

Local Senior Resources

Home Modification

Action Housing

www.actionhousing.org

412-281-2102

Allegheny County Accessibility Program, serves people of all ages with permanent disabilities requiring accessibility modifications to their home or apartment. Allegheny County residents can apply for free accessibility modifications.

Hosanna Industries

www.hosannaindustries.org

724-770-0262

Provides construction services (including disability access improvements) for needy qualified low-income households as well as disaster relief services.

Pennsylvania Access Grant Program

www.newpa.com/default.aspx?id=223

Southwest Regional Office: 412-565-5002

Provides grants to eligible applicants (redevelopment authorities and municipalities) to help low- and moderate-income persons with permanent disabilities increase accessibility to their homes.

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency - Access Home Modification Program

www.phfa.org/default.aspx

412-429-2842

Provides mortgage loans to assist persons with disabilities or who have a family member (s) living in the household with disabilities who are purchasing a home that needs accessibility modifications. This program provides a deferred payment loan, with no interest, and no monthly payment. The loan becomes due and payable upon payoff of the first mortgage, sale, transfer, refinance or non-owner occupancy of the property.

Pittsburgh Project

www.pittsburghproject.org

412-321-1678

Provides minor repairs, including painting, drywall, and gardening for the owner-occupied homes of those who physically or financially cannot do the work for themselves. Focus is on elderly.

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh

www.rtpittsburgh.org

412-922-0953

Provides free emergency repair services twelve months a year to qualifying homeowners in Allegheny County. Certified contractors are employed to complete modest projects such as plumbing leaks, furnace repairs, roofing repairs, minor electrical issues and safety modifications. Services based on funding availability.

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

www.ura.org

412-255-6600

Home Accessibility Program for Independence-Grants and low interest loans to make homes accessible for people with disabilities. Eligible borrowers are low and moderate income City of Pittsburgh homeowners or renters with disabilities, and landlords undertaking modifications for income-qualified disabled tenants.

Transportation

Port Authority

Senior citizens age 65 or over who present a Pennsylvania Senior Citizen ID Card or a Medicare card at the time of fare payment are entitled to ride for free on the bus, T or Mon Incline at all times. You must apply in person at the Stephen Foster Center, 286 Main St.

When applying, you must present one of the following as proof of age:

- Photo driver's license
- Birth certificate
- Armed forces discharge or separation papers
- Baptismal certificate
- PACE ID card
- Passport or naturalization papers
- Pennsylvania ID Card

- A statement of age from the U.S. Social Security Administration

The Senior Citizen ID Card will be mailed directly to your home.

Older Persons Transportation (OPT)

- Visit a [senior center](#) to sign up
- 412-350-5460
- Persons 60 through 64 years have some medical travel privileges
- Limits on locations and usage
- Riders pay a fee
- [Learn more](#)

OPT Provides

- Service Monday through Friday, and Sunday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Door-to-door service at minimal cost
 - Help getting on and off vehicle
 - Help up and down steps (four or fewer)
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Types of Trips

- Adult day services
 - Grocery shopping
 - Medical appointments
 - [Senior center](#)
 - Senior Companion Program
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Trip Limitations

Adult day services

- Rider must
 - be an Area Agency on Aging Options Care Managed Participant and
 - have approval for adult day services

Medical trips

- Those on Medical Assistance - must use MATP [Learn more](#)
- Age 60 through 64 - must get prior approval through the Allegheny County DHS Area Agency on Aging
- Age 65 and older - two roundtrips per month
- More than two maintenance-therapy trips (e.g. dialysis, chemo, physical) may be authorized

Grocery shopping trips

- For groups of four or more to same location
 - Shop for one hour
 - Limit of four bags per person
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Registration

1. Go to a [senior center](#)
 2. Present your medical insurance card and one proof of age
 - Driver's License
 - Birth Certificate
 - PACE Card Passport
 - Military Discharge Papers
 - Resident Alien Card
 - Immigration/Naturalization
 - Social Security Age-verification Letter (1-800-772-1213)
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Pay for OPT

- Create an electronic "E-Purse" account
 - Put funds into your E-Purse account by check, money order or on-line
 - Your OPT fare (see below) is deducted when you schedule your trip
 - Call 412-562-5385 for more information
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Schedule a Ride

You must be registered to ride. See "Registration" above

- Call your local carrier before 3:00 p.m., one weekday before your trip. (Friday for a Monday trip)
- Provide
 - Your full name, address and phone number
 - Trip details
 - Date/time of appointment
 - Pick up time (allow at least one hour for delays)
 - Address of destination
(Doctor's name and phone number, if applicable)
 - Return time (or "will call," before 5:00 p.m., if uncertain)
 - List of your special needs
 - use a wheelchair
 - need special help
 - have an escort for medical trips

NOTE: Rides to senior centers can be schedule by calling the [center](#) directly

OPT Pick-ups

- Be ready to leave 10 minutes before your scheduled pickup time
- Drivers will wait only five minutes for you to come out
- Wait at least 20 minutes after scheduled pick-up or 30 minutes from "will call" before calling
- After waiting, call 412-562-5385 to verify vehicle's whereabouts

- In case of hazardous weather
 - Service may be halted
 - Every effort will be made to complete life-sustaining medical trips
 - Keep the path between your door and the street clear of snow and ice
 - Drivers may not stop for you if the path is not safe

