



Chicago Executive Airport QuieterHome® Program

FAQ

QuieterHome® Program Overview

1. What is the QuieterHome® Program?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined that certain homes around Chicago Executive Airport-PWK may be eligible for sound insulation improvements to minimize aircraft noise inside the home. Chicago Executive Airport, working with the FAA and C&S Engineers, created the QuieterHome® Program to administer these improvements.

2. How does it work? Who pays for the QuieterHome® Program?

The FAA and Chicago Executive Airport fund the entire cost of the program. The FAA funds 90 percent of the cost, and the Airport pays the remaining 10 percent. No local tax dollars are used to pay for this program, and residents will not have to pay for upgrades to their home.

3. Why does Chicago Executive Airport need a QuieterHome® Program?

Chicago Executive Airport is the fourth-largest airport in Illinois, a responsible operator and good community partner. After receiving feedback from neighbors about sound levels near the airport, Chicago Executive Airport launched a years-long effort to improve the quality of life for members of the community. The QuieterHome® Program is the most active sound mitigation initiative happening at airports across the country.

4. Who is managing the QuieterHome® Program for Chicago Executive Airport?

Chicago Executive Airport has contracted with C&S Companies to manage the program. Penny Merritt serves as the full-time administrator and is available by appointment only to answer questions. Penny can be reached by email at pmerritt@cscos.com or by phone at (847) 947-8392.



Eligibility and Testing

5. Who is eligible for the QuieterHome® Program?

In 2018, Chicago Executive Airport hired the engineering firm Mead & Hunt to perform a sound study. This study determined the exterior sound levels of the surrounding community and identified a noise contour of all the residential properties that experienced a 65 decibel day/night average sound level. This means the noise outside the home experienced an average of 65 decibels throughout a 24-hour period. All residential properties located on or within the contour map are eligible to be individually tested to confirm sound levels.

Our noise consultant, HMMH -- an international leader in environmental and transportation planning, including noise and vibration control – will then perform interior noise testing. If the interior noise level tests at 45 decibels or higher, the home will receive sound improvements.

6. How can I determine if I am eligible?

If you believe you qualify or need more information, please call or visit our Residential Sound Insulation Program office:

Residential Sound Insulation Program office
204 Industrial Lane
Wheeling, IL 60090
Email: pmerritt@cscos.com
Phone: (847) 947-8392

7. How many homes are eligible for testing?

The number of residential properties eligible for interior sound testing is dependent on FAA criteria and the scope of the contour map developed in the 2018 study by engineering firm. Chicago Executive Airport is required to perform a new sound study every five years to maintain sound insulation program eligibility, and the contour map could change. The contour was recently updated and provided to the FAA for their acceptance. As of today, the contour includes approximately 2,800 single-family/multi-family homes in Wheeling and Prospect Heights

8. How are you determining who gets tested and when?

Testing will be broken up into annual phases, and we expect to complete testing, design and construction on up to 40-50 homes per year.

The introductory or Pilot Phase was completed in the Spring of 2022. Future rounds of testing, design and construction will prioritize residential properties in the most noise impacted areas. However, we are also prioritizing homes based on the application submission dates.



9. Why are you only doing testing, design and construction on 40 homes per year?

Based on PWK's budget, it has been determined that we can sound insulate 40-50 single-family/multi-family units per year. This will include noise testing, design and construction.

10. How is the interior testing conducted?

Our noise consultant, HMMH -- an international leader in environmental and transportation planning, including noise and vibration control -- uses a simulated noise source set to a 100 decibel level. When the noise source is turned on, HMMH takes noise measurements inside and outside the residential property. Homes that test at 45 decibels or higher will be offered sound insulation treatments.

11. What sorts of equipment will be installed in homes that qualify?

Sound mitigation can be achieved through some combination of window and door replacement and installation of a positive ventilation system.

The Program will provide homeowners with color choices for their window selections and existing window styles will be matched. There may be individual circumstances, due to manufacturing restrictions with sizing, where existing styles may not be able to be matched. Homeowners will be given several style choices for prime and storm doors.

More Information

12. How can I stay informed about the progress of QuieterHome® Program?

There are a number of ways to keep up to date with the status of the QuieterHome® Program:

- Chicago Executive Airport hosts quarterly updates on the program in the airport's administrative offices. These meetings are open to the public. Visit the airport website at chiexec.com to learn more.
- A mailed newsletter will be delivered quarterly to all residents on or within the noise contour.
- Residents can contact the project office anytime with questions or for more information at (847) 947-8392 or email project manager Penny Merritt at pmerritt@cscos.com.