



Dear Community Leader:

The Children's Defense Fund invites you to participate in the Los Angeles **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 sophomores that 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. **Ten students will be selected** from the nomination pool by the *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee, and after a year of participation in the program they will be interviewed and qualified as one of five finalists or one of five semi-finalists who will receive the following:

- **Both finalists and semi-finalists will receive:** career guidance; college counseling; opportunity to tour colleges; SAT preparation led by Princeton Review; life skills development assistance with the college or post-secondary education matriculation process and other services that will provide academic support during high school and beyond. **Five finalists** will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship, and **five semi-finalists** will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- The **five finalists** will be honored at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards, in the winter of 2015. Professional, autobiographical films of each finalist's story will be produced and shown during the dinner.

**All services are offered in the City of Los Angeles and are subject to change.**

**As a Nominator you must commit to act as a liaison to help facilitate communication with your nominee(s) and ensure that he/she successfully completes the application. Additionally, please give your nominees the nomination notification letter included in the packet.**

**All nominees must agree to share their story on camera.** You can find videos of the 2013 *Beat the Odds* honorees on [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org).

Applications must be received by **5 p.m. on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014** in order to qualify (*mailing and application instructions are enclosed*).

In case of questions, regarding the nomination process, please call CDF CA Programs at 213.355.8787 or email [cdfca@childrensdefense.org](mailto:cdfca@childrensdefense.org).

Thank you for your interest in the Los Angeles *Beat the Odds* Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,

Saira G. Soto  
CA Program Director



Children's Defense Fund-California  
[www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org)

## Student Nomination Notification Letter

### To the CDF 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-Los Angeles *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.**

**Ten students will be selected** from the nomination pool by the *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee and after a year of participation in the program they will be interviewed and qualified as one of five finalists or one of five semi-finalists who will receive the following:

- **Both finalists and semi-finalists will receive:** career guidance; college counseling; opportunity to tour colleges; SAT preparation led by Princeton Review; life skills development assistance with the college or post-secondary education matriculation process and other services that will provide academic support during high school and beyond. **Five finalists** will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship, and **five semi-finalists** will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- The **five finalists** will be honored at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards, in the winter of 2015. Professional, autobiographical films of each finalist's story will be produced and shown during the dinner.

**Please note-all services are offered in the City of Los Angeles 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.** You can find videos of the 2012 *Beat the Odds* Honorees on [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org).

**Applications must be received by 5p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2014** in order to qualify (*mailing and application instructions are enclosed*).

In case of questions, regarding the nomination/application process, please call 213.355.8787 or email [cdfca@childrensdefense.org](mailto:cdfca@childrensdefense.org).

Sincerely,  
Saira G. Soto  
CA Program Director

## Nominee Qualifications and Application Check List

### For consideration in the Los Angeles *Beat The Odds* Scholarship, you must:

1. Be a current high school sophomore who resides in or attends school in the Greater Los Angeles area.
2. Demonstrate academic achievement and potential for post-secondary success. *There is no GPA requirement.*
3. Have limited family and/or community support and/or limited income.
4. Demonstrate commitment to your community and/or social justice issues.
5. If selected as a top 10 finalist you must be able to provide a Social Security or Federal Tax Identification number.
6. 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;
  - 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.
7. Complete and submit the *Beat the Odds* application.

## Application Check List

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

### Nominator Check list

- Completed Nominee Information Form
- Nominee's Current Unofficial High School Transcript (Cumulative Un-weighted GPA)
- Letter of Recommendation
- Confirm that Nominee Check List is complete

### Nominee Check List

- Completed Recommendation Form
- Student Resume
- Student Essay- No more than 750 typed words
- Signed Media Release Form

A Microsoft Word version of the nomination packet is available at [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org) under Programs & Campaigns.

All completed applications **MUST** be received no later than 5 p.m., on Friday, February 14, 2014 to c/o: CDF CA Programs by mail, fax or email.

Children's Defense Fund-California  
634 S. Spring St., Suite 500C,  
Los Angeles, CA.90014

Phone #: (213) 355-8787 Fax: (213) 355-8795  
Email: [cdfca@childrensdefense.org](mailto:cdfca@childrensdefense.org)

## Los Angeles Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program Nominee Information Form

Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections. For a Microsoft Word version of this nomination packet visit [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org).

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

STUDENT'S ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT OR GUARDIAN PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL NAME AND ACADEMY (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINCIPAL'S/DEAN'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL'S/DEAN'S EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSELOR AT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSELOR EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

COUNSELOR'S PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**All completed nomination packets MUST be received no later than 5p.m., on Friday, February 14, 2014 to c/o: CDF CA Programs by mail, fax or email.**

**Children's Defense Fund-CA**  
634 S. Spring St. Suite 500C  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90014

**Phone #:** 213.355.8787 **Fax #:** 213.355.8795  
**Email:** [cdfca@childrensdefense.org](mailto:cdfca@childrensdefense.org)



# Children's Defense Fund

# Nominator Recommendation Form **BEAT THE ODDS**<sup>®</sup>

In order for the CDF *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. Please complete the following:

1. Using the grid below be thorough in offering insight into the nominee.
2. **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%  
prepared than most**

**GOOD= top 25%**

**FAIR= in the middle**

**POOR= less**

	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					



Children's Defense Fund-California  
[www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org)

# Media Release Form

I hereby authorize and irrevocably grant to the Children's Defense Fund and its affiliates, licensees, agents and assigns the unrestricted right to use and publish any part of the information I have given to the Children's Defense Fund and the right to record my name, voice, appearance, likeness, and comments on film, videotape, audiotape, still photographs, print and any other 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 publications, exhibitions, public displays, editorials, advertising or other purposes.

I waive any 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 and agree to hold harmless the Children's Defense Fund and its agents, employees, licensees and assigns from and against any and all claims including, but not limited to, invasion of privacy that I might ever have in any way relating to my interview or its use.

Date:

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Signature:

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(Student)

Print Name:

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(Student)

Signature:

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(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Print Name:

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(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Address:

---

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Phone #:

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Email:

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(Student)