

BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program

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 fifteen (15) 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?

Fifteen (15) women-owned businesses generally located within BMO's twenty-four-state footprint in the U.S. will be selected to receive a Grant Package (described below under "What is included in the Grant Package?").

Which states are eligible to apply?

A business that has a physical location in the following states is eligible to apply:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Iowa
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Michigan*
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- North Dakota
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- Oklahoma

- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Texas*
- Utah
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

If the business has no physical location, a mailing address for their headquarters must be in one of the above Twenty-four states.

*If the business has a physical location or headquarters mailing address in Michigan or Texas, such physical location or headquarters mailing address must be located, as determined by BMO in BMO's sole discretion, within 100 miles of a full-service retail BMO branch office that offers a mix of banking services, everyday banking, investments, and lending products for both personal and commercial customers.

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:

- Has the authority to participate in this program on behalf of the business;
- Is a resident of the U.S.;
- Is of legal age of majority in the state in which the business resides;
- Has not purchased any equipment, products, or services in order to participate; and
- Is not affiliated with BMO or otherwise connected with the program based on the criteria set forth in the Terms.

The Business:

- Is at least 51% owned or controlled by women or by individual(s) who self-identify as women;
- Is currently active and operating in the U.S. in accordance with all applicable laws, licenses, and regulations;
- Has a physical location (or a mailing address for their headquarters) in: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, or Wyoming; or Michigan or Texas and such physical location (or headquarters mailing address) is located, as determined by BMO in BMO's sole discretion, within 100 miles of a full-service retail BMO branch office that offers a mix of banking services, everyday banking, investments, and lending products for both personal and commercial customers;
- Is a for-profit business with annual revenues of \$5 million USD or less;

- Is in good standing with the jurisdiction in which the business is registered; and
- Is in operation selling a product or service for at least 2 years as of April 1, 2024.

NOTE: The business owner(s), the business, or anyone affiliated with the business must not be subject to any government sanctions. Applicants who received a previous BMO Celebrating Women Grant are not eligible to participate in the 2024 program.

How do I apply?

Access to the grant applications will be available on bmo.com/women beginning at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time (“ET”) on April 30, 2024. Simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete an application online.

Once your application is completed, click “Submit Application” to send the application to a secure data platform for consideration and review. The application portal closes at 8:00 p.m. ET on May 14, 2024.

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).

Applicants that are selected as semi-finalists must also create a short video and include the URL to the video with their application. (See additional [video submission information](#).) Refer to the Official Terms and Conditions and the Application for more information regarding video requirements. BMO will notify semi-finalists via email in mid-June 2024.

Can I start my application and finish it later?

Yes. Applicants will be required to set up an account on the application portal in order to start the application. Work can be saved, edited, or revisited until the deadline at 8:00 p.m. ET on May 14, 2024. 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 draft application?

Applicants may return to the application portal and use their login credentials to access their application in draft and make edits prior to submission. To access a saved application form, [click here](#) to log into the grant application portal, click on 'Application Form', and then select "Continue".

A link to the applicants draft application will be available under 'Draft Application'. From there, the applicant can pick-up where they left off in their application. The application portal will remain open until the deadline of 8:00 p.m. ET May 14, 2024.

Is there a deadline to apply for the grant?

Applications can be submitted starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on April 30, 2024, up to the deadline at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 14, 2024.

How will I know if my application has been received?

Once an application is submitted, by clicking "Submit Application," you will see a confirmation message that indicates that the application has been successfully submitted.

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 three-stage evaluation process whereby an Advisory Panel of Judges will review each application submitted based on weighted criteria. For more information, including descriptions of the general qualifications of the judges, 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 stage of the judging process. The final fifteen (15) grant recipients will be contacted no later than September 2024.

I recently incorporated my company last year. However, I've been in operation as a sole proprietorship since April of 2022. Am I eligible to apply to the grant?

Eligible businesses must be operating for a minimum of two years as of April 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 of the fifteen (15) grant recipients will receive:

- \$10,000 USD (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);
- If the eligible small business qualifies, the opportunity to have BMO facilitate membership in certain organizations and/or advisory boards;
- A profile on BMO.com/Women and certain BMO social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion); and
- Recipient badge that can be posted on social media (subject to the eligible small business agreeing to the licensing terms provided by BMO).

The total ARV of each Grant Package is \$10,250. The total ARV of all Grant Packages to be awarded is \$153,750.

How do I view the list of grant recipients?

The names of the grant recipients will be listed on BMO's website at bmo.com/women in September 2024, after recipient notification is complete.

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

Due to the volume of applications, we cannot discuss or provide feedback.

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

Applicants may email womeninbusiness@bmo.com with the subject line "Grant Application Question." For technical issues with the application platform, select the (i) icon in the top right corner of the Survey Monkey Apply site to contact support or visit the [help article](#).

See the [Official Terms and Conditions](#) for full details about the Grant Progra

