1) **Home Depot Foundation Offers Grants to Support the Housing Needs of Military Veterans**

- **Deadline:** February 24, 2016
- **Amount:** between $100,000 to $500,000

The Home Depot Foundation’s Veteran Housing Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations for the development and repair of veterans housing. To date, the foundation has awarded more than $80 million and has helped impact more than 17,000 units of housing for veterans.

Veteran Housing Grants are best suited to fund single family home repairs when they are a part of a permanent program managed by the nonprofit partner.

Eligible projects include new construction or the rehab or repair of single or multifamily permanent supportive or transitional housing. Grants are awarded solely for the physical construction or repair of housing for veterans (hard costs). Preference will be given to projects that serve the housing needs of women veterans with children, post-9/11 wounded veterans, veterans with caregivers, homeless veterans, and senior veterans aging in place; are located in a major metropolitan area; address the needs of veterans with supportive services or opportunities for community service activities; are supported by a mix of local private/public financial support as well as a mix of local, city, state, federal, and private funding; involve multifamily developments with a successful track record, or new construction or repair for single-family homes; and provide volunteer opportunities for local Home Depot store associates.

Awards typically range from $100,000 to $500,000.

To be eligible, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service for at least five years; have an operating budget of at least $300,000; and have developed and either currently manage or own veteran-specific housing. For rental projects, nonprofit must have an ownership stake in the development for more than fifteen years.

Applicants must first complete an eligibility questionnaire on the Home Depot Foundation website. If approved, applicants will be directed to submit a full grant proposal. Proposals will continue to be accepted year-round, and eligible applications that are not funded will be queued for the next funding cycle. Complete program guidelines, including grant terms and reporting requirements, are available at the Home Depot Foundation website.

2) **International Balzan Prize Foundation Call for Nominations for the 2016 Balzan Prize**

- **Deadline:** **“Limited Submission. Nomination materials should be sent by March 1, 2016, to Dr. Linda Schulze (lschulze@rci.rutgers.edu/848-932-8068).”**

International Balzan Foundation is calling for nominations for the 2016 Balzan Prize competition. This prestigious prize “aims to promote, throughout the world, culture, science and the most meritorious initiatives in the cause of humanity, peace and fraternity among peoples, regardless of nationality, race or creed.” Four prizes will be awarded, one in each named category, each worth $756,000. Included is a description of the Balzan Foundation and a list of its distinguished former awardees.

The areas in which prizes will be offered this year are Comparative Literature; International Relations; History and Theory; Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, including neurodegenerative and developmental aspects; and Applied Photonics. To nominate a candidate, please send the following materials:
Innovation lies at the core of all signature employment grants. Preference will be given to interventions that overcome specific employment barriers related to long-term dependence on public assistance, advance competitive employment in a cost-effective manner, and/or launch a new idea aimed at solving the issue.

Nomination materials should be sent by March 1, 2016, to Dr. Linda Schulze (lschulze@rci.rutgers.edu/848-932-8068) of my office, who will be coordinating this limited submission opportunity.

3) Oceans First Announces the 2016 Major Grant Program
- **Deadline:** March 1, 2016 (Letter of Interest)
- **Amount:** up to $20,000

Oceans First expects to award $580,000 in Major Grants. It is also be offering Model Classroom Grants, Scholarship Grants that support local students, Good Neighbor Grants, Home Runs for Heroes Grants.

Funding priorities include – supporting Housing, Youth Development and Education, and improving Health and Wellness and the Quality of Life in the OceanFirst Bank market. Typical grants will range from $5,000 – $20,000.

To be considered for a Major Grant, the first step is to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by March 1, 2016. LOIs must provide a brief background on your organization, how much your organization is requesting and a brief summary of the program or project for which you seek a grant.

Letters may not exceed two pages of narrative and must also include a one page program/project budget. Major Grant Committee will then conduct a thorough review of the LOIs received to determine which organizations will be invited to move on to the next step which is the submission of a full proposal for consideration.

4) Asian Women Giving Circle Issues RFP for Social Change Projects
- **Deadline:** March 11, 2016
- **Amount:** up to $15,000

Founded in 2005, the Asian Women Giving Circle is a collaboration of Asian American women in New York City who are passionate about amplifying the transformative power of arts and culture to bring about progressive change. The circle promotes grassroots philanthropy and pools resources to fund projects led by Asian American women that address fear, bias, and injustice at the community level.

To that end, AWGC has issued a Request for Proposals from Asian American women-led organizations and individual artists in New York City who are using arts and culture to bring about progressive social transformation. Projects should be designed to raise awareness and catalyze action around critical issues that affect Asian American women, girls, and families; and that highlight and promote women’s central role as leaders, creators, developers, and managers of these projects. All artistic disciplines will be considered, including cross-disciplinary work. To be eligible, however, projects must incorporate the arts in an integral way; highlight women’s leadership and/or central role; and demonstrate a deep commitment to a specific community in New York City.

In the 2016 grants cycle, the circle will award between five and eight grants of up to $15,000. Grants must be applied to specific projects and cannot support an organization’s ongoing programs, operations, capital needs, or endowment.

The program is open to both 501(c)(3) organizations and individual artists. Applicants can be at any stage of their careers but must have a track record of developed work that demonstrates their capacity to complete the proposed project and manage the funds requested.

5) Kessler Foundation Invites Applications for Signature Employment Grants
- **Deadline:** March 18, 2016 (Concept Applications)
- **Amount:** up to $1,000,000 over 2 years

The Kessler Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities through discovery, innovation, demonstration, application, and dissemination.

To that end, the foundation is inviting Concept Applications from nonprofit organizations for its annual Signature Employment grants program, which supports new pilot initiatives, demonstration projects, or social ventures that lead to the generation of new ideas aimed at solving the unemployment and underemployment of individuals with disabilities.

