Application Requirements

Students must be recommended or seek recommendation for the Beat the Odds scholarship program from two adults who can speak to your commitment to your community, your character, and your academic achievement.

All applications must include:

✓ A completed application form;
✓ An educator recommendation letter from a teacher or counselor who knows the applicant well;
✓ A community member recommendation letter from a mentor, employer, caseworker or other adult who knows the applicant well;
✓ An unofficial high school transcript;
✓ A personal statement of no more than 750 typed words, that accomplishes the following:
   o Describes an obstacle(s) you have faced relating to one or more of CDF’s policy priorities and how it has shaped you. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to:
     ▪ Poverty: Growing up in poverty, facing homelessness and/or food insecurity.
     ▪ Healthcare: Living without health insurance and/or experiencing significant health challenges.
     ▪ Education: Experiencing difficulty accessing educational opportunities and resources necessary for success.
     ▪ Child Welfare: Interactions with the child welfare system, including foster care and adoption.
     ▪ Youth Justice: Interactions with the juvenile justice system.
     ▪ Gun Violence: Being impacted by gun violence.
     ▪ Immigration: Facing challenges related to you or your family’s immigration status.
   o Describes your commitment to serving others, for example: involvement in clubs at school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities;
   o Describes how you have been able to achieve academic success or show improvement in academics.

✓ Essay responses of no more than 400 typed words each that respond to the following prompts:
   o Who are two of your modern day (s)heroes (they can be anyone from a parent to a community member to a famous activist)? Why do you look up to them?
   o CDF’s founder, Marian Wright Edelman, once said that “service is the rent we pay to be living.” How does this quote relate to your current life and/or future aspirations?