

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 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program aims to provide an additional source of financial support to women-owned businesses.

What is the Grant Program focusing on this year?

This year our goal is to recognize 10 women-owned businesses and support their sustainability focused initiatives with grant funding. As part of our 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 addresses 2-3 of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UN SDGs).

How many grants will be awarded?

Ten (10) Canadian women-owned businesses¹ will be selected to receive a Grant of \$10,000 (CAD) with an invitation to join an in-person summit to celebrate their achievement and expose them to a greater network.

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 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 of residence.

¹ Please refer to the Official Terms and Conditions for full details including eligibility, judging criteria and key dates.

The Business:

- Must be fifty-one percent (51%) or more owned and controlled by an individual or individuals who self-identify as women, non-binary individual(s), or trans 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 April 30th, 2024
- 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 2024 program.

How do I apply?

Access to applications will be available on bmoformwomen.com beginning at 8:00 am Eastern Time on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete an application online.

The application portal closes at 8:00 pm Eastern Time on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

For full details on the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program including eligibility, judging criteria and key dates 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 the sustainability impacts that have been incorporated into their business, as well as the quantifiable impact(s) their business is having.

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 Tuesday May 14, 2024

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

How do I access my saved draft 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 Tuesday April 30, 2024, up to the deadline at 8:00 pm Eastern Time on Tuesday May 14, 2024.

How will I know if my application has been received?

Once the application is completed, the Applicant must click "Submit". They will be directed to a screen that confirms the application has been successfully received. They will also be sent an email from BMOforWomen@bmo.com confirming receipt of the application.

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

No. Once an application is submitted (by pressing 'Submit' 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 ten (10) grant recipients will be contacted by email and by phone in September 2024.

I recently incorporated my company last year. However, I've been in operation as a sole proprietorship since April 2024. Am I still eligible to apply to the grant?

Eligible businesses must be operating for a minimum of two years as of April 30, 2024. 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?

Each Grant will consist of:

- \$10,000 CAD (payable to the Eligible Small Business);
- One (1) BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase;
- One (1) hour of coaching with a BMO for Women Advocate (currently available to select clients of BMO only);
- Invitation to a BMO webinar series (which will be attended by the Recipients and other individuals as invited by BMO);
- the opportunity to have BMO facilitate membership in certain organizations and/or advisory boards;
- A profile on BMOforWomen.com and certain BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion); and
- The opportunity to use a 2024 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Recipient badge that can be posted on social media

The total approximate 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 bmoformwomen@bmo.com with the subject line "Grant Application – Questions".

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