

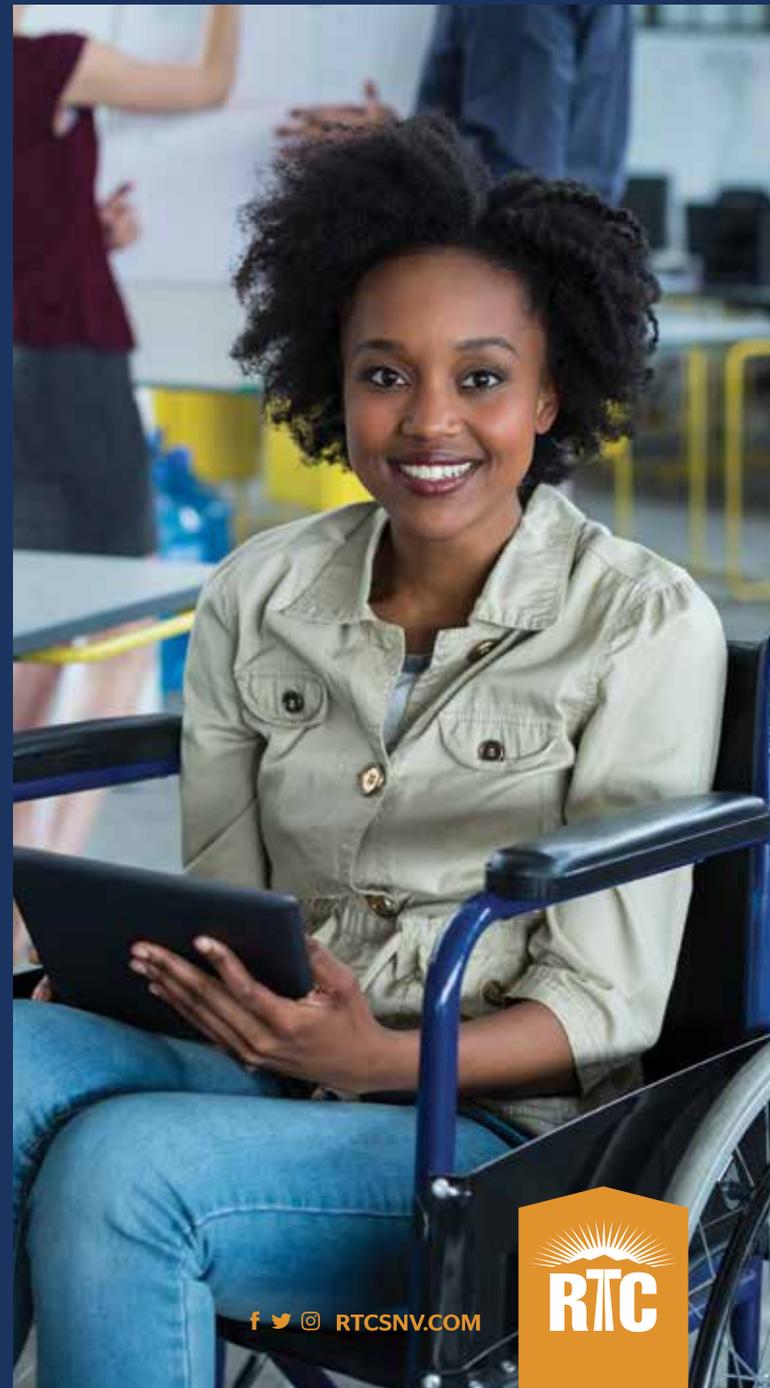


ParaTRANSIT

ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

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WHAT IS RTC ADA PARATRANSIT?

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Services is available to individuals who experience a physical, psychiatric, cognitive, memory or visual impairment and who are functionally prevented from using the RTC's fixed route transit service (commonly known as the "city bus") independently, under some or all circumstances.

HOW IS THE ADA INVOLVED?

The ADA of 1990 specifically outlines the criteria to be used by transit agencies when determining eligibility for ADA Paratransit Services.

IS THIS SOMETHING THAT MY DOCTOR CAN PRESCRIBE?

Eligibility for RTC ADA Paratransit Services is not a medical decision or something that can be prescribed by your physician. It is primarily a transportation decision.

WHAT IS ELIGIBILITY BASED UPON?

Eligibility is based upon an individual's disability and functional inability to use the fixed route transit system. Each applicant is evaluated independently based on ADA requirements.

WHAT IF FIXED ROUTE IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR ME?

The unavailability of fixed-route service alone does not determine eligibility for an individual who might otherwise be able to use the fixed-route service, where available. In addition, the lack of a bus stop or its distance from an individual's residence cannot be considered when determining eligibility.



