

Dear Community Leader:

The Children's Defense Fund National Office invites you to participate in the **Washington, DC Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program** by nominating a student.

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 *Beat the Odds* scholarship program honors high school students who are working hard to overcome tremendous obstacles in their personal lives, demonstrate academic achievement, and give back to their community.**

**Students must be nominated or seek nomination** for the *Beat the Odds* scholarship program by/from a teacher, counselor, caseworker, or other adult who can speak to the following: his/her character, academic achievement, commitment to social justice issues/community, and the tremendous odds he/she beats every day.

**Five sophomores will be selected** from the nomination pool by the *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee after application evaluations and interviews. Winners will receive the following:

- A \$10,000 scholarship, allocated during college matriculation; laptop computer; life skills development; college tours; guidance through the college admissions process; career guidance and other services that provide academic support through college; and, a mentoring network.
- Induction into the CDF family and invitation to join CDF's leadership development ladder.
- Honors at the 2017 *Beat the Odds* Awards. 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 website.

**Students must be enrolled** in a public or public-charter 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. Sophomores must be on track to graduate in 2018.

**All nominees must agree to share their story on camera and through CDF's media campaigns.** Videos of previous *Beat the Odds* honorees are located on our website: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/Beattheodds/washington-dc.html>.

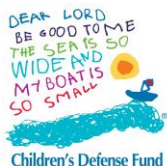
Applications must be received by **Friday, March 11, 2016** in order to qualify (*mailing and application instructions are enclosed*). **LATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Please contact LaVeta Hughes at 202-662-3612 or [bto@childrensdefense.org](mailto:bto@childrensdefense.org) for questions regarding the application/nomination process.

Thank you for your potential interest in the Washington, DC *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,

LaVeta Hughes  
National Beat the Odds® Coordinator



## Student Nomination Notification Letter

To the Washington, DC Beat the Odds® Scholarship Nominee:

**Congratulations!** You have been recognized as an outstanding high school sophomore who courageously overcomes tremendous odds every day. A teacher, counselor, caseworker, or other adult in your life has nominated you to apply for the **Children's Defense Fund *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program**.

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 ***Beat the Odds* Scholarship program honors young people for their personal hard work, academic potential, commitment to their community/involvement in social justice issues, and perseverance despite the tremendous obstacles they face in their daily lives.**

**Five sophomores will be selected** from the nomination pool by the *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee after application evaluations and interviews. Winners will receive the following:

- A \$10,000 scholarship, allocated during college matriculation; laptop computer; life skills development; college tours; guidance through the college admissions process; career guidance and other services that provide academic support through college; and, a mentoring network.
- Induction into the CDF family and invitation to join CDF's leadership development ladder.
- Honors at the 2017 *Beat the Odds* Awards. 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 website.

**Please note: All services are offered in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and are subject to change.**

Participation in all program related services and activities is mandatory; not participating will jeopardize a recipient's ability to remain in the program and receive the scholarship.

**All nominees must agree to share their story on camera.** Videos of previous *Beat the Odds* honorees are located on our website: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/Beattheodds/washington-dc.html>.

Applications must be received by **Friday, March 11, 2016** in order to qualify (*mailing and application instructions are enclosed*). **LATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Please contact LaVeta Hughes at 202-662-3612 or [bto@childrensdefense.org](mailto:bto@childrensdefense.org) for questions regarding the application/nomination process.

Sincerely,

LaVeta Hughes  
National Beat the Odds® Coordinator

## Nominee Qualifications and Application Check List

### For consideration in the Washington, DC *Beat the Odds*® Scholarship, you must:

1. Be a current **high school sophomore** who attends a public or public-charter 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. Students must be on track to graduate in 2018.
2. Demonstrate academic achievement and potential for post-secondary success. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.
3. Have limited support and/or income.
4. Demonstrate commitment to your community and/or social justice issues.
5. Write 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;pdf
  - 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.
6. Submit **educator recommendation and nominator form** from a teacher, guidance counselor or other educator who is familiar with you both personally and academically. No shorter than one page, typed, 12-point font, single-spaced.
7. Submit **additional letter of recommendation and nominator form** from anyone (other than a family member) who knows you well. For example, a mentor, coach, internship supervisor, clergy member or friend. No shorter than one page, typed, 12-point font, single-spaced.  
**Note: ALL nominators must complete the Nominator Form AND Letter of Recommendation.**
8. Complete and submit the ***Beat the Odds* application**.
9. Submit current **unofficial transcripts**.

