Overview:

The William T. Grant Scholars Program supports career development for promising early-career researchers. The program funds five-year research and mentoring plans that significantly expand junior researchers' expertise in new disciplines, methods, and content areas. Applicants should have a track record of conducting high-quality research and an interest in pursuing a significant shift in their trajectories as researchers. The Foundation recognize that early-career researchers are rarely given incentives or support to take measured risks in their work, so this award includes a mentoring component, as well as a supportive academic community.

The Foundation's mission is to support research to improve the lives of young people ages 5-25 in the United States. Researchers interested in applying for Scholars Awards must select one focus area:

- **Reducing Inequality**
  In this focus area, the Foundation supports research to build, test, and increase understanding of approaches to reducing inequality in youth outcomes, particularly on the basis of race, ethnicity, economic standing, or...
immigrant origin status. The Foundation is interested in research on programs, policies, and practices to reduce inequality in academic, social, behavioral, and economic outcomes.

- **Improving the Use of Research Evidence**
  In this focus area, the Foundation supports research to identify, build, and test strategies to ensure that research evidence reaches the hands of decision makers, responds to their needs, and is used in ways that benefit youth. The Foundation is particularly interested in research on improving the use of evidence by state and local decision makers, mid-level managers, and intermediaries.

**Eligibility:**

- **Applicant must have received his/her terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., M.D.) within seven years of submitting the application.**
- Applicants must be **tenure track.**
- Proposed project must advance the Foundation's interest in understanding programs, policies, and practices that reduce inequality or improve the use of research evidence.
- Applicants of **any discipline** are eligible.

**Award Background:**

- A five-year grant of **$350,000** (awards begin July 1, 2019)
- Only one applicant may be nominated from a major school or college of an institution each year.
- Each year, **four to six Scholars are selected.**
- The award must not replace the institution's current support of the applicant's research.
- **List of Past Awardees** - we strongly recommend reviewing past grants to determine competitiveness.

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**Deadlines**

**Internal:** May 25, 2018

**Sponsor:**
Applications due July 5, 2018
Mentor and Reference Letters due June 27, 2018

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**Internal Application Process**

Only one applicant may be nominated from a major school or college of an institution each year. The internal selection process will be informed by the grant program’s
If you are interested in applying to this program, please submit the following as a single PDF to cfr@admin.umass.edu by Friday, May 25, 2018:

- A five-year research and mentoring plan (2 pages max.) that includes:
  - A brief description of one or more research projects that address one of the Foundation’s focus areas;
  - A description of current areas of expertise and new ones that will be added during the award; and
  - The rationale for the proposed mentor(s).

- Proposed mentor(s) and at least three potential recommendation writers (these can be colleagues, supervisors, or your department chair) and a brief overview of their credentials.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- A list of current and pending support.

Additional Information

Selection is based on applicants' potential to become influential researchers, as well as their plans to expand their expertise in new and significant ways. The application should make a cohesive argument for how the applicant will expand his or her expertise. The research plan should evolve in conjunction with the development of new expertise, and the mentoring plan should describe how the proposed mentors will support applicants in acquiring that expertise.

For more information, please review the program’s website and Application Guide. If you have technical questions on the W.T. Grant Scholars Program or your eligibility, please contact Liz Smith or Michael Stein in Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Please click on the following links for more information on funding opportunities:

On-Campus Funding Opportunities
Funding for New or Early Career Faculty

You can find additional information on the CFR Website:

Private Foundation Limited Submission Opportunities
Grant Writing Tips and Suggestions