

Bear-Proofing Assistance Program



In the Berkshires, conflicts with bears are a serious and frequent problem. Thanks to a grant from the Nion Robert Thieriot Foundation, the MSPCA is able to provide funding assistance in the acquisition and installation of bear-proof trash receptacles in Berkshire County.

Who can participate? An 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 to receptacle. Some financial investment may be asked of the grant recipient. Additionally, a willingness to promote the collaboration with the MSPCA and the grant program is desired, as well as possible help to measure the impact of the device on conflicts.

How do I request assistance? Please email or mail a completed application (see next page) to emagner@mspca.org or MSPCA, Attn: Elizabeth Magner, 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130.

Funding amount: The amount of funding offered to each applicant will depend on the number of requests, the amount of each viable request, and the available funds.

Deadline: Requests will be accepted throughout 2021 until funding is exhausted. Requests will be considered in the order in which they are received, but financial need and the significance of the problem may play a role when funding is limited.

Please direct any questions to: emagner@mspca.org | 617-541-5104

Bear-Proofing Assistance Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of organization or business (if applicable): _____

How did you hear about this program?

Please describe the site and the bear conflict issues, as well as provide an estimate of how much funding assistance would be desired (e.g., 50%, 75%, etc.).

What have you tried so far to mitigate the problem and why do you think these methods haven't worked? Please be specific.

Who is affected by this bear problem? E.g., a whole neighborhood, a single property, visitors to a certain business or other establishment, etc. Please be specific.

What type and size trash receptacles are you **currently** using on your property? How many?

What type and size of **bear proof receptacle(s)** are needed for your property? How many are you applying for?

Who currently picks up your garbage (town, private company, etc.)? Would they be willing to work with the new bear proof receptacle(s)?

How would you be able to tell if the receptacle is effective (cameras, fewer sightings, less trash debris, etc.)?

Are you able to provide photos of bears on your property due to trash or photos of the aftermath of bear visitors?

Would you be willing to (1) promote this collaboration with the MSPCA and the funding assistance program (e.g., through social media posts), (2) occasionally touch base with us to let us know how the receptacle is working, (3) and provide photos if possible?
