

# 2024 MSPCA Bear-Proofing Assistance Program



**APPLY ONLINE:** [https://www.mspca.org/animal\\_protection/berkshire-bear-proofing-funding/](https://www.mspca.org/animal_protection/berkshire-bear-proofing-funding/)

In the Berkshires, conflicts with bears are a serious and frequent problem. Read our tips for mitigating bear conflicts ([mspca.org/animal\\_protection/about-black-bears/](https://www.mspca.org/animal_protection/about-black-bears/)). For advice specific to protecting bees and chickens, see MassWildlife's website ([mass.gov/info-details/protect-your-bees-and-chickens-from-black-bears](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/protect-your-bees-and-chickens-from-black-bears)).

Thanks to a grant from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation, the MSPCA is able to provide funding assistance for the purchase of bear-proof refuse receptacles in Berkshire County. Interested applicants can apply below.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** Any individual or entity in Berkshire County.

**WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?** A willingness to resolve problems non-lethally, a site that is conducive to bear-proof trash receptacle usage, and permission of property owner to install the receptacle(s).

**HOW DO I REQUEST ASSISTANCE?** Please fill out the below application. Online is preferred, but you can also email or mail a completed application to: [emagner@mspca.org](mailto:emagner@mspca.org) or MSPCA, Attn: Elizabeth Magner, 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130.

**HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE? IS THERE A DEADLINE?** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout 2024 until funding is exhausted. Requests will be considered in the order in which they are received, but financial need, the scope of the problem, and what has been tried already to resolve the problem will be taken into account as well. **Please note that recipients are generally expected to cover 25%-50% of the cost.** Most recipients select something from Bearicuda Bins though this is not required. Please check out their website to get a sense of how much receptacles cost and what options exist. (The Stealth 2 is very popular.)

**WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?** Please direct any questions to Elizabeth Magner, [emagner@mspca.org](mailto:emagner@mspca.org), 617-541-5104

# 2024 MSPCA Bear-Proofing Assistance Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of organization/business/municipality (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this program?

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Please describe the site and the bear conflict issues.

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Would your current refuse collector be able to work with bear-proof receptacles. (Most are.)

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Could you commit to providing us updates about how the receptacle is working, as well as before and after photos if possible?

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Anything else you'd like to add?

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