

Call for Nominations: William T. Grant Scholars Program

CAHSS faculty are invited to **submit a pre-proposal to be nominated** for the [2026 William T. Grant Scholars Program](#) competition, sponsored by the William T. Grant Foundation (WTGF). The WTGF Scholars Program supports career development for promising early-career researchers. This competition is only open to faculty who meet the program's eligibility criteria (see below). **The program makes awards totaling \$425,000 (total direct and indirect funds) for five-year research and mentoring plans that significantly expand 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. This award includes a mentoring component, as well as a supportive academic community.

An internal CAHSS competition will be held to select the CAHSS nominee. Pre-proposals are due to the CAHSS Dean's Office, via a box link, by **May 11, 2026**. (See the internal instructions and box link below.) The **nominee will be notified on May 20, 2026**. The nominee will work with CARAT to develop a complete application on the program's application portal, following the WTGF program guidelines. Applications are due to WTGF by **June 30, 2026 (3:00 PM, ET)**.

Successful applicants will be notified by WTGF on **March 27, 2027**. Five-year awards, made to the applicants' institution, will begin on **July 1, 2027**.

WTGF's Research Focus Areas

1. Reducing Inequality. WTGF funds research studies that examine programs, policies, or practices to reduce inequality in the academic, social, behavioral, or economic outcomes of young people ages 5–25 in the United States, along dimensions of race, ethnicity, economic standing, sexual or gender minority status (e.g., LGBTQ+ youth), language minority status, or immigrant origins.

2. Improving the Use of Research Evidence. In this focus area, WTGF supports research studies that examine strategies to improve the use of research evidence in ways that benefit young people ages 5-25 in the United States. The Foundation seeks proposals for studies that advance theory and build empirical knowledge on ways to improve the use of research evidence by policymakers, public agency leaders, organizational managers, intermediaries, community organizers, and other decision-makers that generally shape youth-serving systems in the United States.

For detailed information, see

- Program website: <https://WTGFrantfoundation.org/funding/william-t-grant-scholars-program>
- Program application guide: <https://WTGFrantfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-Application-Guide-WTGF-Scholars.pdf>

- Applicant resources, including a webinar and annotated excerpts: <https://WTGFrantfoundation.org/funding/william-t-grant-scholars-program/applicant-resources#annotated-excerpts>
- Program FAQ: <https://WTGFrantfoundation.org/funding/william-t-grant-scholars-program/faq>

CAHSS Internal Competition

- Applicants must be nominated by their institutions. **Each UMBC college may nominate only one applicant in the 2026 competition. Nominations are made by Deans.** Applicants of any discipline are eligible. The nomination decision will be based on the following review criteria: the applicant's qualifications, the research plan, the proposed mentoring plan, and the viability of the project based on a preliminary budget.
- Eligible applicants should have **received their doctorate within seven years of submitting their application (June 30, 2026), and seven years after the year the doctorate was conferred. Applicants must currently be employed in a tenure-track position.**

If you are interested in being considered for the internal competition, please SUBMIT the following pre-proposal materials (in a single PDF file) to:

<https://umbc.app.box.com/f/10999b2518004276994e26aa47374868>

The deadline for pre-proposals is **May 11, 2026.**

Contact Marc Ruppel (mruppel@umbc.edu), CARAT Director, or Rachel Brubaker (rbruba1@umbc.edu), CARAT Associate Director, to discuss your pre-proposal.

Pre-proposal materials should be formatted in 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced text, with a line space between each paragraph, numbered pages, and 1-inch margins on all sides. Please combine into a **single PDF file**, with the **file name: last name_first name_department_WTGF grant.**

A pre-proposal consists of

1. A two-part abstract that includes **a research plan of 4 pages maximum, and a mentoring plan of 2 pages maximum.** Follow the attached WTGF application abstract instructions of you draft your plan. You do not need to enter the plan in the WTGF form.

If selected as the nominee, you will prepare a full plan, to include a 40-page document with a research plan (up to 10-pages), a mentoring plan (upto 4 pages), and a bibliography and appendices (up to 8 pages each), as well as the abstract.

2. An abridged C.V., following the attached application instructions. You do not need to enter the C.V. in the form.

(A full proposal will include both an abridged and full C.V.)

