

175 W. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1550
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rtachicago.org

Transit Benefit Fare Program: Communication Toolkit

Overview

P.A. 103-291 (Mah-Villivalam) expanded the pre-tax Transit Benefit Fare Program and similar programs to certain workplaces across Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. The law requires all employers with 50 or more full-time employees and within one mile of fixed-route transit service – such as a CTA or Metra station, as well as CTA and Pace bus stops – to offer transit benefits by January 1, 2024. The RTA is available to assist employers in the enrollment process at www.mytransitbenefit.com.

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What is the Transit Benefit Fare Program?

The program allows employees to withhold up to \$315 in pre-tax wages each month to purchase transit fare. The average participant in the program saves up to 40% on the cost of their commute, and employers enrolled in the program can see nearly [8% in payroll tax savings](#).

How do employers sign up?

The pre-tax transit benefit program is offered by a variety of human resources and payroll firms and can otherwise be enrolled into by an employer. If an employer doesn't currently offer a transit benefit program, they can learn more and sign up for the program administered by RTA at www.mytransitbenefit.com. Enroll in the [RTA Transit Benefit Fare Program](#) by June 30, 2024, using the promo code TRANSIT2024 and your first three months of administrative fees will be waived.

Not sure if your business is in the coverage area? RTA has published a [searchable map](#) to assist the business community.

Where can I learn more?

RTA published a detailed [blog post](#) with more information for both employers and employees. Please feel free to share this post on your social media channels and tag the RTA.

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Sample Social Media Posts

Sample Posts for Facebook

[POST 1] Looking to save on your commute? Employers near transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program, offering their employees up to 40% savings on the cost of their daily commute. Learn more at **@ChicagoRTA** or www.mytransitbenefit.com.

[POST 2] Attention business owners! Businesses with 50+ full-time employees and within one mile of transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program like **@ChicagoRTA**. The program can save your business nearly 8% in payroll taxes, allowing you to invest in your growth. Learn more and enroll early at www.mytransitbenefit.com.

[POST 3] Employers near transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program, saving their business on administrative costs and offering workers better ways to commute. Employers who enroll through **@ChicagoRTA** before June 30 using promo code TRANSIT2024 can save on their first three months of fees. Enroll online at www.mytransitbenefit.com.

Sample Posts for X

[POST 1] Looking to save on your commute? Employers near transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program, offering their employees up to 40% savings on the cost of their daily commute. Learn more at **@RTA_Chicago** or www.mytransitbenefit.com.

[POST 2] Attention business owners! Businesses within 1 mile of transit with 50+ full-time employees are now required to offer a transit benefit program like **@RTA_Chicago**. The program can save your business nearly 8% in payroll taxes. Enroll early at www.mytransitbenefit.com.

[POST 3] Employers near transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program. Employers who enroll through **@RTA_Chicago** before June 30 using

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promo code TRANSIT2024 can save on their first three months of fees. Enroll online at www.mytransitbenefit.com.

Sample Posts for Instagram

[POST 1] Looking to save on your commute? Employers near transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program, offering their employees up to 40% savings on the cost of their daily commute. Learn more by visiting the link in our bio or at **@rta_chicago**. [Add this link to your bio: www.mytransitbenefit.com]

[POST 2] Attention business owners! Businesses with 50+ full-time employees and within one mile of transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program. The program can save your business nearly 8% in payroll taxes, allowing you to invest in your growth. Learn more by visiting the link in our bio or at **@rta_chicago**. [Add this link to your bio: www.mytransitbenefit.com]

[POST 3] Employers near transit are now required to offer a transit benefit program, saving their business on administrative costs and offering workers better ways to commute. Employers who enroll through **@rta_chicago** before June 30 using promo code TRANSIT2024 can save on their first three months of fees. Enroll online at the link in our bio. [Add this link to your bio: www.mytransitbenefit.com]

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Sample e-Newsletter

Good news for commuters – a new law brings [transit benefit programs](#) to more workplaces than ever before. These programs offer both employers and employees savings and help promote transit as a first choice for regional travel.

Employers with 50 or more full-time employees located within a mile of fixed-route transit service inside the six-county [Regional Transportation Authority \(RTA\)](#) region – such as a CTA or Metra station, as well as a CTA and Pace bus stops – are now required to offer their workers these benefits. New hires are eligible after 120 days of employment. Because of the pre-tax nature of the program, enrolled companies can see up to **7.65% in [payroll tax savings](#)**.

Under the program offered by the RTA, full-time employees may elect to withhold up to \$315 in pre-tax wages each month to purchase transit fare – broadening their commute horizons to bus, rail, vanpool, and more. **The average participant saves up to 40% on the cost of their commute.** These benefits can come in the form of either a reloadable prepaid MasterCard or loaded directly to an existing Ventra or Pace Vanpool account. While not required by the legislation, riders with an existing transit benefit account may also reserve up to \$315 in additional pre-tax dollars each month for parking at any CTA, Metra, or Pace Park & Ride station, as well as other qualified parking garages and spaces reserved on mobile apps.

Not sure if your place of business is in the coverage area? The RTA has published a [searchable map](#) to assist the business community in implementing the Transit Benefit Program Act. Employers who enroll in the RTA Transit Benefit Fare Program can see their first three months of administrative fees waived by using promo code **TRANSIT2024** through June 30, 2024. Learn more and enroll at www.mytransitbenefit.com.

About the RTA

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is the unit of local government created to oversee finances, secure funding, and to conduct transit planning for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, and Pace. The RTA also issues Reduced Fare and Ride Free permits, assesses eligibility for ADA Paratransit service, and oversees specialized travel training for people with disabilities and older adults. We service the Northeast Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

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