

PART B: GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

The following guidelines are to be used to evaluate applicants for VRE's Reduced Fare ID provided to People with Disabilities (**Persons with physical or mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities as defined by the American with Disabilities Act AND that prevents them from using mass transit effectively without special planning, design or accommodations**). Health care professionals with questions, please call 703-838-5446.

1. **NON-AMBULATORY:** An individual is unable to walk and requires the use of a wheelchair or other mobility device.
2. **SEMI-AMBULATORY:** An individual has a chronic condition, which substantially limits the ability to walk, or is unable to walk without the use of a caliper leg brace, walker or crutches.
3. **AMPUTATION:** An individual has an amputation of both hands, one arm, one hand and one foot, or one or both legs.
4. **STROKE:** An individual has substantial functional motor deficits in any of two extremities, loss of balance and/or cognitive impairments three months post stroke.
5. **PULMONARY OR CARDIAC CONDITIONS:** An individual has a pulmonary or cardiac condition resulting in marked limitation of physical functioning and dyspnea during activities such as climbing steps and/or walking a short distance. *If diagnosis is moderate to severe asthma, please state whether: a) Individual has been on systemic medication for the immediate past six months, **OR** b) Individual has been required to use fast acting inhaler for three or more episodes per week for the immediate past six months.
6. **BLIND OR LOW VISION:** An individual whose visual acuity in the better eye, with correction, is 20/200 or less, or who has tunnel vision to 10 degrees or less from a point of fixation or so the widest diameter subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.
7. **DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING** (This Guideline **must** be certified by either a licensed audiologist or a licensed otolaryngologist who is relying upon an audiogram for diagnosis): An individual whose hearing loss (HL) is 70 dB or greater in the 500, 1000, 2000 Hz. ranges in both ears, regardless of the use of hearing aids.
8. **NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS:** An individual has difficulty with coordination, communication, social interaction and/or perception from a brain, spinal or peripheral nerve injury or illness, has functional motor deficits, or suffers manifestations that significantly reduce mobility.
9. **INTRACTABLE EPILEPSY:** An individual has had at least one tonic-clonic seizure within the past six months, despite taking prescribed medication.
10. **DEVELOPMENTAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES:** An individual has a significant learning, perceptual and/or cognitive disability [that has been specifically diagnosed] and that is likely to affect their ability to commute. Some conditions are excluded from eligibility such as attention deficit disorder (ADD) and dyslexia.
11. **MENTAL ILLNESS:** An individual whose mental illness is chronic, long-term and includes a substantial disorder of thought, perception, orientation, or memory that impairs judgment and behavior. A specific diagnosis with brief explanation is required. [Without direct certification that the condition affects the individual's ability to drive or utilize mass transit, disorders such as Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety, and PTSD are excluded]
12. **CHRONIC PROGRESSIVE DEBILITATING CONDITIONS:** An individual who experiences debilitating diseases, autoimmune deficiencies, or progressive and uncontrollable malignancies, any of which are characterized by fatigue, pain and/or changes in mental status that affects their mobility and/or ability to commute.

OPTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

By Mail, Fax or E-mail

Mail the original, completed application to the Virginia Railway Express, Attn: Reduced Fare ID Card, 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314, by Faxing to 703-838-5446 or by e-mailing gotrains@vre.org. **[Original Physician Certifications should be mailed in, but a copy may be sent in advance via e-mail or fax to expedite the application process]**. After receipt of the application, ID's not requiring submission to the review panel for consideration/approval will take approximately 10 business days (usually less) to process and sent out to the patron via certified mail in order to obtain verifying signature of receipt. You will be notified via the e-mail address provided on page 1 of the application if there is a problem in processing the application. Failure to provide an e-mail address **will** cause a delay in processing. **A .jpg "headshot" is needed to go on the actual ID.** This should be sent to gotrains@vre.org or you may come to the above-stated address to have your photo taken. During the application process, patrons with disabilities who need to ride the train will need to pay full fare. No refunds will be provided.

In Person at VRE's Office in Alexandria

Bring the original, completed application to our office located at 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314 between the hours of 7:30am to 6:30 pm Monday thru Friday. Please call ahead to ensure availability of staff (703) 684-1001. Your photo will be taken. Please note ID's are not then printed on the spot. They must follow the same application process and may take approximately 10 business days to be produced. You will be notified via the e-mail address provided on page 1 of the application if there is a problem in further processing the application. Failure to provide an e-mail address **will** cause a delay in processing. During the application process, patrons with disabilities who need to ride the train will need to pay full fare. No refunds will be provided.

OWNERSHIP OF A VRE REDUCED FARE ID CARD

The valid VRE Reduced Fare ID Card must be in the possession of the cardholder at all times while riding a VRE train. The ID must be shown in order to purchase any VRE tickets at the 50% discount. The conductor may ask to see the qualifying ID for anyone riding on discounted tickets. Refusal to comply will result in cancellation of the card and vendor notification. ID cards used in any unlawful manner will be confiscated.

REPLACING LOST VRE REDUCED FARE ID CARDS

If you lose your valid VRE Reduced Fare ID Card, you may obtain a replacement. A fee of \$25.00 may be charged for the first replacement and \$35.00 for each subsequent replacement. Some exceptions apply.

RENEWING VRE REDUCED FARE ID CARDS

No ID cards have longer than a 5 year expiration to ensure current information and a relatively current photo is on file. Approximately sixty (60) days before your long-term or permanent card expires, please visit our website at vre.org or contact customer service at (703-684-1001) to determine what will be needed (i.e., updated contact information and a new .jpg "headshot"). If your ID card has been expired for 30 days or more, you must complete a new application and obtain your physician's certification. If your card is considered to be "long term" (1-3 years) or "temporary" (3 mos. 6mos. 9mos. 1 year), but your disability continues, you will need to complete a new application and obtain a new physician's certification.