

## **RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

### **NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADOPTION/REPEAL OF REGULATIONS AND PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) proposes the following regulatory actions in compliance with the State of Rhode Island's Administrative Procedures Act:

- 1. Repeal existing policy regarding RIPTA's Senior and Disabled bus cards (ERLID #1310)**
- 2. Adoption of a new Senior and Disabled Bus Card policy, which includes the adoption of new fees and makes modest administrative language changes from RIPTA's existing policy.**

RIPTA hereby gives notice of its intent to hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Regulations and to afford interested parties an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments orally and/or in writing on the proposed Regulations. The Public hearing will be held **December 17, 2008 at 10:00 AM** in the Board Conference Room at RIPTA, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, RI 02907. The hearing room is accessible to persons with disabilities. RIPTA will provide interpreter services for the deaf and hearing impaired, provided such a request is made at least 48 hours prior to the hearing date. A request for this service can be made in writing or by calling 784-9500, x 242.

The proposed new policy for the Senior and Disabled Bus Card seeks to increase the fees for the Senior and Disabled bus cards, and clarify the procedures and related policies for RIPTA's issuance of said cards.

Copies of the proposed Regulations may be obtained at RIPTA's Marketing Department, 265 Melrose St., Providence, RI 02907 or by calling 784-9500 xt. 151 weekdays from 8:30 AM to 4 PM or by writing to:

Alfred J. Moscola  
General Manager  
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority  
265 Melrose Street  
Providence, RI 02907

RIPTA, in accordance with Section 42-35-3 (a)(3) of the Rhode Island General Laws, has considered alternative approaches to the proposed Regulations and has determined that the proposed Regulations do not overlap or duplicate other regulatory or statutory provisions.

RIPTA encourages the submission of written comments prior to the date of the public hearings.



Dated: November 19, 2008



**The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority  
Administrative Policies and Procedures**

Subject/Title: SENIOR AND DISABLED IDENTIFICATION CARD AND FARE POLICY	Effective Date: July 1, 2000 Supersedes: 1975
	Approval(s):

I. PURPOSE:

The Purpose of this document is to establish guidelines for the Authority’s policy regarding the issuance of senior and disabled identification cards, fees for senior and disabled identification cards, and the fare policy for senior and disabled identification card holders.

II. POLICY OVERVIEW:

A. POLICY STATEMENT

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has implemented programs for elderly and disabled persons in order to assist the elderly and disabled in fulfilling their transportation needs. In addition, RIPTA’s programs meet and exceed the requirements established by the federal and state governments on transportation for elderly and disabled persons. *{49 CFR 609; Rhode Island General Law, 39-18-4 (7)}*

All persons age 65 and over are eligible for the RIPTA Senior Identification Card (ID). All persons with qualifying disabilities, are eligible for the RIPTA Disabled ID. In addition, elderly or disabled persons that qualify for low-income status are entitled to ride free on RIPTA fixed route services any time. Elderly or disabled persons that do not qualify for low-income status will be required to pay half-fare during off-peak hours, and full fare during peak hours on RIPTA fixed route services. *{Rhode Island General Law, 39-18-4 (7)}*

Senior/Disabled reduced fares do not apply to special service routes, such as the Beach Bus or First Night, and during periods and routes of overcrowded conditions. *{Rhode Island General Law, 39-18-4 (7)}*

## B. DEFINITIONS

### 1. Elderly Person

All persons 65 years of age. *{49CFR609 Appendix A}*

### 2. Disabled Person

Those individuals who by reason of illness, injury, congenital malfunction, or other permanent or temporary incapacity or disability, including those who are non-ambulatory wheelchair-bound 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. *{Federal Transit Act, 53 USC, Section 5307; 49CFR609.3}*

### 3. Attendant

A person traveling as an aid, such as a personal care attendant, to facilitate travel by a person with a disability or a person age 65 or older.

### 4. Peak Hours

7AM to 9AM and 3PM to 6PM on weekdays.

### 5. Off-peak Hours

Before 7AM, between 9AM to 3PM, and after 6PM on weekdays; and all day on weekends and holidays.

