

## Paratransit Opportunities in Ithaca: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit

Planning on hosting a visitor on campus that needs assistance with mobility? Local ADA Paratransit may be able to help. It provides complementary, door-to-door transport service for people who are not able to ride the fixed-route system due to a disability. ADA Paratransit serves the areas of Tompkins County that currently receive public transit through Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc. (TCAT)- with the goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to transit to meet basic mobility needs.

To use the ADA Paratransit program, you must apply for an eligibility certification from TCAT. You can contact the ADA office at 277-9388 x420 for an application. To be considered eligible for ADA Paratransit, you must meet one of three eligibility requirements.

1. Individuals who are unable to board, ride or disembark from a lift-equipped transit vehicle on the regular fixed-route system without the assistance of another person. Among others, this category includes people with physical and cognitive impairments who are prevented by their disability from learning to navigate the system.
2. Individuals who are able to board, ride or disembark from a lift-equipped transit vehicle, but the fixed route on which they travel is not 100% accessible.
3. Individuals with a specific impairment-related condition that prevents them from getting to or from a bus stop location.

Once the applicant is considered eligible for ADA complementary paratransit services, they are assigned an eligibility category (Unconditional, Conditional, Trip-by-trip, Temporary, or not eligible) that is consistent with the applicant's ability to use the regular fixed- route service. If you have documentation of a disability but are not ADA certified, you can use the program for up to 21 days until you receive certification.

ADA Paratransit operates the same hours as the TCAT and requires reservations at least one day prior to the day of travel. To get your exact pick-up time, you must call Gadabout (273-1878) between 3-4:30 pm the afternoon before or on the morning of your scheduled trip. Drivers will pick you up within 15 minutes of your exact pick-up time and will wait for five minutes before considering you a no-show. Eligible ADA passengers are allowed one guest for the appropriate fare, and Personal Care Attendants (PCA) are allowed for no additional fare.



Happy traveling! For more information check out <https://tcatbus.com/ada/ada-complementary-paratransit/ada-paratransit-info-guide/>