



Summary

Title: DC Beat the Odds Program Description

ID: 1001

Campaign Start Date: 01/16/2018

Campaign End Date: 03/26/2018

Description

About the Children's Defense Fund

Founded by Marian Wright Edelman, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly since 1973 to ensure a level playing field for all children. We champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation.

The Children's Defense Fund **Beat the Odds**(R) Scholarship and Leadership Development Program honors outstanding young people who are overcoming tremendous adversity, demonstrate academic excellence and give back to their communities. Each year, through a competitive review process, we select five deserving high school sophomores from the Washington, DC metropolitan area for admission into the *Beat the Odds* program.

About the Program

Five students will be selected by the *Beat the Odds* selection committee. Those who are admitted into the program will receive the following:

- A \$10,000 scholarship, allocated during college matriculation; a laptop computer, provided before the student begins college; leadership development and coursework and career guidance provided by CDF staff and affiliates; and formal attire for the *Beat the Odds* celebration in their senior year.
- Induction into the CDF family and an invitation to join the CDF leadership development ladder.
- Honors at the 2019 *Beat the Odds* Celebration. Professional, autobiographical films of each finalist's story will be produced and shown at the ceremony. These films may also be shared with the media, sponsors, supporters and the broader public, as well as posted on our web site.

The powerful stories of resilience, courage, determination, and hope shared at the annual *Beat the Odds* celebration inform CDF efforts to change the odds for children and serve as a stirring reminder and call to action for change-makers, policymakers, and every one of us to renew our commitment to children and youth.

Eligibility Requirements

For consideration in the CDF *Beat the Odds* Program, an applicant must:

- Be a current high school sophomore who attends a public, charter, or alternative school in Washington, DC; Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax or Loudon Counties or the Cities of Manassas or Falls Church in Virginia; or in Montgomery or Prince George's Counties in Maryland;
- Have overcome significant adversity such as, but not limited to, poverty, disability, homelessness or abuse;
- Demonstrate participation in school activities, community organizations, and/or employment;
- Demonstrate a commitment to their community and/or social justice issues;
- Have a current G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher;
- Plan to attend college, university, or vocational school post graduation.

The Children's Defense Fund welcomes students to apply regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, immigration status, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Selection Process

Beat the Odds Program applications are reviewed by CDF staff and a selection committee that reflects the professional and ethnic diversity of our community. We consider each applicant holistically and within the context of their academic achievement, personal circumstances, available support network, and commitment to service.

Applicants for the *Beat the Odds* program will be evaluated based upon:

- A completed application form (see "Apply Now" button below)
- A personal statement, of no more than 750 typed words, that accomplishes the following:
 - Describes the major obstacles and challenges in your life and how you have overcome them;
 - Describes your past and current family, financial, educational, and emotional support systems;
 - Describes how you have been able to achieve academic success or show marked improvement in academics, despite your hardships;
 - Describes your commitment to serving others, for example: involvement in service clubs at school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities.
- An educator recommendation from a teacher who knows the applicant well.
- A community member recommendation from a mentor, employer or counselor who knows the applicant well.
- An unofficial high school transcript. If an applicant is selected as a finalist, an official transcript will be required.

Publicity

Honorees will be interviewed and videotaped to create mini-documentaries designed to raise awareness about the challenges many young people face. These mini-documentaries will be shown at the *Beat the Odds* Celebration and posted online as part of the CDF YouTube library. **Applicants must feel comfortable sharing their stories publicly.***

*Honorees with safety or immigration concerns related to publicly sharing their stories should address these with CDF staff once they are selected. These concerns will not impact a student's eligibility for the program or their likelihood of selection.

Applications must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on Monday, March 26th, 2018.

If you have any questions about this application please email BTO@childrensdefense.org.

Thank you for your interest in the CDF *Beat the Odds* Program.

Sincerely,

Bridget Cichello
Beat the Odds Program Coordinator

Apply for DC Beat the Odds Program Description

Please fill out the form below and click Submit to submit your application for consideration. **Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.**

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Start Date:

Campaign End Date: 03/26/2018

End Date:

Contact Information

* First Name:

* Last Name:

* Address 1:

Address 2:

* City:

* State:

* Zip:

* Phone:

* Email:

Attachments

* Personal Statement:

- or Upload from:

Please provide a personal statement, of no more than 750 typed words, that accomplishes the following: describes the major obstacles and challenges in your life and how you have overcome them; Describes your past and current family, financial, educational, and emotional support systems; Describes how you have been able to achieve academic success or show marked improvement in academics, despite your hardships; Describes your commitment to serving others, for example: involvement in service clubs at school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities.

* Unofficial
Transcript:

- or Upload from:

Please provide a copy of your unofficial High School Transcript. If you are selected you will be required to provide an official copy of your transcript.

2018 BTO DC Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Personal Information

* Date of Birth

* Gender Identity

- A) Female
- B) Male
- C) Non-Binary
- D) Decline to state
- E) Other (Specify Below)

If other, please specify

* Preferred Pronouns

- A) She
- B) He
- C) They
- D) Other (Specify below)

If other, please specify

* Race/Ethnicity (Check all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Black or African-American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White
- Other (specify below)

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

* Name of Parent or Guardian

* Parent/Guardian Phone Number

* Parent/Guardian Email Address

Household Information

* Yearly Household Income

* Total # in Household

* Total Adults

* Total Children (Including Student)

* Briefly list who you live with, including ages of siblings (for example: mom, dad, 1 brother, age 5, etc.)

School Information

* School District Name

* High School Name

* High School Address

* School City

* School State

* School Zip Code

* School Phone Number

* School Fax Number

Principal/Director Name

* School Counselor

* Counselor Phone Number

* Counselor Email Address

* GPA

* Class Rank

* Expected Date of Graduation

EXPERIENCE AND HONORS

* Please list any service and/or leadership experiences

* Please list any honors or awards received

RECOMMENDER

Recommender 1

Name

*

Relationship

*

Email

*

Recommender 2

Name

*

Relationship

*

Email

*

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize and irrevocably grant to the Children’s Defense Fund and its affiliates, licensees, agents, employees and assigns the unrestricted right to use and publish any part of the information I have provided to the Children’s Defense Fund and the right to record my name, appearance, likeness, the sound of my voice and my comments on film, videotape, audiotape, still photographs, print and any other form of media now known or hereafter invented. I acknowledge that the Children’s Defense Fund shall own all right, title and interest in and to this media. I further agree that the Children’s Defense Fund may cause all or parts of this media to be used for any and all of its publications, exhibitions, public displays, editorials, advertising or for other purposes. I agree that I have not been paid, have not received other consideration and have no monetary rights to the audio recordings, films, videos or photographs and that such media belongs to the Children's Defense Fund.

I waive any right of inspection or approval of the media or any advertising or publicity in which my name, voice, appearance, likeness, narrative or comments might appear. I expressly release, discharge and agree to hold harmless the Children’s Defense Fund and its agents, employees, licensees, affiliates and assigns from and against any and all claims including, but not limited to, invasion of privacy and misappropriation that I might have now or at any time in the future in any way relating to my interview or its use.

I understand this permission signifies that photographic, audio or video recordings of me may be electronically displayed via the Internet or in other public settings. There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where the materials contemplated hereby may be distributed.

I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound hereby. This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives and assigns.

* Signature (type name)

* Date

If a minor

Parent or Legal Guardian

Address

Phone Number

Email Address