### 6. Fixed Route Services

Bus services operated along a prescribed route according to a fixed schedule. *{49CFR37.3}*

### 7. Low Income Status

Anyone whose income is less than the income limits set forth by the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs for single and married individuals. The income limits are reviewed on an annual basis. *{Rhode Island General Law, 39-18-4 (7)}*

### III. POLICY & PROCEDURES:

#### A. HOW TO OBTAIN A RIPTA SENIOR ID CARD

##### 1. Eligibility Requirement

All persons age 65 and over.

##### 2. Valid identification that includes proof of your age must be presented. Acceptable forms of identification include any one of the following:

- a) Medicare Card;
- b) Birth Certificate;
- c) RI Driver's License;
- d) State Identification Card;
- e) Passport;
- f) Green Card;
- g) Citizenship Papers; or
- h) Hospital Card, if it shows date of birth

#### B. HOW TO OBTAIN A RIPTA DISABLED ID CARD

##### 1. Eligibility Requirement

All persons certified as having a disability.

##### 2. Certification may be obtained in the following ways:

- a) By showing proof that you are receiving a disability benefit. Valid identification includes any one of the following:
  - Medicare Card;
  - Current (within the past year) Social Security Disability Award Letter, Benefit Verification Letter, or Cost of Living Adjustment Notice (Letter must indicate the individual is receiving disability benefits);
  - Veteran Administration Letter with a disability rating at or above 70%; or
  - Letter from Employer or Employer's Disability Insurance provider with a disability rating at or above 70%.
- b) By providing a letter from a Social Service Agency that certifies that you have a disability. Currently, approved organizations are:
  - Easter Seals Society
  - Muscular Dystrophy Association

- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- RI Hospital Hearing and Speech Center
- RI Infantile Paralysis Society
- School for the Deaf
- Services for the Blind
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- United Cerebral Palsy

c) By completing a **Reduced Fare Program for Person with Disabilities Application Form (Attachment A)**. All questions on the application must be answered completely and verified by your physician/health care professional. RIPTA will notify you within 21 days of receiving your completed application whether you qualify or not.

- Certification letter from RIPTA must be presented at the RIPTA ID office in order to receive a Disabled ID.

### C. ATTENDANT/ESCORT

1. Qualifying seniors and disabled persons who require another person to accompany them in order to travel on a RIPTA bus can have this attendant/escort travel with them at no charge.
2. Any person that qualifies for a disabled or senior ID card may indicate the need for an attendant/escort at the time of certification. Approval may be obtained in the following ways:
  - a) Any person that qualifies for a Disabled ID and where his/her disability either requires the person to use a wheelchair or any person that is blind or visually impaired automatically qualifies for use of an attendant. A Disabled ID card indicating use of an assistant will be issued automatically. *{Rhode Island General Laws 39-18-4 (7)ii & iii}*
  - b) By completing an **Attendant/Escort Application Form (Attachment B)**. All questions on the application must be answered completely and verified by your physician/health care professional. RIPTA will notify you within 21 days of receiving your completed application whether you qualify or not.
    - A revised ID Card, indicating the use of an attendant, will be mailed to anyone who qualifies.

#### D. WHERE TO OBTAIN SENIOR AND DISABLED IDs

1. RIPTA ID Office located at 218 Weybosset Street in Downtown Providence.
2. The RIPTA Mobile Unit visits locations outside of Providence for the convenience of elderly and disabled persons who reside outside of Providence. For information regarding the location and frequency of the mobile unit site visits contact the RIPTA ID Office at 401-784-9524 or visit our web site at [www.ripta.com](http://www.ripta.com).

#### E. COST AND EXPIRATION DATE OF SENIOR AND DISABLED IDs

##### 1. New and Renewals

###### a) Senior IDs

- Cost - \$5 for new, renewals, and first replacement
- Expiration Date - Valid for 5 years from original issue or renewal date

###### b) Disabled IDs

- Cost - \$2 for new, renewals, and first replacement
- Expiration Date - Valid for 2 years from original issue or renewal date

##### 2. Replacement Cards

In the event a card is lost or stolen, a replacement card will cost \$2 (Disabled ID) or \$5 (Senior ID) the first time, \$10 the second time, \$10 the third time, \$15 the fourth time, and \$20 the fifth time. No additional replacements will be issued after the fifth one, before a review of the replacement history and circumstances by a RIPTA official. If a replacement card is not issued, the individual may reapply after the expiration date of the new or renewal ID.

