

**Dear Children's Defense Fund Beat The Odds® Scholarship Program Applicant:**

Thank you for your interest in the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) *Beat the Odds* Scholarship program. Since 1990, the program has recognized outstanding young men and women who courageously overcome tremendous odds every day.

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 CDF *Beat the Odds* Scholarship program honors high school sophomores 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 CDF *Beat the Odds* Selection Committee. 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, opportunities to tour colleges, SAT preparation, life skills development, assistance with the college or post-secondary education enrollment 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 each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- The **five finalists** will be honored at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual *Beat the Odds* Awards, in the winter of 2017. 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.**

**All applicants must agree to share their story on camera.** You can find videos of the 2014 CDF *Beat the Odds* honorees on [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org).

**Applications must be post-marked by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016** in order to qualify (*mailing and application instructions are enclosed*).

In case of questions, please call (213) 355-8788 or email [mjones@childrensdefense.org](mailto:mjones@childrensdefense.org).

Sincerely,

Saira G. Soto  
CA Program Director

## Applicant Qualifications and Application Check List

### For consideration in the CDF *Beat the Odds* Scholarship program, you must:

1. Be nominated or seek nomination from a teacher, counselor, caseworker, or other adult who can speak on your challenges, victories, academic potential and commitment to social justice.
2. Be a current high school sophomore who resides in or attends school in the Greater Los Angeles area.
3. Demonstrate academic achievement and potential for post-secondary success.
4. Have limited family and/or community support and/or limited income.
5. Demonstrate commitment to your community and/or social justice issues.
6. If selected as a top 10 finalist you must be able to provide a Social Security Number or Federal Tax Identification number. **Note: Undocumented students are encouraged to apply**
7. 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 or are working to 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 social justice issues, service clubs at school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities.
8. Complete and submit the *Beat the Odds* application.

## Application Check List

**Nominator and Applicant 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
- Letter of Recommendation

### Applicant Check List

- Completed Recommendation Form
- Current Academic Transcript – unweighted GPA
- Student Resume
- Student Essay- No more than 750 typed words
- Signed Media Release Form

A Microsoft Word and pdf version of the application packet is available at [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org) under Programs.

All completed applications **MUST** be post-marked no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016. Please email, fax or mail to: CDF-CA c/o: Michelle Jones.

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

Phone #: (213) 355-8788 Fax: (888) 828-4814  
Email: [CA-BTO@childrensdefense.org](mailto:CA-BTO@childrensdefense.org)



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

The CDF Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program  
**Applicant Information Form**

Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections. For a Microsoft Word or pdf version of this application 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 \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT'S CELL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ YEARLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL # IN HOUSEHOLD \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_ BRIEFLY LIST WHO YOU LIVE WITH (for example: Mom, dad, 1 brother, etc...)  
 (including nominee)

DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)?

- Bilingual Education  ESL/LEP  Special Education  Gifted/ Talented

HAVE YOU BEEN IN FOSTER CARE OR KIN-SHIP AT ANY POINT IN YOUR LIFE?  Yes  No

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL TYPE (i.e. Public, Charter etc) \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

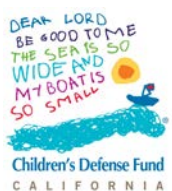
PRINCIPAL'S/DEAN'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL'S/DEAN'S EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ACADEMIC COUNSELOR AT SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSELOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

All completed applications MUST be post-marked no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016. Please email, fax or mail to:

CDF-CA c/o: Michelle Jones 634 S. Spring St, Ste. 500C, LA, CA 90014  
 Email: [CA-BTO@childrensdefense.org](mailto:CA-BTO@childrensdefense.org) Phone: (213) 355-8788 Fax: (888) 828-4814



## Nominator Recommendation Form

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:

- Using the grid below be thorough in offering insight into the nominee.
- Include a letter of recommendation.** Use 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					

**All completed nominations MUST be post-marked no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016. Please email, fax or mail to: CDF-CA c/o: Michelle Jones. Fax: (888) 828-4814 634 S. Spring Street, Suite 500C Los Angeles, CA 90014 Phone #: (213) 355-8788 Fax: (888) 828-4814 Email: [CA-BTO@childrensdefense.org](mailto:CA-BTO@childrensdefense.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 use all or parts of this media release 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)