

Traveling in the Community

Navigating the Community

Navigating the community with a disability can be challenging, especially if you are not aware of the available resources. Various programs and organizations throughout the DMV offer support tailored to different needs and skill levels.

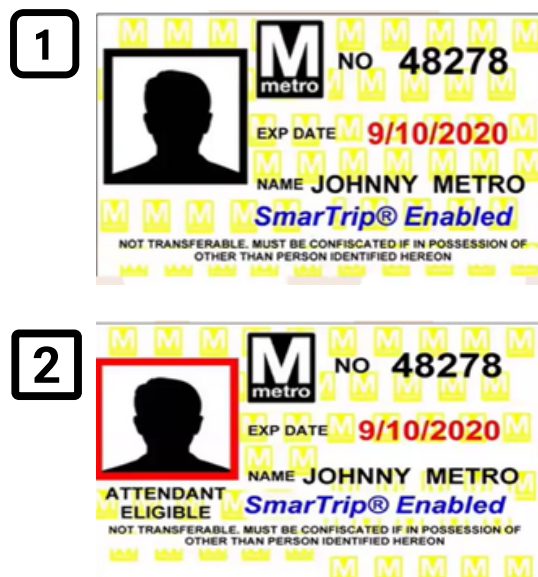
Reduced Fare Program

The Reduced Fare Program provides a SmarTrip card that allows people with disabilities to travel on Metrobus and Metrorail for a discounted rate at all times.

There are two types of Reduced Fare Cards:

1) A Reduced Fare SmarTrip ID Card that is intended *for a rider who can ride the public transit system most of the time or all of the time independently.*

2) Attendant-eligible Reduced Fare Card with Personal Care Attendant (PCA) SmarTrip Card that is intended *for a rider who needs additional support to ride the public transit system, either some of the time or all of the time.* Only one PCA Card is provided with the Attendant-eligible Reduced Fare Card, but it can be shared amongst the PCAs supporting the attendant.



Applying for the Reduced Fare Program

Reduced Fare Program Application: <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/reduced-fare.cfm>

The application **requires** an appropriate health care professional to complete Parts B and C. Once the health care professional has completed their portion, you will need to submit the following: 1) application, 2) government-issued ID (unless school age, then school ID will suffice), and 4) a headshot with a plain background **within 60 days of the medical professional's signature.** Applications are accepted by in-person or online.

Renewing Application

The Reduced Fare ID Card expires every 3 years, and you will need to reapply to the program if you wish to continue using the services within 60 days of expiration. The expiration date is found on the front of the Reduced Fare ID Card.



MetroAccess Paratransit Service

The Metro Access Paratransit Service Program provides shared-ride public transportation for customers whose disabilities prevent them from using fixed-route transportation for some or all of the time.

The program is designed to serve as a parallel transportation service to Metrobus, Metrorail, and partner buses within the Metropolitan Washington Service Area. (Pick-up and drop-off locations **must be within a ¼ mile of a parallel transportation stop.**)

There are two types of Metro Access Cards:

1) The Conditionally Eligible Card is for someone who is deemed able to take *at least one ride* on fixed route transportation independently.

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This card allows the customer and a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) to ride Metrobus, Metrorail, and partner buses **free of charge**. The PCA card is only free when followed by MetroAccess customer's card.



2) The Fully Eligible Card is intended for a customer who will *only* use the MetroAccess and has been found unable to take any fixed-route transportation independently.

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Applying for the Metro Access Program

Metro Access Program Application: <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/metro-access/eligibility.cfm#apply>

The application **requires** a healthcare provider document all of the disability(ies) and how they prevent the applicant from using the accessible Metrobus or Metrorail systems. Once the health care professional has completed their portion, you will need to submit the following: 1) application, 2) government-issued ID (unless school age, then school ID will suffice), and 4) a headshot with a plain background **within 60 days of the medical professional's signature**. Applications are accepted in person or online.

Renewing Application

The Conditionally Eligible Card expires every 3 years, and the Fully Eligible Card expires every 5 years. The expiration date is found on the front of the MetroAccess Card.



Travel Training

The goal of Travel Training is to enable and empower people with disabilities to travel independently using public transportation systems in their community.

Travel Training Supports

The Metropolitan Washington area offers a variety of options for people with disabilities seeking to become more independent when traveling on Metrobus, Metrorail, and other partner bus services in the region.

The organizations listed below provide free, individualized travel training to help someone learn how to get from their starting point to their destination. While these trainings are free, the travel trainer will first complete an assessment to better understand the customer's current skill level and needs.

- **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)** - <https://www.wmata.com/service/accessibility/MetroReady-Travel-Training-and-System-Orientation.cfm>
- **ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV)** - <https://www.ecnv.org/services-1>

Small Group Training Only

- **Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA)** - <https://datatrans.org/mobility-projects/>

The Arc of Northern Virginia's Tech for Independent Living Program

The Tech for Independent Living (TFIL) team offers travel training experiences for people who may not yet feel ready to travel independently for a variety of reasons (such as being new to the area or feeling anxious about traveling alone).

Participants can register for *group trips* led by TFIL staff, where introductory travel skills are taught, including step-by-step guidance, safety awareness, and general transportation knowledge. Register for this free experience here: <https://thearcofnova.org/tfil-travels/>

The TFIL team has created an excellent resource and tool, **Arc2Independence**, that supports individuals when traveling in the community.

Participants can receive general knowledge about local public transportation systems or request customized lessons to help them learn and remember specific routes. *Learn more here:* <https://thearcofnova.org/arc2independence/>