**Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts** – Mission Standard Grants  
**Deadline:** February 23, 2015  
**Amount:** $15,000-$20,000  

**Please advise CFR as soon as you are applying**  
The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts is accepting proposals for the current grant writing period. Projects should be aimed at helping residents of Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties in Massachusetts. Requests for funding of projects and activities provided by colleges or universities must: 1) demonstrate benefit to the community, 2) provide documentation of community involvement in the planning and the implementation of the project, and 3) include letters of support from community organizations with their application. **Proposals must go through CFR to enable that the requirement of applying through a 501(c) (3) is met.**

**Funding Opportunities Included in this Announcement:**

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<th>I. Science &amp; Medical</th>
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<td>The John Merck Foundation</td>
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<td>Open Society Foundation</td>
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Please read "100 Words That Kill Your Proposal", by Bob Lohfeld to assist in writing the best proposals possible.

Also, please see How to Fail at Grant Writing, The Chronicle of Higher Education, written by UMass faculty successful at obtaining grants.
I. Science & Medical

1. **The John Merck Fund** – Developmental Disabilities Translational Research Program  
   **Deadline:** May 18, 2015  
   **Amount:** $1M over 4 years  
   The program emphasizes interdisciplinary grant applications focused primarily on FXS and DS, although under special circumstances it will also support studies concerned with other developmental disabilities. The fund is particularly interested in translational research designed to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Investigators from a range of disciplines are encouraged to apply. Special consideration will be given to interdisciplinary proposals from scientists who have demonstrable evidence of their ability to collaborate in carrying out innovative and significant developmental disabilities research.

2. **The Sontag Foundation** – Distinguished Scientist Award  
   **Deadline:** March 19, 2015  
   **Amount:** $150,000/year for 4 years  
   We are looking for early career scientists with the potential to create new waves across the brain cancer field. We're looking for increased survival rates and improved recovery for patients. We're looking for a cure or at the very least, treatments to make brain cancer a manageable chronic disease.

3. **Simons Foundation** – Clinical ASD Outcomes Measure Research  
   **Deadline:** February 23, 2015  
   **Note:** We request that investigators who intend to submit a proposal send an email by 5 February 2015 with the intended investigators’ names and affiliations and their intended proposal’s title to grants@clinicalresearchassociates.net with the subject line: CRA RFA Notice of Intent.  
   **Amount:** $500,000 over 2 years  
   Grants awarded through this request for applications (RFA) are intended to develop and validate objective outcome measures for use in clinical trials targeting core symptoms (social communication impairments and restricted, repetitive behaviors) of autism spectrum disorder, and disruptive behavioral symptoms commonly reported in individuals with autism (e.g., anxiety, tantrums). There is a lack of
quantitative, objective, reliable and sensitive tools to measure treatment response in behavioral and pharmacological clinical trials in autism. We seek innovative applications that will develop and validate clinically relevant outcome measures that will objectively and sensitively distinguish treatment effects from placebo response and reduce reliance on retrospective parent-reported behavior rating scales and assessments.

4. **James S. McDonnell Foundation** – Scholar Award Grants  
   Deadline: March 11, 2015  
   Amount: $450,000 over 3 years  
   The program's emphasis is furthering the science of complex systems via the continued development of the theory and tools used in the study of complex research questions and not on particular fields of research per se. JSMF is particularly interested in projects attempting to apply complex systems approaches to coherently articulated questions.

5. **James S. McDonnell Foundation** – Collaborative Activity Awards  
   Deadline (LOI): Rolling  
   Amount: $300,000 over 3 years  
   a. Studying Complex Systems  
   b. Mathematical & Complex Systems Approaches for Brain Cancer  
   c. Understanding Human Cognition  
   The Foundation offers Collaborative Activity Awards to initiate interdisciplinary discussions on problems or issues, to help launch interdisciplinary research networks, or to fund communities of researchers/practitioners dedicated to developing new methods, tools, and applications of basic research to applied problems. In each case the focus of the collaborative activity must meet the program guidelines for one of the following program areas listed above.

6. **Kenneth Rainin Foundation** – Innovator Awards Program  
   Deadline: February 15, 2015  
   Amount: $100,000  
   The Foundation believes that partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborations can have the greatest impact in research. We support remarkable, groundbreaking ideas and take risks to find solutions to Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). We invest in leveraging resources and expertise. To attract innovative researchers and encourage collaboration, this program is open to all scientific disciplines from any non-profit research institution worldwide.

