

TARC3 Eligibility & Process Summary

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TARC3 TRANSPORTATION? (A.D.A.)

TARC3 Eligibility is determined by 3 factors:

- Individual's ability to get to/from the bus stop
- Individual's ability to board/exit the bus
- Individual's cognitive ability to navigate the regular bus system

Operational issues are not considered in the eligibility process. These are issues that affect any individual, whether or not they have a disability. The individual's disability and how it affects his/her functional ability to use regular TARC buses are the only criteria that are used to determine eligibility.

The following operational issues are not considered in the determination of eligibility, including (but not limited to):

- Age
- Distance to a bus stop
- Lack of bus service to an area
- Overcrowded buses
- Weather conditions
- Trip distance and comparable travel time on fixed-route buses

Who Is Eligible Under Part 1 of the federal ADA paratransit regulations?

49 CFR Part 37.123 (e)(1) Any individual with a disability who is unable, as the result of a physical or mental impairment, and without the assistance of another individual, to board, ride, or disembark from any vehicle on the system which is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

This section refers only to the ability to ride the bus alone, without the assistance of another person, other than the operator of the lift (or ramp) on the bus.

EXAMPLE

You may be eligible for TARC3 service if, because of a disability, you are not able to board a TARC bus, ride it to your desired stop, and get off the bus at that location by yourself (without another person's assistance).

Who Is Eligible Under Part 2 of the federal ADA paratransit regulations?

49 CFR Part 37.123 (e)(2) Any individual with a disability who can ride an accessible bus but needs the assistance of a wheelchair lift or other boarding assistance device, and is able, with such assistance...to travel...

This section refers to the ability to ride the bus with the use of a wheelchair lift or ramp. All of TARC's buses and trolleys have a lift or ramp that can be employed at most bus stops.

EXAMPLE

A person may be able to use TARC buses for most trips, but would need TARC3 when the lift (or ramp) can't be used at a specific bus stop that they must use to complete their trip.

Who Is Eligible Under Part 3 of the federal ADA paratransit regulations?

49 CFR Part 37.123 (e)(3) Any individual with a disability who has a specific impairment-related condition which prevents such individual from traveling to a boarding location or from a disembarking location on such (a transit) system... (ii) Architectural barriers not under the control of the (transit system) and environmental barriers (e.g., distance, terrain, weather) do not, standing alone, form a basis for eligibility...if the effect is to prevent the individual from traveling to a boarding location or from a disembarking location...

This section refers to a person's ability to travel to and from a bus stop.

EXAMPLE

Persons whose disability prevents them from traveling on uneven surfaces might be eligible for TARC3 Transportation when there is this type of terrain between them and the TARC bus stop they need to use.

APPLICATION PROCESS SUMMARY

TARC appreciates your interest in TARC3 Transportation.

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) is very specific as to whom and under what circumstances eligibility may be granted to use paratransit transportation. A brief summary can be found on pps. 1 – 2 of the enclosed application. Paratransit eligibility cannot be automatically assumed because of a disability. It is important to realize that eligibility decisions are based on the TARC3 applicant's ability or inability to use TARC's public bus system, rather than on a medical condition. For this reason, recommendations from medical professionals will not automatically qualify an applicant for TARC3 eligibility.

Enclosed, you will find:

1. An Application for TARC3 Transportation. You or your designee must answer each question as completely as possible. Please provide a detailed explanation of how your disability makes it impossible for you to use TARC buses, all of which are wheelchair-accessible. Then please sign and date the last page of the application.
2. TARC3 Medical Form. Please have your doctor or healthcare provider complete and sign this form.

When the TARC3 Application and Medical Form have been completed, please submit them **together** to the TARC3 Transportation Dept. Incomplete applications or medical forms will be returned, delaying the application process.

(An in-house eligibility screening and/or a functional assessment may also be required of the TARC3 applicant before an eligibility decision is made).