IV. FARE POLICY:

A. Fixed route fares for persons with Senior or Disabled IDs {49 CFR 609.23; Rhode Island General Laws, 39-18-4(7)}:

	<i>IDs <b>WITHOUT</b> No Fare Status (Color is blue) and Temporary Disabled/Senior IDs</i>	<i>IDs <b>WITH</b> No Fare Status (Color is orange)</i>
<b>Peak Hours:</b> 7AM to 9AM and 3PM to 6PM on weekdays.	Full Fare	No Fare
<b>Off-Peak Hours:</b> Before 7AM, between 9AM to 3PM, and after 6PM on weekdays; and all day on weekends and holidays.	Half of Full Fare	No Fare

B. Any person who accompanies and is assisting a person with a disability or an elderly person is eligible to ride for free. The Senior or Disabled ID will indicate whether an attendant/escort is eligible to ride free.

C. HOW TO OBTAIN RIPTA SENIOR OR DISABLED ID WITH “NO FARE” STATUS

1. Low Income Eligibility Requirements

a) The State of Rhode Island’s Department of Elderly Affairs establishes the income limits for a single person and married couples, and certifies eligibility.

2. Valid Identification showing proof of eligibility must be presented.

**Acceptable forms of identification** include the following:

- a) RI Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly Card (RIPAE Card);
- b) Medical Assistance Card (Medicaid Card); or
- c) No Fare Certification Letter from the Department of Elderly Affairs.

3. WHERE TO OBTAIN “NO FARE” CERTIFICATION LETTER

a) Any qualifying seniors and disabled persons who do not possess a RIPAE or Medicaid Card, but believe they meet the income

requirements must go to the Department of Elderly Affairs, located at 160 Pine Street, Providence, to be certified. For verification purposes you must present proof of income.

- b) Documentation needed for proof of income include the following:
  - Current Social Security Award Letter
  - Current Veterans Administration Award Letter
  - Copy of current check, and/or bank statement, and/or pension statement
- c) If person is deemed eligible the Department of Elderly Affairs will issue a certification letter that must be brought back to the RIPTA ID office.
- d) Specific questions concerning eligibility requirements must be directed to the Department of Elderly Affairs at 401-222-2880.

V. RECIPROCAL ELIGIBILITY:

- A. An “out-of-state” individual seeking to utilize RIPTA fixed route services may be certified by another transit system. Eligibility is presumed and reciprocal services will be provided if an individual presents certification from another transit system. In these cases a Temporary Disabled/Senior ID will be issued, and will be valid for twenty-one days from the date of issuance. {FR 37.127}
- B. Fares for individuals holding a Temporary Disabled/Senior ID are half of full fare during off-peak periods and full fare during peak periods.
- C. If an individual plans to use the system beyond the twenty-one days, he/she must obtain RI certification.

VI. PROGRAM EXEMPTIONS {Rhode Island General Laws 39-18-4(7)}:

- A. The following services are not covered under the Senior and Disabled Identification Card and Fare Policy:
  - 1. Commuter Service
  - 2. Charter Service
- B. Senior/Disabled reduced fares do not apply to special service routes, such as the Beach Bus or First Night, and during periods and routes of overcrowded conditions.

VII. REFUSING SERVICE:

- A. The Senior and Disabled ID must be kept in the possession of the qualifying senior or disabled patron at all times while riding RIPTA fixed route services.
- B. The Senior and Disabled ID must be presented when boarding RIPTA buses.
- C. RIPTA reserves the right to confiscate a Senior or Disabled ID that has been used improperly. A confiscated card will not be returned or replaced.
- D. Service for any passenger can only be refused if a rider engages in violent, seriously disruptive, or illegal conduct. Seriously disruptive behavior does not include behavior or appearance that only offends, annoys, or inconveniences other riders or employees. *{FR 37.5(h)}*



## APPLICATION FORM (Form also available in Spanish) REDUCED FARE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

This application form is for people who wish to apply for disabled patron status. Individuals with disabilities that significantly limit their ability to use regular RIPTA fixed route services may be eligible to receive a disabled ID card and ride at a reduced fare.

