

Connecticut Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Application Form

Instructions for Submission

To request a copy of this application in an accessible format, please call (203) 365-8522 Extension 273.

The purpose of this application is to determine eligibility for Connecticut complementary ADA Paratransit service. If you have a disability that prevents you from using the public transit bus service in Connecticut, you may be eligible for ADA Paratransit service. ADA Paratransit is a shared ride, advanced reservation, origin-to-destination service for persons with disabilities who are unable to use the public bus service because of their disability.

Service Criteria

The Connecticut ADA Paratransit program is designed to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act service criteria established by the federal government. Service is provided only to individuals found eligible by a Connecticut regional ADA service provider and is operated under the following ADA guidelines:

- Complementary service is only provided in areas where public buses operate. This does not include Express Commuter service, Intercity or Dial-A-Ride services. ADA Paratransit vehicles can only make pick-ups and drop-offs at places that are within three-quarters of a mile of a public bus route.
- Service is provided only during the hours and days when public bus service in that area operates.
- Rides must be reserved at least one day in advance.
- ADA Paratransit fares are typically double the cost of a full fare on a public bus route.
- Service is not restricted by trip purpose but provided for all types of trips.

ADA Definition of Disability

Any person with a disability who is unable, as a result of a physical or mental impairment, and without the assistance of another individual (except the operator of a wheelchair lift), to board, ride, or disembark from any public bus.

Any person with a disability who has a specific impairment-related condition which prevents them from traveling to or from a bus stop on the public bus system.

Architectural and environmental barriers such as distance, terrain or weather; do not form a basis for eligibility alone. However, a person may be eligible if the interaction of the disability and environmental barriers prevent the person from traveling to or from the public bus stop.

Types of Eligibility

There are three types of eligibility:

Unconditional Eligibility - Your disability or health condition always prevents you from using public buses and you qualify for ADA Paratransit service for all of your trips.

Conditional Eligibility - You are able to use the public buses for some of your trips and qualify for ADA Paratransit service for other trips when your disability or environmental barriers prevent the use of public bus service.

Temporary Eligibility - You have a health condition or disability that temporarily prevents you from using the public bus.

Application Process

ADA Paratransit service is provided for customers whose disability or health condition may prevent them from using public bus services for some or all of their travel. Individuals who are interested in using ADA Paratransit service must apply and be found eligible according to ADA guidelines. Regional ADA Paratransit service providers determine an individual's functional abilities and limitations for using public bus services. A list of service providers in Connecticut is attached to this application see "ATTACHMENT A".

To apply for ADA Paratransit eligibility, contact the regional ADA Paratransit service provider or visit www.CTADA.com.

Once you have filled out as much of the application as you can and submitted it by mail or online to your regional service provider, **if you have not been contacted within seven (7) days, contact your ADA service provider** (a list of service providers in Connecticut is attached to this application see "ATTACHMENT A") **to set up your certification interview**. If needed, transportation to the interview will be provided and the services of an American Sign Language or other language interpreter offered at no charge. Please bring an acceptable form of identification with you (preferably a photo ID) to the interview. If you do not have a photo ID available, contact your service provider to determine acceptable forms of identification. You may also bring additional information about your disability or health condition, but this is not required.

During the interview, your application form will be reviewed and if necessary, assistance will be offered to help you complete it. Your travel abilities and limitations will be discussed in more detail. You may be asked to take a "mock" bus trip. This will take about 30 to 45 minutes and your travel abilities and limitations will be assessed. Please dress for the weather as you may be asked to go outside. Also, at the interview you may be asked to sign a document allowing the service provider to contact your physician or other professional to verify your eligible condition. Finally, at the interview you will be asked to sign a certificate that the information in your application is true and correct. Providing false and misleading information may result in a reevaluation of your eligibility.

A decision will be made on your application within 21 days after the completion of the interview, assessment and receipt of medical verification and follow-up questions, if necessary. If a decision is not made within 21 days, temporary eligibility and ADA Paratransit service will be provided until a final decision is made. You will be notified of your eligibility by letter.

If you are determined to be eligible for ADA Paratransit for some or all of your trips, you will receive a Certification Letter and a Customer Guide with information about how to use the service.

Appeal Process:

If you are determined to be able to use public buses for some or all of your trips, you will be notified of the exact reason(s) for this decision and told how you may appeal the decision.

You can appeal any eligibility decision made by the regional service provider that limits your ability to use ADA Paratransit service. For example:

- You were found "Not Eligible" for ADA Paratransit
- You were found "Conditionally Eligible" and disagree with the eligibility categories you were given or you think the conditional status is wrong.

All requests for an appeal must be in writing and should be mailed to your regional service provider.

If you have any questions about the application process, contact your regional ADA Paratransit service provider.