

BMO Wildfire Recovery Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

- Q: What is the BMO Wildfire Recovery Fund?
 - A: Earlier this year, BMO pledged \$3 million to establish the BMO Wildfire Recovery Fund to support the Los Angeles community in recovering from the devastating wildfires that occurred in January 2025. The fund will provide grants to eligible non-profit organizations working in two key areas.
- Q: What are the key focus areas of the fund?
 - A: The fund will support programs and initiatives in the following two areas:
 - **Helping People Rebuild** which includes navigation and support programs (with emphasis on small business and home ownership), mental health support for trauma (especially youth), and community-driven information sessions.
 - **Helping Communities Rebuild** which includes fostering resiliency through community cleanup, safety, essential needs (food, shelter, healthcare, education).
- Q: What is BMO's overall goal with this fund?
 - A: BMO's goal is to help strengthen recovery efforts, ensure long-term resilience, and promote a collaborative approach to rebuilding within the Los Angeles regions affected by the wildfires. This aligns with BMO's commitment to Boldly Grow the Good in the communities we serve.

Eligibility and Application Process

- Q: Who is eligible to apply for funding?
 - A: Eligible applicants are local non-profit organizations aligned with one of the two fund pillars and serving those affected in the Los Angeles area. Applicants must also demonstrate fiscal responsibility, accountability, and adequate staff and resources.
- Q: What are the grant criteria?
 - A: Grant criteria include:
 - Alignment with one of the two fund pillars.
 - Active 501c3 nonprofit status
 - Ability to demonstrate proof of delivery capability and impact
 - Collaboration and Partnerships
 - Financial and Organizational Capacity
 - Geographic focus (LA County/affected areas).
 - Funding range (\$25,000 - \$300,000).
 - Application deadline: August 15, 2025 - applicants are encouraged to apply early.
- Q: How do I apply for a grant?
 - A: Eligible organizations can apply for funding through the BMO grants portal: <https://our-impact.bmo.com/us/bmo-gives/>.
- Q: What is the grant application deadline?
 - A: The application deadline is August 15, 2025 - applicants are encouraged to apply early.
- Q: When will grant decisions be made?
 - A: Review of applications will take 6 to 8 weeks. Award notifications will be communicated to recipients in the Fall.
- Q: What is the funding range for grants?
 - A: Grant awards start at \$25,000 and will be based on the alignment with the fund's criteria, the scope of services, and demonstrated need.
- Q: Will there be other grant cycles for this Fund?
 - A: This is currently the only grant cycle for this Fund.

BMO Wildfire Recovery Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Funding Details

- Q: How much total funding is available?
 - A: BMO pledged \$3 million to establish the Wildfire Recovery Fund.
- Q: When will payments be made?
 - A: Payments will be made in Fall 2025.
- Q: Are there any reporting requirements for grantees?
 - A: Yes, grantees must submit a final impact report.

Additional Information

- Q: Does BMO provide other forms of support for wildfire recovery?
 - A: Yes, BMO's support for wildfire recovery in Los Angeles includes donations to organizations like United Way LA, Direct Relief, and the American Red Cross. BMO is also encouraging employee giving and organizing volunteer events.
- Q: If my organization is looking for volunteers, how might I request them from BMO?
 - A: Organizations can reach out to BMO Employee Giving to discuss their volunteer needs – bmo.volunteer@bmo.com.