

OVERVIEW OF THE REDUCED FARE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

As a recipient of federal funding, Valley Metro is required to provide a reduced fare to seniors (ages 65 and older) and individuals with disabilities at a rate of not more than 50% of the regular local fare. Valley Metro has extended eligibility of this program to youth ages 6 through 18. Under this program, seniors and individuals with a disability are defined as those individuals who, by reason of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity or disability, including those who are non ambulatory using a mobility aid and those with semi-ambulatory capabilities, **are unable without special facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass transportation facilities and services as effectively as persons who are not so affected.** (Title 49 CFR 609.3—Definitions)

The qualifying disability must result in a reduced capacity to perform actions necessary for the use of Valley Metro regular fixed-route services without receiving special training or assistance. If the diagnosis listed on the application does not clearly meet this standard, the certifying healthcare professional is required to provide a narrative description identifying the specific features of Valley Metro's fixed-route services that the applicant cannot use without special training or assistance. The "special training or assistance" must be different than the orientation required for all first-time users (disabled and non-disabled) of public transit.

PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REDUCED FARE AND ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION

To qualify for a reduced fare on local bus routes and light rail, passengers must be prepared to show proof of eligibility at the time of boarding. Acceptable forms of ID are listed below for each qualifying category:

- **Youth (Ages 6 through 18)** - Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID Card, Driver's License or State ID Card, or high school ID with photo and current school year.
- **Senior (Ages 65 and older)** - Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID Card, Driver's License or State ID Card.
- **Medicare Cardholder** - Medicare card and photo ID or Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID Card.
- **Persons with a Disability** - Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID Card.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUTH, SENIOR OR MEDICARE CARDHOLDERS

Youth, senior, or Medicare cardholders are not required to obtain a Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card if they have the appropriate identification listed under **ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION**.

- To obtain a Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card, complete **SECTION I** and **SECTION II** located on page 3, and take the application to a Valley Metro photo ID site. For a listing of photo ID sites, go to Valleymetro.org/paying_your_fare/reduced_fare_program/ or call 602.253.5000.
- Youth and seniors must show proof of age and identity to obtain an ID card. Birth certificates and other identification listed under **ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION** must be presented at the time applications are submitted at the photo site. If you are under 18, or do not possess a valid photo ID, a parent or legal guardian must be present at the photo site to sign this application.
- Medicare recipients must bring a Medicare card and photo ID.
- Senior, youth and Medicare recipient applications will be accepted and processed at Valley Metro photo ID sites on the same day they are submitted.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

- To obtain a Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card, complete **SECTION I** and **SECTION II** located on page 3.
- If you qualify for Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or a disability under the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), you do not need to have this application signed by a licensed professional as long as you can provide a copy of the qualifying letter you received from one of these agencies.
- For all other disabilities, your qualified healthcare professional and/or certified agency must complete **SECTION III** and **SECTION IV**. In addition, they must sign and date the application—see **SECTION III** for a listing of qualified healthcare professionals.
- The licensed professional signing this application must attach or provide one of the following types of supporting documentation to authenticate the diagnosis listed on the application:
 - o A signed prescription slip or medical record form that matches the diagnosis listed on the application.
 - o A description of the diagnosis on the agency or healthcare provider's letterhead that matches the diagnosis on the application. This document must be an original and it must be signed by the professional listed on the application. These documents must be dated within the past 30 days.
- Applications for persons with a disability will no longer be accepted at photo ID sites. A completed application and supporting documentation must be mailed to Valley Metro for processing—see **APPLICATIONS BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS** for further details.

