

# BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program?

BMO is a strong supporter of the advancement of women. Since 2012, BMO has recognized the achievements and contributions of **over 200** women through the BMO Celebrating Women Program. In 2020, we had to cancel our in-person celebrations. However, to continue to support women during the pandemic, we created the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program. In collaboration with Deloitte, the Grant Program aims to provide an additional source of financial aid to women-owned businesses.

### What is the Grant Program focusing on this year?

This year our goal is to honour and celebrate women-owned businesses that are making an impact on the sustainability front. Sustainability is fundamental to BMO's Purpose to Boldly Grow the Good *in business and life*. We will be inviting women-owned businesses to submit an application demonstrating how their businesses are creating positive impacts, or minimizing negative impacts, for their customers, communities, employees and/or other stakeholders for a chance to receive grant money for their business. Impacts can be generated through an organization's policies, practices or products, where these advance sustainability objectives such as those of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

### What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people are able to enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 goals address a variety of global challenges including health, education, inequality, climate change and more. They stress the need for partnership between and amongst public and private sector institutions to achieve the goals. The SDGs were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

### How many grants will be awarded?

Ten (10) Canadian women-owned businesses will be selected to receive a Grant of \$10,000 (CAD), and an additional eight (8) Canadian women-owned businesses will be selected to receive a Grant of \$2,500 (CAD).

## Do I have to be a BMO customer to apply?

No, neither the applicant nor the business needs to have a banking relationship with BMO to apply.

## Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria in order to apply for a grant including:

### *The Applicant:*

- Is a resident of Canada, and
- Has reached the legal age of majority in their province or territory

### *The Business:*

- Is at least 51% owned or controlled by women or by individual(s) who self-identify as women,
- Is headquartered in Canada with a minimum 50% of revenue tied to business sales done in Canada,
- Is currently active and operating in Canada,
- Is a for-profit business with annual revenues of \$10 million CAD or less, and
- Has been in operation selling a product or service for a minimum of 2 years as of January 1, 2021

**NOTE:** Applicants who received a grant from the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program in 2020 are not eligible to participate in the 2021 program.

## How do I apply?

Access to applications will be available on [bmoformen.com](https://bmoformen.com) beginning at 12:00 am Eastern Time (“ET”) on July 26, 2021. Simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete an application online.

Once your application is completed, click “Submit Application” and your application will be forwarded to a secure data platform for consideration and review. The application portal closes at 11:59 pm ET on August 13, 2021.

For full details on the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program including eligibility and judging criteria, please click [here](#) for the Official Terms and Conditions.

## **What information is needed to apply for a grant?**

The application itself requires basic information about the business owner(s) and the business. Each applicant must answer a series of short questions about the sustainability impacts that have been incorporated into their business. For further information on the grant program and sustainability, please refer to our [BMO Grant Program Education/Support Webinar](#). Each applicant must also create a short video and include the URL with their application ([Additional Information about the Video Submission](#)).

## **How can I be sure that the sustainability impact I have incorporated in my business will be considered for this grant program?**

Any sustainability measure that is having a positive impact will be considered. Please refer to our [Measuring Sustainability Impact chart](#) for sustainability outcome examples and sample metrics.

## **What are some examples of sustainability outcomes and how do I measure the results/impact they are having?**

Please refer to our [Measuring Sustainability Impacts chart](#) for sustainability outcome examples and sample metrics.

## **In the application it states that it is optional to share historical impact results with 2 years history and the targets my organization is tracking towards. Will I be penalized or at a disadvantage if I do not have historical data to share?**

No, you will not be penalized if this information is not included. However, we ask that you include as much detail about the sustainability impacts your business may be having and/or what you are tracking towards as this will be helpful to understand the intended impact.

## **Can I start my application and finish it at a later time?**

Yes. You will be required to set up an account on the application portal before you start the application. Your work can be saved, edited, or revisited until the deadline at 11:59 pm ET, August 13, 2021. Once an application is submitted (by pressing the 'Submit Application' button) it will be considered final and no further edits can be made.

## **How do I access my saved application form?**

Applicants who have saved a draft of their application will receive an email from [bmoformwomen@hockeystick.co](mailto:bmoformwomen@hockeystick.co) with a link to the Hockeystick login where the draft can be located.

## **Is there a deadline to apply for the grant?**

The application process opens July 26, 2021 at 12:00 am ET and ends on August 13, 2021 at 11:59 pm ET.

## **How will I know if my application has been received?**

Once an application is submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from [bmoformwomen@hockeystick.co](mailto:bmoformwomen@hockeystick.co) to confirm receipt of the application.

## **How are applications being evaluated?**

There is a 3-stage, evaluation process whereby an [Advisory Panel of judges](#) will review each application submitted based on weighted criteria. For more information, please refer to the [Official Terms and Conditions](#).

## **Who will be reviewing the applications?**

Applications will be reviewed by an [Advisory Panel of judges](#) from different industries across Canada who are versed in sustainability.

## **How will I know if I have been selected as a grant recipient?**

Applicants will be notified of their status by email after each stage of the judging process. The final eighteen (18) grant recipients will be contacted by email in late October.

## **I recently incorporated my company last year. However, I've been in operation as a sole proprietorship since January of 2019. Am I still eligible to apply to the grant?**

Eligible businesses must be operating for a minimum of two years as of January 2021. Your business would be eligible, if the nature of the business is the same and only the legal status changed.

## **Why does the business need to be 51% owned or controlled by women, or those who self-identify as women?**

To qualify as a women-owned business, a woman must own over 50% of a business. This is the standard for all of our BMO for Women initiatives.

## **What is included in the Grant Package?**

There will be two different grant packages.

*Ten (10) grant recipients will receive:*

- \$10,000 CAD
- A BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase
- Profile on BMOforWomen.com and BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion)

*An additional eight (8) grant recipients will receive:*

- \$2,500 CAD
- A BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase
- Profile on BMOforWomen.com and BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion)

## **Who do I contact if I have questions about my application or the application process?**

Applicants can get in touch by reaching out to [bmoformwomen@bmo.com](mailto:bmoformwomen@bmo.com) with the subject line "Grant Application - Questions".

\*See the [Official Terms and Conditions](#) for full details about the 2021 Grant Program.