

BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program – Canada 2022

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 240 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 recognize 12 women-owned businesses and support the growth of these businesses with grant funding. As part of our purpose commitment to Boldly Grow the Good *in business and life*, we will be inviting women-owned businesses to submit an application sharing their high-level business growth plans. Any type of business growth will be considered be it new products/services, new markets, etc.

How many grants will be awarded?

There are twelve (12) grants available:

- One (1) grant of \$20,000 (CAD),
- Four (4) grants of \$15,000 (CAD), and
- Seven (7) grants of \$10,000 (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:

The Applicant:

- has the authority to participate in this program on behalf of the business
- is a resident of Canada, and
- has reached the legal age of majority in their province or territory

The Business:

- must be fifty percent (50%) or more owned and controlled by a woman, women and/or by an individual or individuals who self-identify as women;
- must be a for-profit business that has been in operation selling a product or service for a minimum of two (2) years as of September 1, 2022
- must be an active and operational business that lawfully operates in Canada in accordance with all applicable laws, licenses and regulations;
- must have annual revenue of fifty thousand Canadian dollars (\$50,000) or more;
- must have fifty percent (50%) or more of its annual revenue tied to business sales with Canadian businesses and/or Canadian consumers; and
- must have its head office or principal place of business located in any province or territory of Canada.

NOTE: Applicants who received a previous BMO Celebrating Women Grant are not eligible to participate in the 2022 program.

How do I apply?

Access to applications will be available on bmoformwomen.com beginning at 8:00 am Eastern Time on Monday, September 26, 2022. 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 8:00 pm Eastern Time on Monday, October 17, 2022.

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 also answer a series of short questions detailing how they plan on growing the business, the challenges the business may encounter, quantifiable growth goals and how the grant will help with the growth objective(s).

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 8:00 pm Eastern Time on Monday, October 17, 2022.

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@bmo.com with a link to the login page. Applicants will need to click on the link and enter their login details to access their application in draft.

Is there a deadline to apply for the grant?

Applications can be submitted starting at 8:00 am Eastern Time on Monday, September 26, 2022, up to the deadline at 8:00 pm Eastern Time on Monday, October 17, 2022.

How will I know if my application has been received?

Once an application is submitted, by clicking "**Submit Application**", you will be directed to Step 4 of the process which confirms that the application has been successfully submitted. A confirmation email from bmoformwomen@bmo.com will also be sent to confirm receipt of the application.

Can I make changes to my application after it's been submitted?

No. Once an application is submitted (by pressing the "Submit Application" button) it will be considered final and no further edits can be made.

How are applications being evaluated?

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

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

Applicants will be notified of their status by email after each round of the judging process.

The final twelve (12) grant recipients will be contacted by email and by phone in March 2023.

I recently incorporated my company last year. However, I've been in operation as a sole proprietorship since September 2021. Am I still eligible to apply to the grant?

Eligible businesses must be operating for a minimum of two years as of September 2022. Your business would be eligible, if the nature of the business is the same and only the legal status changed.

What is included in the Grant Package?

There will be three different grant packages.

The top scoring applicant from Round 3 will receive:

- \$20,000 CAD (payable to the Eligible Small Business);
- One (1) BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase;
- 1-hour coaching with a BMO for Women Relationship Manager
- Invitation to a BMO webinar series
- The opportunity to have BMO facilitate membership in certain organizations and/or advisory boards.
- A profile on [BMOforWomen.com](https://bmoformen.com) and certain BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion).
- A 2022 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Recipient badge that can be posted on social media.

The total approximate retail value of this Grant is \$20,200 CAD.

Each confirmed Recipient who achieved a Round 3 Score in second (2nd) to fifth (5th) place will receive:

- \$15,000 CAD (payable to the Eligible Small Business)
- One (1) BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase;
- 1-hour coaching with a BMO for Women Relationship Manager
- Invitation to a BMO webinar series
- The opportunity to have BMO facilitate membership in certain organizations and/or advisory boards.
- A profile on [BMOforWomen.com](https://bmoformen.com) and certain BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion).
- A 2022 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Recipient badge that can be posted on social media.

The total approximate retail value of each Grant is \$15,200 CAD.

Each confirmed Recipient who achieved a Round 3 Score in sixth (6th) to twelfth (12th) place will receive:

- \$10,000 CAD (payable to the Eligible Small Business);
- One (1) BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase;
- 1-hour coaching with a BMO for Women Relationship Manager
- Invitation to a BMO webinar series
- A profile on [BMOforWomen.com](https://bmoformen.com) and certain BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion).
- The opportunity to have BMO facilitate membership in certain organizations and/or advisory boards.
- A 2022 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Recipient badge that can be posted on social media.

The total approximate retail value of each Grant is \$10,200 CAD.

I wasn't selected. Could I get feedback on my application?

Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications we receive, we can not discuss or provide feedback.

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

Applicants can get in touch by reaching out to bmoformen@bmo.com with the subject line "Grant Application – Questions".

*See the [Official Terms and Conditions](#) for full details.