## Application Check List

Applicant/Nominee and Nominator should both review the Application Check List for completion of all requirements prior to submission of the application.

### Nominator Check list

- Two (2) Nominator Forms
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
- Student's Unofficial High School Transcript
- Confirm that Nominee Check List is complete

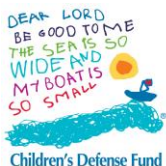
### Applicant/Nominee Check List

- Completed Application Form
- Personal Statement - No more than 750 typed words
- Signed Children's Defense Fund's Media Release Form

All completed applications **MUST** be uploaded to the website, mailed, or emailed for consideration.

Children's Defense Fund-National Office  
25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 662-3612  
Email: [bto@childrensdefense.org](mailto:bto@childrensdefense.org)



## Washington, DC Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program Nominee Information Form

Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections.

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ ETHNICITY \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

YEARLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL # IN HOUSEHOLD \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CHILDREN (including nominee) \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEFLY LIST WHO YOU LIVE WITH (for example: mom, dad, 1 brother, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL'S/DIRECTOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

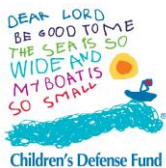
SCHOOL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL FAX # \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSELOR AT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL'S/DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**All completed applications MUST be uploaded to the website, mailed or emailed for consideration.**

**Children's Defense Fund-National Office**  
25 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: (202) 662-3612  
Email: [bto@childrensdefense.org](mailto:bto@childrensdefense.org)



Children's Defense Fund  
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

## Nominator Recommendation Form

In order for the *Beat the Odds* selection committee to best understand the qualities and attributes which make your nominee a candidate for this program, it is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of him/her.

- Using the grid below please be thorough in offering insight into your nominee.
- Please include a letter of recommendation using the categories in the grid below as a guide to fully describe the nominee and share how he/she has beaten the odds.

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you known nominee? \_\_\_\_\_

**EXCEPTIONAL= top 5%**

**GOOD= top 25%**

**FAIR= in the middle**

**POOR= less prepared than most**

	Exceptional	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
<b>Academic Commitment:</b> has demonstrated potential for post-graduate education; recognized for achievements					
<b>Leadership Skills:</b> expresses opinions diplomatically; provides positive direction and motivates others					
<b>Judgment:</b> makes good decisions; understands how his/her choices and actions impact others					
<b>Dependability:</b> accepts responsibility; meets commitments; arrives on time and prepared; trustworthy					
<b>Commitment to social justice:</b> cognizant of issues affecting world around him/her; knowledgeable about local needs and engages/is involved					
<b>Attitude:</b> respect for people and things; optimistic; willing to extend comfort zone; open to new experiences					
<b>Communication Skills:</b> listens and speaks well; expresses thoughts clearly; participates and shows insight					
<b>Relationship with Peers:</b> relates well to others; accepts differences in opinion; is open to feedback					



## Nominator Recommendation Form

In order for the *Beat the Odds* selection committee to best understand the qualities and attributes which make your nominee a candidate for this program, it is crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of him/her.

- Using the grid below please be thorough in offering insight into your nominee.
- Please include a letter of recommendation using the categories in the grid below as a guide to fully describe the nominee and share how he/she has beaten the odds.

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you known nominee? \_\_\_\_\_

**EXCEPTIONAL= top 5%**

**GOOD= top 25%**

**FAIR= in the middle**

**POOR= less prepared than most**

	Exceptional	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
<b>Academic Commitment:</b> has demonstrated potential for post-graduate education; recognized for achievements					
<b>Leadership Skills:</b> expresses opinions diplomatically; provides positive direction and motivates others					
<b>Judgment:</b> makes good decisions; understands how his/her choices and actions impact others					
<b>Dependability:</b> accepts responsibility; meets commitments; arrives on time and prepared; trustworthy					
<b>Commitment to social justice:</b> cognizant of issues affecting world around him/her; knowledgeable about local needs and engages/is involved					
<b>Attitude:</b> respect for people and things; optimistic; willing to extend comfort zone; open to new experiences					
<b>Communication Skills:</b> listens and speaks well; expresses thoughts clearly; participates and shows insight					
<b>Relationship with Peers:</b> relates well to others; accepts differences in opinion; is open to feedback					

## Media Release

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.

Date:

---

Signature:

---

Print name:

---

If a minor:

---

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Address:

---

---

Phone Number:

---

Email:

---