



BENEFIT ACCESS PROGRAM

APPLY AT www.illinois.gov/aging



The Benefit Access Program offers two benefits for seniors and persons with disabilities:

- A LICENSE PLATE FEE DISCOUNT
- FREE RIDES ON FIXED-ROUTE TRANSIT SYSTEMS

Eligibility is determined by income, residency, age and/or disability utilizing an online application.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Age Requirements:

- 65 years of age or older before January 1 of the current year; or
- You must become 65 years of age this year; or
- You must be 16 years of age or older before January 1 of the current year and qualify as disabled. A person must be determined to be totally and permanently disabled.

Residency Requirements:

- You must live in Illinois at the time you file your application with proof of residency.

Income Limits and Requirements:

Household containing one person	less than \$33,562
Household containing 2 persons	less than \$44,533
Household containing 3 or more persons	Less than \$55,500

NOTE: *you MUST include spouse's income if married and living together. Only one discount per family.

Documents Required: Please provide ALL that apply to you.

1. **US 1040 Federal Tax Return-** If you file a tax return and apply for the BA program before April 19th, you must bring in the previous year's tax return, even if you have filed a new tax return for the current year. Current tax returns would apply after April 19th of the current year.
2. **Social Security 1099-** SSA 1099 showing annual amount of Social Security Income and/or Railroad Retirement Benefit Statement.
3. **Disabled persons must bring in Award letter from Social Security.**
4. **Current Driver's License and/or State issued ID.**
5. **If you DO NOT file a Federal Tax Return** you will still need to provide Items 2, 3 and 4, from above, as well as any of the following that apply to you. All 1099's for pensions, Veterans Benefit Statement, annuities, IRA's, dividends and W-2's from employment wages.

The Senior Department will assist Bloom Township residents with the online application Monday through Wednesday from 9am until 3pm. 708-754-9400 Ext 7271

- **All Benefit Access applications are processed by the Illinois Department on Aging.** You may contact them at 1-800-252-8966 if you have further questions. Applications may take up to 72 hours for approval.
- **All RTA Free Ventra card applications are processed by the Regional Transportation Authority.** You can contact them at 1-312-913-3110. Applicants may check the status of their Ventra card by calling RTA. RTA applications can take a minimum of 8 weeks to process.

Program Eligibility is good for 2 years.

Applicants can reapply 2 years from the date of approval.
Current income documents for the proper year will be required.