APPLICATIONS BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants applying under the “Persons with a Disability” category must mail a completed application and supporting documentation for processing and verification to:

Valley Metro Mobility Center, 4600 E. Washington, Suite 101, Phoenix, AZ 85034

- Valley Metro staff will review the application and supporting documentation and make an eligibility determination within 10 business days upon receiving your application.
- Applicants can request to come in person to the Valley Metro Mobility Center to expedite the application processing time. **Expedited applications will be by appointment only.** In addition to the \$5 fee for the initial card, an additional fee of \$5 will be charged for the expedited process. Supporting documentation must be presented at the time of the appointment to ensure the application can be processed on the same day. **To schedule an appointment, call 602.716.2100, option 1.**
- Approved applications for persons with a disability will be sent an eligibility letter, which can be presented at a photo ID site to obtain a photo ID card. Applicant must provide a valid photo ID to verify identity when they go to a photo ID site to obtain a card. For a listing of photo ID sites, go to Valleymetro.org/paying_your_fare/reduced_fare_program/ or call 602.253.5000.

REPLACING A LOST ID CARD

If your card is lost or stolen and has not reached the expiration date printed on the front of the card, do the following:

- Complete **SECTION I** and **SECTION II** of this application.
- Take your completed application and proof of identity to a Valley Metro photo ID site.
- All applications for replacement cards will be processed at photo ID sites on the same day they are submitted.

RENEWING AN EXPIRED ID CARD

If your card is about to expire or has expired, you must submit a new application and supporting documentation if applicable. Please follow the **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS** under the appropriate category listed within this document.

SECTION I - APPLICATION FOR REDUCED FARE ID

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Applicant Information

Card# _____ Expiration _____

Documentation _____

Site Location: _____

Outlet Rep Initials: _____

Today's Date _____

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
-----------	------------	----------------

Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
-----------------	------	-------	----------

()

Phone Number with Area Code	Date of Birth (month/day/year)	Email Address
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------

Check the appropriate box (check only one):

- Youth (Ages 6 through 18)
- Senior (Ages 65 and older)
- Medicare Cardholder
- Persons with a Disability

Check the appropriate box:

- New Card.** If you have not had a Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card before, check this box. **The cost is \$5.00.**
- Lost Card.** If you have lost your Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card, check this box. **The cost is \$2.50.**
- Renewal Card.** If your Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card is about to expire or has expired, check this box. **The cost is \$5.00.**

SECTION II - TERMS AND CONDITIONS (TO BE SIGNED BY APPLICANT)

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information on this application is true and correct. I understand that providing false or misleading information could result in my eligibility status being terminated. I understand that my Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card is not transferable to other persons and that Valley Metro reserves the right to determine qualifications for issuing cards in accordance with the terms and conditions listed on the application instruction sheet. I understand the Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card is valid until the date printed on the card and that I must reapply at that time if I wish to continue my eligibility with the Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID program. I understand that I must present this card when requested by a bus operator or fare inspector to verify eligibility for the reduced fare. I understand that the information on this application will be kept confidential by the professionals involved in evaluating my eligibility. I understand that Valley Metro may contact the physician or licensed health care professional listed on my application to verify my qualifying disability. I authorize the certifying physician or licensed health care provider to provide all information needed to Valley Metro in determining my eligibility for the Valley Metro Reduced Fare program.

By signing below, you certify that you have read and understand the terms and conditions of this program:

Applicant Name (Print)	Applicant Signature	Date
------------------------	---------------------	------

SECTION III – QUALIFIED SIGNEES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Qualified healthcare professionals who may certify disabilities listed in **SECTION IV**—**check one that applies:**

- Audiologist – Hearing impairments
- Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist – Visual impairments
- Chiropractors – Mobility impairments
- Clinical Psychiatrists and/or Psychologists – Mental impairments & drug and alcohol addiction
- Licensed Social Worker – Mental/Cognitive impairments
- Medical Doctor (MD) and Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) – All impairments
- Nurse practitioner – All impairments
- Occupational Therapist – Mobility impairments—upper and lower extremities (activities of daily living)
- Optometrist or Ophthalmologist – Visual impairments
- Physical Therapist – Mobility impairments
- Physician’s Assistant – All impairments
- Podiatrist – Mobility impairments
- Recreational Therapist – Mental or mobility impairments
- School Psychologist or Special Education Teacher – Mental/Cognitive impairments
- Substance Abuse Program Director – Drug and alcohol addiction
- Other – Please list title: _____

SECTION IV – MEDICAL DISABILITY CRITERIA

In order to qualify for a Valley Metro Reduced Fare ID card, your client/patient listed on this application must have a physical or mental/cognitive condition that falls within the medical eligibility criteria listed below that substantially limits a major life activity, such as caring for one’s self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and/or working, and that further meets legal standards for reduced fare eligibility listed on page one of this application.

