

# ADA Paratransit Types

## Types of Eligibility

There are three types of ADA Paratransit eligibility:

Unconditional  
Eligibility

Conditional  
Eligibility

Temporary  
Eligibility

## Unconditional Eligibility

Unconditional eligibility provides paratransit service for all trips. A rider is granted unconditional eligibility when it is not reasonable to use the fixed route service **under any circumstances**.

**Example:** Patrick is a former firefighter who has difficulties with cognition and emotional self-regulation following a traumatic brain injury he suffered in an explosion. Patrick is approved for ADA Paratransit under Category 1 and is granted unconditional eligibility as he must use paratransit service for all trips.

Patrick volunteers three days per week at the Fraternal Order of Firefighters. ADA Paratransit service enables him to make the trip to the center independently.

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## Conditional Eligibility

Conditional eligibility provides paratransit service on some, but not all, trips. A rider is granted conditional eligibility when they may reasonably be expected to make some trips on the fixed-route service independently, but not all trips. Not all paratransit riders require paratransit service for every trip. Of all paratransit riders, 30-45% require paratransit service only under certain conditions.

To determine an individual as conditionally eligible, **all conditions** that affect travel must be considered. In ADA compliance reviews, the Federal Transit Administration concluded that some transit providers did not adequately consider path-of-travel barriers, weather, and other possible issues when setting conditional eligibility determinations.

**Example:** Mara rides the city bus to the community college where she teaches. Mara has a chronic health condition called Multiple Sclerosis (MS). During MS flare-ups, Mara experiences physical challenges. Her usual bus route is not accessible at these times due to the distance from the bus stop to her building. Mara's building is also at the top of a hill. Mara is approved for ADA Paratransit under Category 3 and **granted conditional eligibility**. At times she will ride the fixed route system, and other times use ADA Paratransit.

Accessible  
to All

Prior to the passage of the ADA, many disability activists worked tirelessly for a system accessible to all- not segregated systems. Choosing the fixed-route transit system whenever possible ensures our city bus systems are integrated and have sustainable ridership.

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## Temporary Eligibility

The ADA permits temporary eligibility for people with disabilities that prevent them from using the fixed-route system for a limited period.

**Example #1:** Leo is using paratransit under temporary eligibility following surgery. Leo plans to resume driving once he is recovered.

**Example #2:** Gwen is awaiting surgery for meningioma, a benign brain tumor. Due to frequent seizures until her surgery, she uses paratransit under temporary eligibility.