### 1. WHO QUALIFIES

The Federal Transit Act, 53 USC, Section 5307 defines those who qualify as follows: "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 wheelchair-bound 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." **Financial need is not an allowable disability criterion.**

### 11. HOW TO OBTAIN A REDUCED FARE DISABLED ID CARD

1. Read the entire application.
2. Fill out Part A of this application.
3. Take the application to your health care professional for certification (Part B).
4. Return completed application to the ADA Coordinator, Specialized Transportation Department, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02907, fax-completed application to (401) 784-9588, or email completed application to [winlow@ripta.com](mailto:winlow@ripta.com). For additional information about this application form, read Page 2 or call (401) 784-9553, TDD RI Relay, or visit our web site at [www.ripta.com](http://www.ripta.com) (under RIPTA PROGRAMS/Senior Disabled ID Program).
5. RIPTA will notify applicant within 21 days of receiving your completed application regarding your eligibility for a Disabled ID. Applicant is required to appear in person at the ID Booth on 218 Weybosset Street for a Disabled ID.
6. If you have reached the age of 65, you qualify for a RIPTA Senior ID that offers the same fare discount as the Disabled ID. You will *not be issued a Disabled ID*.

### 111. WHO CAN CERTIFY

If your disability *significantly* limits your ability to use mass transportation, one of the following health care professionals, as appropriate to your case, may be able to certify you to qualify for a Reduced Fare Disabled ID Card (see Page 4 for guidelines):

- A licensed podiatrist can certify for Guideline 2, semi-ambulatory.
- A licensed optometrist can certify for Guideline 8, sight.
- A licensed audiologist can certify for Guideline 9, hearing.
- A certified school psychologist can certify for those applicants who are under the age of 21 years and for Guideline 14 only, neurological/mental retardation.

### IV. CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. Healthcare professionals must be guided by Part C, "Guidelines for Medical Professionals," on Page 4 of this application and by the Federal Transportation Administration definition stated above in Item 1.
2. RIPTA may contact the certifying health care professional to verify the accuracy of the information.
3. RIPTA reserves the right to make the final determination as to an applicant's eligibility.
4. The application must be filled out COMPLETELY for processing to occur.

**Please Keep This Part of the Application for Future Reference  
Should You Need Information on the Following:**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The eligibility criteria are based on a person's need and ability to use regular RIPTA fixed route services and presumes a level of personal mobility and independence to the degree that use of regular RIPTA fixed route services would be a reasonable expectation. Financial need is *not an allowable disability criterion*.

**LOCATION OF RIPTA ID OFFICE**

ID cards for people with disabilities are issued at the RIPTA ID Office located at 218 Weybosset Street in Downtown Providence. The RIPTA Mobile Unit visits locations outside of Providence for the convenience of elderly and disabled persons. Call the RIPTA ID Office at (401) 784-9524, TDD RI Relay, or visit our web site at [www.ripta.com](http://www.ripta.com) (under RIPTA PROGRAMS/Senior/Disabled ID Program) for information about this service.

**RENEWING YOUR DISABLED ID CARD**

You must apply for a new card by completing a new application and submitting it to the RIPTA ADA Coordinator. Sixty days before your ID card expires, obtain a new application by calling the RIPTA ID Office at (401) 784-9524, TDD RI Relay, or obtain the form from our web site at [www.ripta.com](http://www.ripta.com) (under RIPTA PROGRAMS/Senior/Disabled ID Program). The new application must be certified by one of the health care professionals listed on the front page of this application.

**REPLACING LOST ID CARDS**

In the event your ID card is lost or stolen; you may obtain a replacement. A fee of \$2.00 is charged for the first replacement, \$10.00 for the second and third one, \$15.00 for the fourth one, \$20 for the fifth one. No additional replacements will be issued after the fifth one, before a review of the replacement history and circumstances by a RIPTA official.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NO FARE STATUS**

Any person who qualifies for a disabled ID and holds a Medical Assistance Card (Medicaid Card), automatically qualifies for "no fare" status. If you do not possess a Medicaid Card you must go to the Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA), located at 160 Pine Street, Downtown Providence, to be certified. The State of Rhode Island's Department of Elderly Affairs establishes the income limits for a single person and married couples, and they determine if a person qualifies for "no fare" status. For verification purposes you must present the following to DEA:

1. Letter from RIPTA which certifies eligibility for a disabled ID, and
2. Proof of income, which include copy of current tax return, copy of current check, and/or other documentation that denotes sources of income.

