

BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program?

BMO Harris Bank (“BMO”) is a strong supporter of the advancement of women. Since 2017, BMO has recognized the achievements of women across the US who’ve excelled in business and community building through the BMO Celebrating Women Program. To further our support for women, we’ve 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 honor and celebrate women-owned businesses who are making an impact on the sustainability front. Sustainability is fundamental to BMO’s Purpose to Boldly Grow the Good *in business and in life*. We will be inviting women business owners 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?

Eight (8) women-owned businesses located within BMO’s eight state footprint in the US, 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
- Florida
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Wisconsin

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

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

No, neither the applicant nor the business needs to have a banking relationship with BMO Harris Bank 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 must:

- Have the authority to participate in this program on behalf of the business
- Be a resident of the US; and
- Be of legal age of the state in which the business resides.

The Business:

- Must be at least 51% owned or controlled by women or by individual(s) who self-identify as women;
- Be currently active and operating in the US;
- Have a physical location in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri or Wisconsin (In the instance where the business has no physical location, a mailing address for their headquarters must be in one of these 8 states.);
- Is a for-profit business with annual revenues of \$5 million USD or less;
- The business is in good standing in each state in which the business is registered; and
- The business has been in operation selling a product or service for a minimum of 2 years as of January 1, 2021

NOTE: The business owner(s), the business, or anyone affiliated with the business must not be subject to any government sanctions.

How do I apply?

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

Once an application is completed, the applicant should click “Submit Application” to send the application 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 providing 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 recording of the [BMO Grant Program Education/Support Webinar](#).

Each applicant must also create a short video and include the URL with their application. ([Additional Information for 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 Impact 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, applicants will not be penalized if this information is not included. However, we ask that applicants include as much detail about the sustainability impacts their business may be having and/or 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. 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 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 bmoforwomen@hockeystick.co with a link to the Hockeystick login where the draft can be located.

What is Hockeystick and how is it involved in the BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program?

[Hockeystick.co](https://hockeystick.co) is a secure platform that BMO is using to collect all applications for the grant program.

Is there a deadline to apply for the grant?

The application portal 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, the applicant will receive a confirmation email from bmoforwomen@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 Terms and Conditions.

Who will be reviewing the applications?

Applications will be reviewed by an [Advisory Panel of judges](#) from different industries across the US 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 eight (8) 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?

Each of the eight (8) grant recipients will receive:

- \$10,000 USD
- A BMO Celebrating Women Personalized Crystal Vase (Approximate retail value ("ARV"): \$160)
- Be featured on bmoharris.com/women and select BMO Harris social channels (as determined by BMO in its sole and absolute discretion).

The total ARV of each Grant Package is \$10,160. The total ARV of all Grant Packages to be awarded is \$81,280. Odds of being awarded a Grant Package depends on the quality and calibre of eligible applications received. Major restrictions may apply to the use, availability, or receipt of a Grant. Potential recipients may be required to sign BMO's grant agreement and may be required to complete an affidavit regarding the recipient's eligibility to participate in the program with publicity and liability releases.

The names of each Recipient and the Terms will be posted on Sponsor's website at bmoharris.com/women. The Recipient list will be posted after Recipient confirmation is complete.

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

Applicants can get in touch by reaching out bmoformwomen@bmo.com with the subject line "US Grant Application - Questions".

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