Is this disability permanent? Yes No

If no, how long do you expect this disability to last? _____

Note: If a disability is temporary, it must last for at least 90 days to be eligible for a reduced fare.

Check all that apply:

NON-AMBULATORY DISABILITIES

Impairments which require the individual to use a wheelchair, electric scooter, or other mobility device.

SEMI-AMBULATORY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

- Restricted mobility.** Disability requiring the use of a cane, crutches, long leg braces, service animal, white cane, walker, or other orthopedic appliances.
- Arthritis.** American Rheumatism Association criteria may be used as a guideline for the determination of arthritic disability. Therapeutic Grade III, Functional Class III, or Anatomical State III or worse is evidence of arthritic disability.
- Loss of extremities.** Anatomical deformity of or amputation of one or both hands, arms, feet, or legs, or loss of major motor function.
- Cerebrovascular accident.** Ongoing debilitating effects following occurrence of cerebrovascular accident.

- Cardiopulmonary disease.** Serious loss of heart or lung reserves as shown by x-ray, EKG or other tests and in spite of medical treatment there is breathlessness, pain or fatigue. If diagnosis is asthma, please state whether: Individual has been on systemic medication for the immediate past six months, or has been required to use fast acting inhaler for three or more episodes per week for the immediate past six months. A specific diagnosis is required, please specify: _____
-

- Dialysis.** Individual who must use a kidney dialysis machine in order to live.
 - Epilepsy, grand mal or psychomotor.** Persons who are seizure-free for a continuous period of six months are disqualified unless they are restricted from driving a motor vehicle.
 - Neurological disabilities.** Neurological and physical impairments not controlled by medication (i.e. cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis or traumatic brain injury).
 - Stroke.** Individual has substantial functional motor deficits in any of two extremities, loss of balance and/or cognitive impairments three months post stroke.
 - Other** (Please specify): _____
-

VISUAL DISABILITIES

- Legally blind.** Visual impairment that is bilateral and not correctable with lenses. Individual's visual acuity in the better eye, with correction, is 20/200 or less.
- Contraction of visual field.** Individual whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance of 20 degrees, less than 10 degrees from point of fixation, or whose visual field efficiency is 20 degrees or less.

HEARING DISABILITIES

Total deafness. Individual whose hearing loss is 70 dba or greater in the 1000 and 2000 Hz ranges and not correctable with hearing aids.

MENTAL OR COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

A principal diagnosis from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) IV classification in one of the following areas is required for eligibility: Organic Mental Disorders, Schizophrenic Disorders, Paranoid Disorders, Psychotic Disorders not elsewhere classified, Affective Disorders, Somata Form Disorder, Dissociative Disorders, Adjustment Disorders, Psychological Factors affecting physical condition, and Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

These diagnoses must be at Class III to V levels, as follows:

- Class III - Moderate impairment. Levels compatible with some, but not all, useful functions.
 - Class IV - Marked impairment. Levels significantly impede useful functioning.
 - Class V - Extreme impairment. Levels preclude useful functioning.
- Autism.** Monotonously repetitive motor behavior, severe withdrawal, inappropriate response to stimuli and very inadequate social relationships.
 - Developmentally disabled.** Cognitive disability that originates before the age of 18.
 - Adult mental retardation.**
 - Mental illness.** Individual whose mental illness includes a substantial disorder of thought, perception, orientation, or memory that impairs judgment and behavior. A specific diagnosis is required, please specify: _____