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APPOINTMENTS

If you are interested in applying for eligibility, you will need to schedule an appointment with the RTC's Certification Office by calling (702) 676-1815 or (702) 676-1834 TDD for the hearing impaired Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Upon request, the RTC will provide complimentary transportation to and from the Evaluation Center.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

All individuals who have requested an eligibility appointment for RTC ADA Paratransit Services are required to participate in an in-person interview and may require a Functional Ability Assessment that is used to identify the specific barriers to the applicant's independent access of the RTC's fixed-route transit service. There are various components to the evaluation process, which include the verification of disability, the applicant's own assessment of his/her ability and possible functional ability. The RTC also welcomes information from health care professionals regarding the applicant's ability to use fixed-route transit service, but it is not required. Please keep in mind eligibility for RTC ADA Paratransit Services is not a medical decision or something that can be prescribed by your physician. It is primarily a transportation decision.

The RTC has 21 days to make an eligibility determination after a completed evaluation. A completed evaluation may include the need to fully participate in a Functional Ability Assessment. If the RTC does not render a decision within 21 days of your completed evaluation the applicant will receive presumptive eligibility until the eligibility decision is rendered.

FUNCTIONAL ABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Functional ability assessments are evaluation tools used by the RTC to assist in determining whether an applicant has the independent ability to access RTC's fixed-route transit service and, if

so, under what circumstances. The assessments are conducted by independent professionals who are not affiliated with the RTC. Applicants who experience a physical disability may participate in a Physical Functional Ability Assessment, which may include negotiating uneven terrain, cross slopes, curbs, and crossing streets. Applicants who experience a cognitive disability may participate in the Functional Assessment for Cognitive Transit Skills (FACTS), which evaluates the individual's bus travel skills, community safety skills and general orientation. Individuals who experience a visual impairment may participate in the Visual Functional Ability Assessment, which may include negotiating open areas, uneven terrain, crossing streets, and reading street signs.

CATEGORIES OF ELIGIBILITY

Applicants who are determined eligible for RTC Paratransit Services are provided eligibility under several categories. These categories include:

UNCONDITIONAL The applicant is determined to be functionally prevented from independently accessing fixed-route transit service "city bus" at any time.

CONDITIONAL The applicant is determined to be functionally prevented from independently accessing fixed-route transit service under certain circumstances. Paratransit services may be provided when the interaction of the individual's disability and the environment or special circumstance create a barrier to independent use of the fixed-route transit service for a particular trip. Examples include those with extreme fatigue after treatments such as dialysis, or an individual with vision impairment to navigate a hazardous area required in order to reach a bus stop.

TEMPORARY The applicant is determined to be able to learn how to use fixed-route transit service "city bus" with training, or if the disability or medical condition is temporary in nature.

APPEAL PROCESS

Applicants who are determined ineligible or who do not agree with the RTC's established conditions for the use of paratransit services have the right to request an appeal. The request for appeal must be filed within 65 days of the date on the initial letter of determination.

In preparation of your appeal you may contact the certification office and request a copy of the functional assessment used as the basis of determination. Additional information regarding the appeal hearing process is available from the RTC's Certification Office by calling (702) 676-1815.

ADA ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

Whether an applicant is determined eligible or not for paratransit services, it is important to know that all of the RTC's transit vehicles are fully ADA accessible. The RTC's transit fleet includes low-floor coaches with kneeling capability and either a ramp or lift. In addition, transit drivers provide accommodations by making stop and route announcements.

MOBILITY TRAINING

The RTC also offers a free travel training program provided by Transit Mobility Specialists to teach the safe use of the



RTC's fixed-route transit system. Individuals who are capable of using the fixed-route "city bus" system are encouraged to do so whenever possible. Call the RTC Transit Mobility Department at 702-676-1767 to schedule an in-person assessment.

WHEELCHAIRS

The definition of "wheelchair" as of October 19, 2011, means a mobility aid belonging to any class of three or more wheeled devices, usable indoors, designed or modified for and used by individuals with mobility impairments, whether operated manually or powered. Transit providers must carry a wheelchair, "three or more wheeled devices" and occupant if the lift and vehicle can physically accommodate them, unless doing so is inconsistent with legitimate safety requirements. "Legitimate safety requirements" include such circumstances as a wheelchair of such size that it would block an aisle, or would be too large to enter a vehicle, or would interfere with the safe evacuation of passengers in an emergency. Design parameters of transit vehicles will continue to use the unconstrained space 30" wide by 48" long securement envelope minimum. Minimum design loads for lifts and ramps remain at 600 lbs.