Specific questions concerning eligibility requirements must be directed to the Department of Elderly Affairs at (401) 222-2880.

If you qualify for "no fare" status bring either your Medicaid Card or the No Fare Certification Letter from DEA, along with your certification letter from RIPTA, to the RIPTA ID Office for your disabled ID.

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The Reduced Fare Disabled ID Card must be kept in the possession of the qualifying disabled patron at all times while riding RIPTA fixed route services. The Reduced Fare Disabled ID Card must be presented when boarding RIPTA buses. ID cards that are used in any other manner that is unlawful shall be confiscated.

*Reduced Fare Program for People with Disabilities*

**PART A: APPLICANT INFORMATION AND RELEASE (MUST BE COMPLETE)**

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): <i>(Print or Type)</i>		Social Security Number	Date of Birth:
Street Address: _____ Apartment: _____		City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone: _____ Day ( ) _____ Evening ( ) _____		Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Previous/Current Disabled I.D. Holder? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1. In case of an emergency, is there someone in the local area who should be notified? Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Relationship: _____			
2. How can we best communicate with you about program changes? Include special facilities such as TDD telephones.			
3. I hereby authorize the health care professional completing this application to release to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority Information about my disability in order to verify my eligibility for a Disabled Patron ID Card.			
Signature of Applicant: _____		Date: _____	

**PART B: MEDICAL CERTIFICATION (MUST BE COMPLETED ENTIRELY FOR PROCESSING TO OCCUR)**

Part B is to be completed by a licensed/certified health care professional as described on Page 1. Information on this form will remain on file with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority and is not subject to public review.		
Health Care Professional's Name: <i>(Print or Type)</i>		License Number/St
Street Address: _____ Apartment: _____		Phone: ( ) _____
City, State, Zip: _____		
Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Physician: _____(specialty) <input type="checkbox"/> Podiatrist <input type="checkbox"/> Optometrist <input type="checkbox"/> Audiologist <input type="checkbox"/> School Psychologist <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse Practitioner		
1. From the Guidelines for Health Care Professionals on Page 4, select the appropriate category and provide detailed information regarding the Applicant's disability. (Specific DSM code may be used for mental illness.) Guideline No: _____ Specific Diagnosis: _____		
2. Review the FTA Act definition on Page 1. Does the patient's condition affect his/her capability to use public transportation, i.e., does his/her disability <i>Specifically impair</i> his/her ability to use the bus? <b>Financial need is not an allowable disability criterion.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No The patient's condition does not affect his/her ability to use public transportation. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please describe how the disability impedes the patient's ability to use the bus as compared to persons not so affected: <b>Note: Failure to provide how this disability affects their capability to use regularly scheduled RIPTA fixed route bus services renders this Application incomplete.</b>		
3. Does the applicant require an attendant to utilize public transportation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
4. Expected Duration Of Disability: Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 9 months <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 15 months <input type="checkbox"/> 18 months <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years		
Signature of Health Care Professional: _____		Date: _____
False certification may be reported to the licensing under State of Rhode Island Code.  RIPTA reserves the right to (1) verify the validity of the license of the health care professional providing the certification, (2) make the final determination on an applicant's eligibility for the reduced fare program, and (3) have the applicant submit to an examination by a health care provider selected by RIPTA at the cost to RIPTA.		<b><u>RIPTA USE ONLY</u></b>  Approved By:  Issue Date:  Expiration Date:

## PART C: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Below are listed qualifying definitions to be used in the evaluation of candidates for the RIPTA Reduced Fare Program for Persons with Disabilities. Those conditions that are *in remission are excluded* from discount fare eligibility. Certifiers with questions concerning this program, please call **(401) 785-9553**.

