



Eligibility Requirements & Program Restrictions

You are eligible for the Department of Aging's Benefit Access Program if you meet the following requirements and have a social security number:

- You must be either over 65 years old, or over 16 years old with a disability.
- You must live in Illinois at the time you file your application.

Your income last year must fall below set income requirements to qualify for the Ride Free program. You must be financially eligible and receiving SSI/SSDI the year before you apply.

The Benefit Access Program provides benefits for two years through the License Plate Discount program and the Ride Free program. In Chicago, the Ride Free program provides free transportation through Pace and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA).

What benefits are provided?

How do I apply?

Apply online here: <https://webapps.illinois.gov/AGE/BAA/Welcome.aspx>

In order to receive benefits based on disability, you must be considered totally and permanently disabled from one of the following agencies: Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, Civil Service, or Railroad Retirement. If you do not meet this requirement, you can also qualify if you have one of the following: a Class 2 disability card from the Illinois Secretary of State's office or a completed Attachment A Physician's Statement that meets total disability criteria set by the Social Security Administration.

What qualifies as disabled?



How do I renew my benefits?

Reapply at <https://webapps.illinois.gov/AGE/BAA/Welcome.aspx> every two years. We recommend starting to reapply at least 90 days before your card expires.

The Department on Aging offers a helpline for seniors and those with disabilities. You can call the Senior Helpline at **1.800.252.8966** from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



To fill out an application online, visit www2.illinois.gov/aging/BenefitsAccess/Pages/default.aspx. You can also visit the office at 160 N LaSalle Street on the 7th Floor of the Michael A. Bilandic Building.