

January 30, 2017

TO: Local Educators, Counselors, and Child Advocates

FROM: Children's Defense Fund-California Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program

SUBJECT: 2017 Beat the Odds Scholarship Application Announcement

Each year the Children's Defense Fund *Beat the Odds* scholarship program, selects 10 high school sophomores who are overcoming tremendous adversity, demonstrating academic excellence and giving back to their communities. Program participants receive the following support needed to matriculate and succeed in college and beyond:

- College test preparation
- Access to workshops focused on financial aid, financial literacy and essay writing
- College counseling and mentoring
- Access to college fairs and meet and greets
- Internship referrals
- Career, speech and life skills development
- Assistance with the college or post-secondary education enrollment process

Through an interview process the program's selection committee will determine each participant's scholarship amount at \$1,000 or \$10,000. The top five scholarship recipients will be recognized at the annual CDF *Beat the Odds* Awards gala in December 2018. Professional, autobiographical films of the top five will be produced and shown during the awards ceremony.

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 2016 CDF-CA *Beat the Odds* honorees at www.cdfca.org.

Applications must be post-marked by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 in order to qualify (*mailing and application instructions are enclosed*).

Questions can be directed to Michelle Jones, Programs Coordinator at (213) 355-8788 or mjones@childrensdefense.org.

Sincerely,

Saira G. Soto
CDF-CA Deputy Director



Eligibility Criteria

To apply for the CDF *Beat the Odds* Scholarship program, at minimum, a student must:

- 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 community/social justice
- Be a current high school sophomore who resides in or attends school in the Greater Los Angeles area
- Demonstrate academic achievement and potential for post-secondary success
- Have limited family, community support and/or limited income
- Demonstrate commitment to your community through involvement in social justice issues or volunteer work
- If selected, you must be able to provide a Social Security or Federal Tax Identification number.

Note: Undocumented students may apply

Write a personal statement of no more than 750 typed words that includes the following:

- Major obstacles and challenges in your life and how you have or are addressing them
- Past and current family, financial, educational, and emotional support systems
- Your hardships and how you have been able to maintain academic success or show marked improvement in academics
- 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.

Application Check List

Nominator and student should both review the Application Check List for completion of all requirements prior to submitting.

Nominator Check list

- Completed Nominee Information Form
- Letter of Recommendation (only one letter will be accepted)

Note: applications without a letter of recommendation will not be considered.

Student Check List

- Student Information Form
- Current Academic Transcript – unweighted GPA (PDF format)
- Resume
- Personal Statement- Maximum 750 words
- Signed Media Release Form

A Microsoft Word and PDF version of the application packet is available at www.cdfca.org under Programs.

All completed applications **MUST** be post-marked no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017. 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



The CDF Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program Student Information Form

COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS. Microsoft Word/pdf versions of this application are available at 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 student)

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

Bilingual Education ESL/LEP/ELD Gifted/ Talented Special Education. If Special Education is checked off please briefly describe your disability _____.

HAVE YOU BEEN IN FOSTER CARE/KINSHIP CARE? Yes No ARE YOU IN FOSTER CARE/KINSHIP CARE NOW? Yes No

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN _____ PARENT OR GUARDIAN PHONE # _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME _____ SCHOOL NAME _____ SCHOOL TYPE (i.e. Public, Private, 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 _____

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Nominator Recommendation Form

In order for the CDF-CA 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 the applicant. Please complete the following:

1. Complete the grid below.
2. Use the grid below as a reference when writing your letter of recommendation. **Only one letter of recommendation will be accepted.**

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

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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.

I expressly release and agree to hold harmless the Children's Defense Fund, and their 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:

Signature:

Print name:

If a minor:

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