Persons whose mobility limitations are the result of pregnancy, obesity, alcoholic or illegal drug problems are *not eligible* for this program.

- 1. NON-AMBULATORY:**  
Impairments that require individuals to use a wheelchair or similar device for mobility.
- 2. SEMI-AMBULATORY:**  
Conditions that cause individuals to use a leg brace, walker or crutches to achieve mobility.
- 3. MUSCULO-SKELETAL CONDITIONS:**  
Conditions such as muscular dystrophy, osteogenesis imperfecta or rheumatism restriction (*rheumatoid* arthritis).
- 4. AMPUTATION:**  
Persons who have amputation of (i.e., loss of major function due to degenerative changes associated with vascular or neurological deficits, traumatic loss of muscle mass or tendons and x-ray evidence of bony or fibrous ankylosis at an unfavorable angle, joint subluxation or instability):
  - a. Both hands; or
  - b. One hand and one foot; or
  - c. Amputation of lower extremity at or above the tarsal region (one or both legs).
- 5. CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENT (STROKE):**  
With one of the following post four-month CVA:
  - a. Pseudobulbar palsy; or
  - b. Functional motor deficit in any of two extremities.
- 6. PULMONARY:**  
Dyspnea occurs during such activities as climbing one flight of stairs or walking 100 yards on the level or less exertion, or even at rest. Individual may require use of portable oxygen.
- 7. CARDIAC:**  
Cardiac disease resulting in marked limitation of physical activity. Less than anginal physical activity causes fatigue, palpitation, dyspnea, or anginal pain. For instance, inability to walk one or more level blocks or climbing one flight of ordinary stairs.
- 8. SIGHT:**  
Visual acuity in the better eye, after correction, is 20/200 or less; or visual field is contracted (commonly known as tunnel vision):
  - a. To 10 degrees or less from a point of fixation; or
  - b. So the widest diameter subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.
- 9. HEARING (AUDIOGRAM IS REQUIRED):**  
Defined as:
  - a. Deafness or hearing incapacity that makes an individual unable to communicate or hear warning signals, including only those persons whose hearing loss is 70 dba or greater in the 500, 1000, 2000 Hz. ranges (both ears) regardless of hearing aids.
  - b. People who rely on sign interpreters or TDD machines and are unable to comprehend normal speech.
- 10. INCOORDINATION:**  
Faulty coordination or palsy from brain, spinal or peripheral nerve injury and any person with a functional nerve injury or illness; or functional motor deficit in any two limbs or who suffers manifestations which significantly reduce mobility, coordination and perceptiveness not accounted for in other categories. Diagnosis must be specific.
- 11. CEREBRAL PALSY-SEE # 10.**
- 12. EPILEPSY (CONVULSIVE):**  
Characterized by major motor seizures (grand mal or psychomotor) substantiated, by- EEG- and occurring more frequently than twice in the past month in spite of prescribed medication.
- 13. INFANTILE AUTISM**
- 14. NEUROLOGICAL/MENTAL RETARDATION:**  
A syndrome characterized by learning, perceptual and/or behavioral disorders. This includes persons with severe gait problems who are restricted in mobility. Patient's condition must be a *significant* learning disability; diagnosis must be specific such as mental retardation. Some conditions are *excluded* from eligibility such as ADD and dyslexia. School psychologists can certify for neurological conditions but cannot certify any other categories.
- 15. EMOTIONAL ILLNESS:**  
Individuals whose mental impairment substantially limits one or more of their major life activities resulting in limited ability to learn, work, or care for oneself. Specific diagnosis is required. The patient's disability *must be chronic, severe and impede patient's ability* to learn, work or care for him/herself.
- 16. CHRONIC PROGRESSIVE DEBILITATING CONDITIONS:**  
(DIAGNOSIS MUST BE SPECIFIC):  
Individuals who experience chronic and progressive debilitating diseases that are characterized by constitutional symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, weight loss, pain and changes in mental status that, taken together, interfere in the activities of daily living and significantly impair mobility. Such disorders include:
  - a. Progressive and uncontrollable malignancies (i.e., terminal malignancies or neoplasms being treated with aggressive radiation or chemotherapy).
  - b. Advanced connective tissue diseases (i.e., advanced stages of disseminated lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, or polyarteritis nodosa).
  - c. Symptomatic HIV infection (i.e., AIDS or ARC) in CDC-defined Clinical Group IV, Subgroups A-E.