Innovation lies at the core of all signature employment grants. Preference will be given to interventions that overcome specific employment barriers related to long-term dependence on public assistance, advance competitive employment in a cost-effective manner, and/or launch a
social enterprise or individual entrepreneurship project. Projects must be collaborative, serve a large geographic area, and include multiple funding partners and stakeholders. In addition, initiatives or projects must have the potential for growth, scalability, and/or replication.

Grants of up to $500,000 over two years will be awarded to qualified pilot projects. Signature grants are not intended to fund project expansions or bring proven projects to new communities. All interested candidates must submit an online concept application no later than March 18, 2016. Upon review, select candidates will be invited to submit a full proposal by July 1, 2016.

Any organization recognized as a tax-exempt entity under the Internal Revenue Code may apply. This includes nonprofit agencies, public or private schools, and public institutions such as universities and government agencies (state, local, federal) based in the United States or any of its territories.

6) Kessler Foundation Seeks Applications for New Jersey-Based Job Programs for People With Disabilities

- **Deadline:** April 4, 2016
- **Amount:** up to $100,000

The Kessler Foundation is dedicated to improving quality of life for people with disabilities through discovery, innovation, demonstration, application, and dissemination. To that end, the foundation has announced a Request for Proposals focused on awarding projects, primarily in New Jersey, that increase employment and career opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The program seeks to support projects, programs, capacity building, pilot initiatives, and creative solutions that focus on job placement, education, training, and retention for New Jersey citizens with disabilities. These solutions must improve the employment landscape and lead to full-time or part-time employment, and thereby provide the independence and economic self-sufficiency important for living a purposeful life. Priority is given to projects serving individuals with mobility disabilities, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, stroke, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, epilepsy or other impairments primarily from neuromuscular disorders.

Nonprofit organizations serving New Jersey residents that are tax-exempt according to the Internal Revenue Code are eligible to apply. This includes nonprofit organizations, public/private schools, and public institutions. The foundation will accept applications from groups based outside New Jersey as long as the proposed grant projects are based in New Jersey and serve New Jersey residents.

The program typically awards two-year grants of up to $100,000.

7) Ben & Jerry’s Foundation Seeks Proposals for Social and Environmental Justice Projects

- **Deadline:** April 15, 2016 (Pre-Applications)
- **Amount:** up to $20,000

The Ben & Jerry’s Foundation supports organizations working to bring about progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems.

To that end, one-year grants of up to $20,000 will be awarded to nonprofit, grassroots community-organizing groups located in the United States to further social and environmental justice and support sustainable and just-food systems. Grants can be used to support either programming or operational costs.

The foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations with annual budgets under $500,000 that are using direct action, grassroots, and community-organizing strategies to accomplish their goals.

Pre-proposals must be received no later than April 15, 2016. Upon review, select applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal by July 15, 2016.

8) Ford Motor Company Fund Announces Capital Grants

- **Deadline:** March 11, 2016
- **Amount:** Upper $100,000

In previous years, the average capital grant amount awarded has been between $25,000 and $45,000. Due to the limited nature of funds available, the maximum grant amount that can be awarded per organization for any one year for the Capital Grants program will be $100,000. Multiple year commitments will not be made at this time. However, since by nature capital projects tend to extend over a period of time, grantees may apply for an additional grant in subsequent years.

The Fund works with partners to find innovative solutions to community concerns using a coordinated, strategic approach. The Fund focuses its efforts on three key areas:
Community Life: Community Life programs range from hunger relief to health care to support of cultural activities. Many of these programs are done in partnership with local Ford dealers using an innovative approach the sponsor calls Operation Better World.

Education: The Fund also invests about one third of its funds in support of education, including scholarships that help deserving students attain higher education and programs that help schools offer students new approaches to learning.

Safety: The international, award-winning Ford Driving Skills for Life program is the cornerstone of its safety efforts.

Capital Grant Program: The Fund is pleased to announce that it is once again accepting requests for the Capital Grant Program in 2016. This decision reflects its ongoing commitment to build stronger communities and capacity within the non-profit community to meet increasing needs in many areas. As was the case with last year's program, Capital Grant Program requests will only be considered to support the existing priorities of the Fund: education, automotive safety, community needs and the arts.

For the purposes of this program, the Fund defines capital as a physical infrastructure, construction of new and/or renovated space, and related equipment purchases. It will not consider endowment funding as a part of this program. Vehicle purchases will also not be considered.

9) Ploughshares Fund Offers Grants for Nuclear Weapons Elimination and Regional Peace and Security

- **Deadline:** March 15, 2016
- **Amount:** up to $25,000

In between the three annual board meetings, Ploughshares Fund staff have the ability to make discretionary grants up to $25,000. These discretionary grants are used to support time urgent projects related to our highest priority funding areas, and projects must have a high likelihood of achieving short-term policy impact.

In 2015, Ploughshares Fund exceeded its contributed income goal for annual support and gave grants totaling $4,975,211.

Ploughshares Fund partners with the most promising efforts to realize the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

The foundation gives grants that:

- Promote the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- Prevent the Emergence of New Nuclear States.
- Build Regional Peace and Security.

The fund also amplifies and coordinates the work of the grantees to:

- Develop winning strategies that push forward the vision of a nuclear-weapons free world - Bring together experts, analysts, lobbyists and activists to create and win shared campaigns
- Build a bipartisan legislative consensus for eliminating nuclear weapons
- Expand the public’s knowledge and catalyze public support for the elimination of nuclear weapons

There are no geographical limitations on the grants. The foundation is able to fund direct lobbying programs.

The foundation makes grants to individuals. Please note that it does not fund the production of films, videos, books, art projects or the research and writing of academic dissertations.