

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. BMO first launched the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program in 2021. In collaboration with Deloitte, this year the Grant Program aims to provide an additional source of financial aid to businesses that support the advancement of women.

What is the Grant Program focusing on this year?

Our goal is to recognize fifteen (15) eligible small 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 all eligible U.S. applicants to submit an application. The business must demonstrate their commitment to support the advancement of women and share how the business plans to grow and further this support if they receive funding through the Grant Program. This support might include the following:

- Advancing the public health or safety of women or girls;
- Producing or offering products and services designed for women or girls;
- Promoting education of women or girls, such as mentorship, financial literacy, or skills training.

Please note that businesses may demonstrate the advancement of women in ways other than the examples listed above. The list is not designed to be all-inclusive. Judges will consider new or alternative ways that businesses may look to support the advancement of women. The business should also share 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) eligible small 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 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. Businesses with a physical location (or headquarters mailing addresses) in Michigan or Texas and such location is, 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 August 5, 2025.

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 2025 program.

How do I apply?

Access to applications will be available on www.bmo.com/grantprogram beginning at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on August 5, 2025. Simply follow the on-screen instructions to complete the application online.

The application form closes at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 19, 2025.

For full details on the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program including eligibility, judging criteria and key dates, refer to 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 have supported the advancement of women and how they plan to further support the advancement of women and 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. Refer to the Official Terms and Conditions and the Application for more information regarding video requirements. BMO will notify semi-finalists via email in September 2025.

Can I start my application and finish it later?

No, once you leave the screen, prior to clicking the submit button the responses will not be saved.

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

Is there a deadline to apply for the grant?

Applications can be submitted starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time on August 5, 2025, up to the deadline at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 19, 2025.

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 womeninbusiness@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 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 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 stage of the judging process. The final fifteen (15) grant recipients will be contacted no later than October 2025.

I recently incorporated my company last year. However, I've been in operation as a sole proprietorship since August of 2023. Am I eligible to apply to the grant?

Eligible businesses must be operating for a minimum of two years as of August 5, 2025. 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 Trophy;
- One (1) hour of coaching with a BMO small business subject matter expert (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 www.bmo.com/grantprogram 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 \$10,150. The total ARV of all Grant Packages to be awarded is \$152,250.

How do I view the list of grant recipients?

The names of the grant recipients will be listed on BMO's website at www.bmo.com/grantprogram in October 2025, 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 can get in touch by reaching out to womeninbusiness@bmo.com with the subject line "Grant Application – Questions".

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