## ATTENDANT/ESCORT APPLICATION FORM (Form also available in Spanish)

This application form is for people who qualify for a Senior or Disabled ID and wish to apply to have an attendant/escort travel with them at no charge.

### I. WHO QUALIFIES

Any person that qualifies for a Senior or Disabled ID card may indicate the need for an attendant/escort at the time of certification. Approval may be obtained in the following ways:

- a) Any person that qualifies for a Disabled ID and where their disability either requires the person to use a wheelchair or any person that is blind or visually impaired automatically qualifies for use of an attendant. A Disabled ID card indicating use of an assistant will be issued automatically. *{Rhode Island General Laws 39-18-4 (7)ii & iii}*
- b) By completing an **Attendant/Escort Application Form**.

### II. HOW TO OBTAIN A REDUCED FARE SENIOR/DISABLED ID CARD THAT ALLOWS AN ATTENDANT/ESCORT TO TRAVEL WITH YOU AT NO COST

1. Read the entire application.
2. Fill out Part A of this application.
3. Take the application to your health care professional for certification (Part B).
4. All questions on the application must be answered completely and verified by your physician/health care professional.
5. Return completed application to the ADA Coordinator, Specialized Transportation Department, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02907, fax-completed application to (401) 784-9588, or email completed application to [winlow@ripta.com](mailto:winlow@ripta.com). For additional information about this application form, call (401) 784-9553, TDD RI Relay, or visit our web site at [www.ripta.com](http://www.ripta.com) (under RIPTA PROGRAMS/Senior Disabled ID Program).
6. RIPTA will notify applicant within 21 days of receiving your completed application regarding your eligibility for a Senior/Disabled ID that will allow an attendant/escort to travel with you at no cost. A revised ID Card, indicating the use of an attendant, will be mailed to anyone who qualifies.

### III. CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. RIPTA may contact the certifying health care professional to verify the accuracy of the information.
2. RIPTA reserves the right to make the final determination as to an applicant's eligibility.
3. The application must be filled out COMPLETELY for processing to occur.

**PART A: APPLICANT INFORMATION AND RELEASE (MUST BE COMPLETE)**

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): <i>(Print or Type)</i>	Social Security Number	Date of Birth:
Street Address: Apartment:	City, State, Zip:	
Phone: Day ( ) Evening ( )		
1. Do you require assistance when you board or disembark from a RIPTA Bus? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 2. Are you able to get around independently without assistance? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 3. Are you able to ask for, understand, and follow directions? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
I hereby declare that I require an Attendant/Escort when I travel. I hereby authorize the health care professional completing this application to release to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority information about myself in order to verify my eligibility for an Attendant/Escort.		
Signature of Applicant: _____		Date: _____

**PART B: MEDICAL CERTIFICATION (MUST BE COMPLETED ENTIRELY FOR PROCESSING TO OCCUR)**

Part B is to be completed by a licensed/certified health care professional as described on Page 1. Information on this form will remain on file with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority and is not subject to public review.		
Health Care Professional's Name: <i>(Print or Type)</i>	License Number/St	Phone: ( )
Street Address: Apartment:	City, State, Zip:	
Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Physician: _____(specialty) <input type="checkbox"/> Podiatrist <input type="checkbox"/> Optometrist <input type="checkbox"/> Audiologist <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse Practitioner <input type="checkbox"/> School Psychologist		
1. Does the applicant require an attendant/escort to utilize public transportation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe why the applicant needs an attendant/escort when riding the bus.		
Signature of Health Care Professional: _____		Date: _____
False certification may be reported to the licensing under State of Rhode Island Code.  RIPTA reserves the right to (1) verify the validity of the license of the health care professional providing the certification, (2) make the final determination on an applicant's eligibility for the reduced fare program, and (3) have the applicant submit to an examination by a health care provider selected by RIPTA at the cost to RIPTA.	<b><u>RIPTA USE ONLY</u></b>	
	Approved By:	
	Issue Date:	
	Expiration Date:	