7. **Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund**  
   Deadline: March 13, 2015  
   Amount: $80,000  
   The Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund was established in 1947 by Frank M. Noonan in memory of his mother, to improve the lives of children who were left crippled by polio. The Noonan Research Fund supports innovative clinical and service system research and demonstration projects from both nonprofit organizations and academic institutions that serve children with physical or developmental disabilities and associated health-related complications.

8. **Open Society Foundation** – Mental Health Initiative  
   Deadline: Rolling
Amount: $80,000
The initiative provides grants to projects that stimulate the reform of national health, social welfare, education, and employment policies. The initiative also provides technical assistance and training in substantive areas to its grantees. The initiative's funding strategy is geared toward the sustainable development of quality community-based alternatives to institutionalization for people with intellectual disabilities or mental health problems and toward the development of government policies that promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities. Accordingly, the initiative provides funding to organizations that focus on community-living, deinstitutionalization, and prevention of institutionalization. It also supports projects that include community-based housing, early intervention, inclusive education, and supported employment for people with intellectual disabilities. The initiative also provides support for organizations working on policy-based advocacy at local or national levels with the aim of promoting community living for people with intellectual disabilities.

II. Nursing & Public Health

9. Aetna Foundation – Healthier World Innovation Challenge
   Deadline: February 16, 2015
   Amount: $750,000/year for 3 years
   The Aetna Foundation will fund initiatives that implement and test innovations for chronic disease prevention and management with a specific focus on minority and other underserved communities. Our funding will focus on testing technological and digital health strategies and the processes and partnerships needed to scale and spread these potential innovations with the goal to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. Projects must utilize technology and digital health innovations within population health approaches for chronic disease prevention and management, and have the potential for positive societal impact. These innovations must be developed on the foundation of localized or community-level data with attention to the root causes and social determinants of health.

10. Charles H. Hood Foundation – Child Health Research Award
    Deadline: March 30, 2015
    Amount: $75,000/year for 2 years
    The Charles H. Hood Foundation was incorporated to improve the health and quality of life for children in New England. The intent of the award is to support newly independent faculty, provide the opportunity to demonstrate creativity, and assist in the transition to other sources of research funding. Research projects must be relevant to child health.

III. Education & Humanities

11. Kessler Foundation – Signature Employment Grants
    Deadline: February 13, 2015
    Amount: $500,000 over 2 years
    Signature grants are awarded yearly to nonprofit organizations to support non-traditional solutions that increase employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities striving toward employment. Funds support innovative initiatives that create or expand job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Awarded programs include pilot initiatives, demonstration projects or social ventures that lead to the generation of new ideas that solve the high underemployment and unemployment rate of people with
disabilities. Preferred ideas include interventions that overcome specific employment barriers related to long-term dependence on public assistance, advance competitive employment in a cost-effective manner or launch a social enterprise.

12. Hadassah Foundation – Leadership Building Projects for Women and Girls
   Deadline: February 17, 2015
   Amount: $40,000
   The foundation supports gender-sensitive social-change projects that develop the leadership skills and capabilities of adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 12 and 30 in the Jewish community. Gender-sensitive curricula and training programs that foster the leadership skills and capabilities of young Jewish women and girls also will be considered.

IV. Fellowships

13. American Federation for Aging Research – Postdoctoral Fellowship Program for Translational Research on Aging
   Deadline: March 3, 2015
   Amount: $60,000
   The program was developed to address the current concerns about an adequate funding base for postdoctoral fellows (MD, MD/PhD and PhD) who specifically direct their research towards translational findings and who will demonstrate how their research will have direct benefits to human aging.

14. Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
   Deadline: March 16, 2015
   a. Fellowship Award - $150,000 over 3 years
      The Foundation encourages all theoretical and experimental research relevant to the study of cancer and the search for cancer causes, mechanisms, therapies and prevention.
   b. Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award - $150,000 over 3 years
      The program provides funding to basic scientists and clinicians who conduct research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers.

15. The Wenner-Gren Foundation – Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowships
   Deadline: May 1, 2015
   Amount: $40,000
   Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowships support the writing-up of already completed research. The fellowship is awarded to scholars in the earlier stages of their careers, when they frequently lack the time and resources to develop their research for publication. Scholars with a Ph.D. in hand for no more than ten years (from the application deadline) are eligible to apply. A maximum of eight Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded annually.