



American Academy of Dermatology

SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM





APPLY FOR A SHADE STRUCTURE GRANT

Thank you for your interest in the American Academy of Dermatology's (AAD) Shade Structure Grant Program. This informational toolkit will provide you with program information and guide you through the grant application process.



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The American Academy of Dermatology's (AAD) Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants to public schools and non-profit organizations for the installation of permanent shade structures to cover outdoor areas not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools or recreation spaces. Each shade structure grant is valued at a maximum of \$8,000, which includes the cost of a shade structure and installation. The number of grants depends on the availability of funding each year. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign to be installed near the shade structure and features sun-safety tips.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The Shade Structure Grant Program is open to non-profit organizations that provide services, programs and curricula to children ages 18 and younger, and demonstrate a commitment to sun-safety and skin cancer prevention/awareness. Examples of outdoor locations that are eligible for grant funds can include, but are not limited to, playgrounds, pool decks, ball field dugouts, eating areas, etc.

To be considered, applicants must:

- Be a non-profit organization or public school.
- Provide services for children ages 18 and younger.
- Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to sun-safety/skin cancer awareness by teaching sun-safety in the classrooms, practicing healthy sun habits while outside and making a commitment to educating the youth on the dangers of UV rays and skin cancer prevention.
- This awareness program can utilize the AAD's Good Skin Knowledge Lesson Plans, materials developed from other organizations or original content developed specifically for your target audience.
- Sun-safety/skin cancer awareness program must be in place for at least one year prior to grant application.
- Obtain a letter of recommendation from an AAD member dermatologist. (Locate an AAD member dermatologist by using the Find a Dermatologist link on the AAD's website, aad.org.)
- Be considering a shade structure that meets the stringent shade requirements of the AAD.



SHADE STRUCTURE CRITERIA

A shade structure is defined by the AAD as being a permanent structure with a roof made of protective materials, such as textile, fabric, metal or wood, and supported by permanent columns or posts. Grant recipients are able to select the size and type of the structure that best fits their outdoor location and meets the AAD's shade structure criteria.

The manufacturer or contractor must design and install a shade structure that meets the following criteria:

- The shade structure must be a permanent structure with a roof constructed of shade cloth, metal or wood and provide significant protection from ultraviolet radiation (UVR).
- Cloth/Textile roof structures:
 - Shade cloth or roof structures must include documentation about the percentage of UVR that will be blocked by the fabric or the Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF).
 - The AAD recommends fabric that provides a UPF of 30 or above, which is approximately 96.7% of UVR blocked.
 - If a UPF value cannot be determined for the fabric style and color you have selected, you will be asked to choose a shade structure roof material which blocks a percentage of UVR closest to this recommended percentage.
 - Grant recipients must provide the manufacturer's specification documents showing the UVR-blocking properties and test method. The AAD recommends that shade cloth meet U.S. standards for UPF testing and labeling of UV-protective textiles (AATCC 183; ASTM D6603).
- Hard-top roof structures:
 - Hard-top roof structures, either wood or metal, will block 100% of direct UVR and do not require documentation about the UVR blockage.

If the shade structure that your organization is considering does not meet the criteria above, please do not complete an application. Examples of ineligible shade structures include: slat-roof structures, slat-roof/trellis gazebos, trellis roofs designed for future plant coverage, shade trees, small cap-roof structures for pieces of playground equipment.



APPLY ONLINE

Applicants must submit their application online when applying for a shade structure grant. Mailed submissions will not be considered. To find out when the next grant application process will begin and to access the online application, please visit <http://www.aad.org/ssp>.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following items must be submitted when applying for a shade structure grant:

- Shade Structure Grant Program online application, which in an essay form, a description of your sun-safety program will be described.

Items to be uploaded to application:

- Two (2) full-color photographs of the area to be shaded.
- AAD member letter of recommendation.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are awarded a grant you **must** have your structure installed by the deadline date otherwise you will forfeit your grant

AAD MEMBER RECOMMENDATION REQUIREMENTS

Each shade structure application must be recommended by an AAD member dermatologist. The recommending AAD member dermatologist can be from your city or surrounding area. To find an AAD member dermatologist in your area, please visit the AAD's Find a Dermatologist link at aad.org.

AAD member dermatologists are able to recommend more than one shade structure application. There is no financial obligation, or liability by an AAD member dermatologist recommending a shade structure application. In addition, the organization applying for a shade structure grant is under no obligation to refer patients to or promote the recommending AAD member dermatologist or practice.



The AAD member dermatologist must provide one letter of recommendation.

The letter should:

- Be placed on the AAD member dermatologist's office letterhead
- Provide the AAD member dermatologist's membership ID number
- Include the AAD member dermatologist's signature
- Be written by the AAD member dermatologist.
- Include how he/she knows your organization.
- Describe what he/she knows about our organization's current sun-safety/skin cancer awareness program, including his/her participation in such programs.
- Describe how he/she will be working with your organization in the future.
- Provide information about the area to be shaded, including whether or not he/she has visited the location.
- Include any additional information he/she would like to include about your organization, its sun-safety/skin cancer awareness program and/or your organization's need for shade.



SAMPLE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Place on
office letterhead

[INSERT DATE]

Dear AAD Shade Structure Program Review Committee:

I am very pleased to offer my letter of recommendation for the [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] to receive a shade structure grant.

Include description
of organization,
the outdoor area
to be shaded, the
organization's
current skin cancer
awareness program,
and how you
are/will work with
the organization to
promote sun-safety

[INSERT ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION]

- Describe the organization and the number of children and teenagers, including ages, gender, additional demographics, etc., who will be utilizing the shaded location.
- Describe the outdoor location to be shaded, how often it is used and the types of activities taking place there.
- Describe any sun-safety program(s) you have initiated for the organization or any sun-safety program(s) in which you have participated at the organization.
 - Describe how this program benefits the members of the organization.
 - Describe your volunteer efforts with the organization as part of the sun-safety program.
- Describe any future ways you will be working with the organization to promote sun safety.

I feel that [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] has demonstrated commitment to sun-safety through their existing sun-safety/skin cancer awareness programs and makes them an excellent candidate to receive a shade structure grant. Having a permanent shade structure will further [INSERT ORGANIZATIONS NAME]'s sun-safety/skin cancer awareness initiatives and provide protection and education opportunities for its members and faculty.

It is with this reason that I highly recommend [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] to be a recipient of the AAD's [YEAR] Shade Structure Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Include signature,
name and member
ID number.

- Current estimates are that **1** in **5** Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime
- Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old and the second most common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old.



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