# Office for People with Disabilities

When it comes to providing opportunities to people with disabilities, Westchester County is committed to doing everything it can. The Office for People with Disabilities is here to answer your questions, provide assistance or direct you to resources.

Office for People with Disabilities

he Westchester
County Office for
People with
Disabilities acts as
a clearinghouse of
information for persons with
disabilities, their families and
advocates. This includes serving
as the Americans with Disabilities
Act (ADA) Coordinator for
Westchester County in regards to
compliance with State and Federal
laws which prohibit discrimination
based on disability. In addition,
the office manages ParaTransit,
an origin-to-destination and curbto-curb transportation service for
people with disabilities in
Westchester County.

# OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

#### Areas of Focus

#### **EDUCATION & ADVOCACY**

- The Americans with Disabilities Act https://www.ada.gov
- File a Complaint https://disabled.westchestergov.com
- ADA National Network | Information, Guidance and Training on the Americans with Disabilities Act https://www.adata.org

The Americans with Disabilities Act provides advocacy and referrals for those experiencing discrimination due to their disability. The Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities works directly with residents to ensure they have full equal access to all businesses and facilities, accessible parking, access to fair housing and reasonable accommodations in an employment setting.

## . Disability Resource Guide

The Disability Resource Guide is a one-stop-shop of services and programs available in Westchester County, categorized by disability or disability service that align with your needs.

## Westchester Employment Network

The Westchester Employment Network is a connective service between employers and people with disabilities providing them vocational services and employment opportunities.

# • Disability Awareness Program

The Disability Awareness Program details a day in the life of individuals with disabilities. The Program is available in school districts, colleges, graduate schools and camps in Westchester County.

#### Sign Language Interpreting

Those in need of a sign language interpreter can call the Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities for referral and advocacy services.

#### TRANSPORTATION

#### Bee-Line ParaTransit

Bee-Line ParaTransit is a shared transportation, curbto-curb, origin-to-destination service available to people with disabilities in Westchester County.

#### . B.E.A.T. Plus "Be Educated About Transit"

This program brings hands-on travel skills into special education life skills classrooms. It teaches students the skills needed to ride public transportation in a safe and responsible manner.

# Reduced Fare Service for the Bee-Line Bus Disabled Riders

People with disabilities may travel the Bee-Line Bus system at a reduced fare in conjunction with the Metro Card Reduced Fare System.

#### **EVENTS**

 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

October celebrates the many successes of people with disabilities who are employed.

#### The Miracle League of Westchester

A baseball league for children and adults with disabilities located at Miracle League Field at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale.

#### · A Day at Playland for People with Disabilities

A special day in July for individuals with disabilities and their families to enjoy free rides and entertainment at Playland.



For more information and a complete list of resources please visit us at:

https://disabled.westchestergov.com or call us at (914) 995-2957

Office for People with Disabilities Room 102 148 Martine Avenue White Plains, NY 10601







George Latimer, County Executive Evan Latainer, Director Office for People with Disabilities

Bee-Line Paratransit Transfer Policy

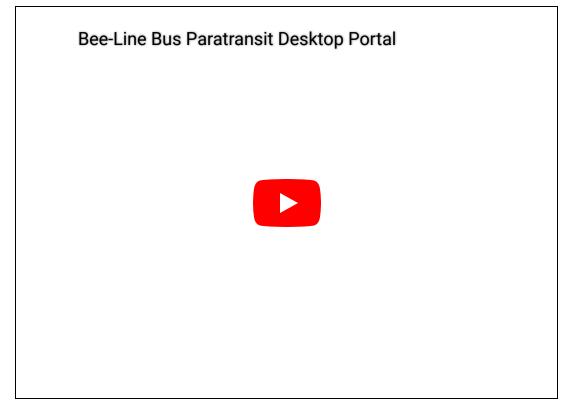
Read the <u>Bee-Line ParaTransit Mobile App Frequently Asked Questions (https://transportation.westchestergov.com/bee-line-paratransit)</u>, from the <u>Sept. 28, 2022 letter from the Office of Disabilities and the Department of Transportation</u> \_.