Cancellations and No-shows

- Call at least one hour before your scheduled pick-up time to cancel
- "No-show" will be recorded if the vehicle arrived but you were not there
- Repeated "no-shows" may result in loss of your OPT privileges

OPT Fares (Effective July 1, 2014)

Individual Trips (65 yrs/over)	
Doctor's Visits	\$2.10
Therapy	\$2.10
Adult Day Care	\$2.10
Chemo/Radiation	\$2.10
Dialysis	\$2.10
Senior Companions	\$2.10
Escorts for medical trips	FREE

Individual Trips (60-64 yrs)

Doctor's Visits	\$5.25
Therapy	\$5.25
Adult Day Care	\$5.25
Chemo/Radiation	\$5.25
Dialysis	\$5.25
Senior Companions	\$5.25
Escorts for medical trips	FREE

Group Trips	
SeniorCenter/Lunch	\$1.10
SeniorCenter/ Group Trips	\$1.10
Grocery Shopping	\$1.10

More Information

Older Persons Transportation (OPT) is a shared-ride service sponsored by the DHS Area Agency on Aging (AAA). ACCESS Transportation Systems, Inc. provides OPT service through contracts with local transportation companies. To learn more about Older Persons Transportation and other services for older adults, please call AAA at 412-350-5460.

ACCESS 65 Plus

- Visit a [senior center](#) to sign up OR
- Call 412-562-5353 or TDD 1-800-654-5984 to get an application
- There are no limits on location (within 1.5 miles of Allegheny County) or usage
- Riders pay a fee
- [Learn more](#)

ACCESS Paratransit

ACCESS is door-to-door, advance reservation, shared ride-transportation provided throughout Port Authority's service area, serving primarily senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Service is provided from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, and at such other times and places that Port Authority fixed route service is in operation. There are no restrictions on the purpose or number of trips which may be taken by riders, except that riders are required to share their vehicle with others traveling in the same direction and at the same time.

ACCESS is sponsored by Port Authority of Allegheny County and is operated by Transdev Services, Inc. doing business as ACCESS Transportation Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Transdev, Inc. (formerly known as Veolia Transportation, Inc.).

Contact Information

ACCESS Transportation Systems, Inc.
412-562-5353

650 Smithfield Street
Centre City Tower, Suite 440
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Service Area

ACCESS serves all of Allegheny County as well as points 1.5 miles outside the county line.

How to Ride

To make a reservation for ACCESS service, call 412-562-5353. All reservations must be made at least one day in advance by calling between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. You may call on Friday for Saturday, Sunday or Monday reservations, but this is not required. Trips may be ordered up to 14 days in advance.

Standing orders may be placed once and kept on file, as long as the trip has the same pickup and return times and destination, three days per week. A cancellation rate of more than 50 percent may result in cancellation of the standing order. Standing orders are automatically canceled on major holidays.

Is ACCESS for me?

Disability alone does not create eligibility; the decision is based on the applicant's functional ability to use the bus and is not a medical decision. At the same time, unavailability of fixed route service does not constitute eligibility.

All persons seeking eligibility for the ACCESS ADA Program must appear in person at the ACCESS office for evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the applicant can ever use Port Authority fixed route service, even after training, and if not, what specific circumstances create a barrier to the applicant's independent use of Port Authority fixed route service.

ACCESS Fares

Fares vary according to eligibility and distance traveled. For more information, call ACCESS at 412-562-5353.

Registering a Complaint with ACCESS

Complaints must be registered directly with ACCESS, not with the local carrier providing your service. You may file a complaint by telephone, in writing or in person at the ACCESS office.

Food

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Voucher Day

Citiparks Healthy Active Living Centers will participate in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program benefits eligible seniors who want to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables from nearby farms.

Eligible seniors may receive \$20.00 (4 Checks/\$5.00 each) to use at local farmers' markets. ***The checks (1 distributed on a first come, first served basis.***

Checks will be distributed to eligible seniors on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 9-11 am & 1-3 pm at the Citiparks Healthy Active Living Centers.

Eligibility Requirements: Allegheny County resident; 60 years of age and older; meet income guidelines of at or below (for 2012) \$21,257 for a one person household; or \$28,694 for a two person household. Eligible couples may each receive one set of checks.

To participate: Locate your nearest Citiparks check distribution site by looking on the City's website: www.pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/senior-community-centers or by contacting the City of Pittsburgh Active Living Program at 412.422.6405; Plan to visit the distribution site on June 18 during the advertised time. Bring identification that includes proof of AGE and RESIDENCY (photo not required).

[Information Poster](#) 

Please Note: If an eligible consumer cannot attend the distribution due to a physical disability, a proxy is allowed to use the checks at farmers' markets for the eligible senior. First, a PROXY FORM must be completed by the individual and presented at the distribution site.

[Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Proxy Form](#) *

*Proxy forms are also available at participating senior centers, the Area Agency on Aging website, and on the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture website.

For more information, contact Citiparks Healthy Active Living Program at 412-422-6405.

SNAP Benefits

Eligibility

Resources

Households may have \$2,250 in countable resources, such as a bank account, or \$3,250 in countable resources if at least one person is age 60 or older, or is disabled.

Income

Household Size	Gross monthly income (130 percent of poverty)	Net monthly income (100 percent of poverty)
1	\$1,265	\$ 973