application from [RTAChicago.org](http://RTAChicago.org)
- **Phone** – Call RTA customer service at 312-913-3110 for a mailed application.

You will also need a photo ID, 2x2 passport photo, and a document confirming that you are a person with a disability. After applying, it takes 3-4 weeks to get your permit. A permit is valid for 4 years.

## Ride Free Permit

The RTA Ride Free Permit lets low-income Illinois residents with disabilities ride CTA, Pace, & Metra for free.



### *Do I qualify for the Ride Free Permit?*

You may qualify if your income per year is less than:

- \$27,610 for a 1-person household,
- \$36,635 for a 2-person household, OR
- \$45,657 for households with 3 or more people

### *How do I apply for a Ride Free Permit?*

You must enroll in the Benefit Access Program through the Illinois Department on Aging's Benefit Access Process. To apply, call 1-800-252-8966. Once enrolled, you will automatically be reviewed for eligibility.

### For more information:

- Regional Transit Authority [www.rtachicago.org/rider-resources](http://www.rtachicago.org/rider-resources)
- Pace Suburban Bus [www.pacebus.com/sub/paratransit/default.asp](http://www.pacebus.com/sub/paratransit/default.asp)
- Chicago Transit Authority [www.transitchicago.com/reduced-fare-programs/#rtareduced](http://www.transitchicago.com/reduced-fare-programs/#rtareduced)