<u>Sign up for the "Out & About" Newsletter (/index.php?option=com\_rsform&view=rsform&formId=3)</u> from the Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities to stay informed, and get involved in exciting opportunities throughout Westchester County.

ParaTransit: Rider Smart Phone App

Please email <u>Parahelp@westchestergov.com</u> <u>with any inquiries or requests for new self service accounts, or with updates to phone numbers and email addresses in order to use the Bee-Line System online reservation system and mobile app. Remember to include your full name, Client ID, updated phone numbers and a valid email address.</u>

Planning your trip with Westchester County ParaTransit is going to get much easier, with the transition to a Rider Smart phone application beginning Tuesday Aug. 16, 2022. Read the official department letter  $\Box$  that outlines the new phone application that allows riders to quickly and easily book a trip and get real-time updates about their respective trips through their phone. Download the Rider Smart phone application brochure  $\Box$  for a quick overview on using the app. Read the in-depth guide with instructions  $\Box$  about how to download and use the new Bee-line System Mobile App.



Westchester County's ParaTransit Smart Phone App Facebook Live

How to Use the ParaTransit Smart Phone App

# **COVID-19 updates**

All Paratransit interviews will be waived until further notice due to COVID-19. If you have any questions to please contact Anna Masopust at (914) 995-2959.

## **Health Department updates**

Use the coronavirus menu item in the main menu to access information on testing, contact tracing and other protocols regarding COVID-19.

# **ParaTransit**

The ParaTransit system is available for those who cannot use regular buses. Reservations are required in order to use the service and can only be made for those who have been pre-approved to use the service. <u>Get the application form and review the process.</u> (<a href="http://transportation.westchestergov.com/bee-line/paratransit">http://transportation.westchestergov.com/bee-line/paratransit</a>)

# **ParaTransit Car Service**

The Bee-Line offers a car service program in addition to the traditional ParaTransit program. Earlier this year, the service was <u>expanded to selected areas (https://disabled.westchestergov.com/paratransit-eligibility/car-service)</u> of Westchester County and continues to operate.

# **ParaTransit Fare**

The regular ParaTransit and Car Service fare is \$5 per one-way trip. All fares can be paid using exact cash or a ticket. Only blue tickets are accepted. For further information, call (914) 995-7272.

# **Equal Access Westchester**

Equal Access Westchester promotes accessibility for people with disabilities throughout Westchester County. It is a unique partnership between the Westchester Independent Living Center and four Westchester County organizations. The <a href="Equal Access Westchester Web site">Equal Access Westchester Web site</a>  $\Box$  provides information on accessible transportation, dining, shopping, lodging, and recreation venues in Westchester County; ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) information; tax incentives for businesses; and Westchester County's Livable Communities Initiative.

# **Disability Resource guide**

The office maintains an <u>online, comprehensive Disability Resource Guide (/disability-resource-guide)</u> to provide people with disabilities, their families and caregivers a convenient and accessible means of finding services throughout Westchester County.

# Special needs registry

If you, or someone you know, might require additional assistance to leave home during an emergency, consider registering with the <u>Special Needs Registry</u>  $\Box$ . The registry is for individuals with physical or mental cognitive disabilities who live on their own. The database will be provided to local municipalities to use in their emergency planning efforts.

# Sign language interpreters

The Office for People with Disabilities arranges for <u>sign language interpreters</u> (/medical-and-support-services/sign-language-interpreters), works with municipalities to provide <u>accessible parking stickers</u> (/transit-info/handicapped-parking-permit-issuing-agents), and hosts various events such as the Annual Achievement Awards Breakfast and Annual Day at Playland in June.

# Miracle League

The county's first baseball field, designed specifically for kids with disabilities, is located at Ridge Road Park (<a href="http://parks.westchestergov.com/ridge-road-park">http://parks.westchestergov.com/ridge-road-park</a>) in Hartsdale. The field is the result of a partnership between Westchester County and the Miracle League (/publications-and-resources/miracle-league-baseball), a national non-profit organization, which aims to make baseball accessible to every child, regardless of disability. Additionally, 500 plus adults are able to play on the special, rubberized turf field in the Miracle Adult League.

The office also ensures that the county is in compliance with the <u>Americans with Disabilities Act</u>  $\Box$  that guarantees basic civil rights to everyone.