3. An estimated budget/budget justification for **five years, broken out by year**, to equal **\$392,350 for personnel and research-related direct costs**. (The balance of the \$425,000 award will be used for F&A/indirect costs.) Note: Requests to fund the PI's salary should not exceed 50 percent of the total salary received from the UMBC during the period. The portion of the grant used for salary must be equivalent to the time made available for research (effort) by the award and may be in the form of course buy-outs, additional compensation, and summer salary. For this pre-proposal, please allocate 36% for faculty fringes during the Academic Year fringes for course buy-outs (1 course buy-out = 10% AY salary + fringes); and 9% for summer salary (1 month = 1/9 of Academic Year salary) and AY additional compensation.

Other research-related costs may include supplies and materials, travel, consultants, other activity-related costs; subcontracted costs.

The Dean's Office will review the applications and select one CAHSS nominee **by May 20, 2026**. The nominee will work with CARAT to develop, prepare, and route** (in Kualii) a complete application, according to the WTGF application guidelines. Note: Mentor and reference letters are due by **June 10, 2026**. Applicants should consider reaching out to mentors and referees while preparing their pre-proposal.

The application must be **submitted in the WTGF Scholars Program application website by June 30, 2026, 3:00 PM, ET. Applications must first be approved by the UMBC Office of Sponsored Programs before they can be submitted.**

****In order to prepare a proposal and receive an award at UMBC, the CAHSS nominee must be PI Eligible active.** PI Eligible faculty with active status entails the successful completion (with issued certificates) of PIRATE training; CITI Research Security Training - combined; and completion of a PI Eligibility form, with attached certificates of completion for the trainings, and your appointment letter. See [UMBC Policy # IV-2.00.03](#) for more information. Contact Rachel Brubaker (rbruba1@umbc.edu) for assistance with PI Eligibility.



**William T. Grant Scholars Program Application
Abstract**

This abstract is an important part of your application. Foundation senior staff use it to screen applications. In final review stages, all Selection Committee members read the abstract, while only two members conduct detailed reviews of the full application. The abstract should provide a concise, compelling description of your research and mentoring plans.

Do *not* edit this form or delete instructions from it.

Principal Investigator	
Institution	
Department	
Project Title	

PART I: FIVE-YEAR RESEARCH PLAN (maximum of four pages)

Summarize your five-year research plan. Describe the rationale for the research including a brief literature review, its contribution to understanding the Foundation's Current Research Interests, its significance for informing policy and/or practice, and the ways it will expand your expertise.

For each project, summarize: 1) specific research questions or hypotheses; 2) sample definition and selection procedures; 3) research design and methods; 4) data collection including key constructs, measures, data sources, and data collection procedures; and 5) data analysis plans. The latter years or latter projects of the research plan may, by necessity, be described in less detail than that of the first few years or first project, but we encourage you to provide enough specificity for reviewers to be assured of the rigor and feasibility of the plan.

Project #1:

Project #2 (if applicable):

Project #3 (if applicable):

PART II: FIVE-YEAR MENTORING PLAN (maximum of two pages)

Summarize your five-year mentoring plan. For the first two years of the plan, describe 1) the expertise to be acquired; 2) one or two proposed mentors; 3) the rationale for choosing each mentor, your current relationship with each, and how the award would add significant value beyond what would naturally occur in your relationship with each; 4) the mentoring activities, time commitments, and forms of interaction with each mentor; and 5) how potential barriers such as long distance and busy schedules will be addressed with each mentor. For the last three years of the plan, briefly explain the new expertise you plan to gain, your expected mentoring needs, and the attributes and expertise needed in a mentor(s).



**William T. Grant Scholars Program Application
Abridged Curriculum Vitae**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Name:	
Primary Institution: (must be 501[c][3])	
Department:	
Position:	
Date of Appointment:	

EDUCATION/TRAINING (BEGINNING WITH BACCALAUREATE OR EQUIVALENT)

Institution and Location	Degree, Additional Training, etc.	Year(s)	Field of Study

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (MAXIMUM OF SIX LISTINGS)

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REFERENCES

Name	Position	Institution

PROPOSED MENTOR(S) FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS (MAXIMUM OF TWO)

Name	Position	Institution	Mentoring Area