The Children’s Defense Fund-New York (CDF-NY) invites you to participate in the CDF-NY Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program (BTO) 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 provides social and academic college readiness programming to high school students that are working hard to overcome tremendous obstacles in their personal lives, who demonstrate academic achievement, and give back to their community. In addition, the program also offers scholarship opportunities and support services to aid scholars throughout their college career, including ongoing mentoring, internship placements and career guidance.

For consideration in the New York Beat The Odds Scholarship Program students must:
1. Be a current high school sophomore and junior who resides in or attends school within the five New York City boroughs;
2. Have overcome significant obstacles such as, but not limited to, poverty, disability, homelessness or abuse;
3. Have achieved a grade point average showing improvement or success; (There is no GPA requirement)
4. Attend college/university following high school graduation;
5. Demonstrate commitment to community and/or social justice issues; and
6. Attend mandatory workshops, meetings, interviews and award ceremony if selected.

Students must be nominated or seek nomination for the New York 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 juniors will be selected from the nomination pool. All five Beat The Odds scholars will have the opportunity to apply for scholarships provided by the Children’s Defense Fund- New York during their senior year.

Ten sophomores will be selected from the nomination pool. All ten Beat The Odds scholars will have the opportunity to apply for scholarships provided by the Children’s Defense Fund- New York during their senior year.

While in the New York Beat The Odds Scholarship Program, all scholars will receive the following:
- One-on-one college counseling, career guidance, opportunity to tour colleges, SAT preparation, life skills & leadership development;
- Support services throughout their high school and college career; including ongoing mentoring, internship placements and career guidance;
- Opportunities to participate in CDF-NY policy and programs; CDF Freedom Schools, Young Advocate Leadership Training (YALT) and internships; and
- Membership to an extensive BTO alumni network.

All nominees must agree to share their story on camera. You can find videos of the 2014 Beat the Odds honorees on www.cdfny.org.

Applications must be received by 5 pm on Friday, June 13, 2014 (application & instructions are enclosed).

For questions regarding the nomination process email us at BTO@childrensdefense.org.

Thank you for your interest in the New York Beat the Odds Scholarship Program.
Nominee Qualifications and Application Check List

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Be a current high school **sophomore or junior** who resides in or attends school within the five New York City boroughs;
2. Have overcome significant obstacles such as, but not limited to, poverty, disability, homelessness or abuse;
3. Have achieved a grade point average showing improvement or success; *(There is no GPA requirement)*
4. Attend college/university following high school graduation;
5. Demonstrate commitment to the community and/or social justice issues; and
6. Attend mandatory workshops, meetings, interviews and an award ceremony if selected.

HOW DO I APPLY?
1. 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; and
   - 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.
2. Complete and submit the New York Beat The Odds Scholarship Program application; check list provided below.

Application Check List

**Nominator Check List**
- Complete Nominator Recommendation Form
- Letter of Recommendation
- Confirm that the Student Check List is complete

**Student Check List**
- Complete Student Information Form
- Student Resume
- Student Essay - No more than 750 typed words
- Student’s Current Unofficial High School Transcript *(Cumulative Un-weighted GPA)*

A Microsoft Word version of the nomination packet is available at [www.cdfny.org](http://www.cdfny.org) (Under Programs/Beat The Odds Scholarship Program).

All completed nominations MUST be received no later than 5 p.m., on Friday, June 13, 2014.

Mail, email or fax to:

**Children’s Defense Fund-New York**
Beat The Odds Scholarship Program
15 Maiden Lane, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10038

**Phone #**: (212) 697-2323  **Fax**: (212) 697-0566
**Email**: BTO@childrensdefense.org
Nominator Recommendation Form
In order for the New York Beat the Odds selection committee to best understand the qualities and attributes which make the student you are nominating for this program a candidate, 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 student you are nominating.
2. **Include a letter of recommendation**, using the categories in the grid below as a guide, to fully describe the student and share how he/she has beaten the odds.

Name of student

Name of nominator: _______________ Relationship to student: __________________________

Office Phone #: ________________________ Home/Cell # ______________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________ How long have you known student? _______

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<th></th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) <strong>Academic commitment:</strong> has demonstrated potential for post-graduate education, recognized for achievements</td>
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<td>(2) <strong>Leadership skills:</strong> expresses opinions diplomatically, provides positive direction and motivates others</td>
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<td>(3) <strong>Judgment:</strong> makes good decisions, understands how his/her choices and actions impact others</td>
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<td>(4) <strong>Dependability:</strong> accepts responsibility, meets commitments, arrives on time and prepared, trustworthy</td>
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<td>(5) <strong>Attitude:</strong> respect for people and things; optimistic; willing to extend comfort zone; open to new experiences</td>
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<td>(6) <strong>Commitment to social justice:</strong> cognizant of issues affecting world around him/her; knowledgeable about local needs and engages/is involved</td>
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<td>(7) <strong>Communication skills:</strong> listens and speaks well, expresses thoughts clearly, participates and shows insight</td>
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<td>(8) <strong>Relationship with peers:</strong> relates well to others; accepts differences in opinion; is open to feedback</td>
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15 Maiden Lane, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10038

Phone #: (212) 697-2323 Fax: (212) 697-0566
Email: BTO@childrensdefense.org
New York Beat the Odds® Scholarship Program
Student Information Form

Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections. For a Microsoft Word version of this nomination packet visit www.cdfny.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT’S NAME</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>BIRTH DATE</th>
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<tr>
<th>STUDENT’S ADDRESS</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>ZIP CODE</th>
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<tr>
<th>STUDENT’S EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
<th>HOME PHONE #</th>
<th>CELL PHONE #</th>
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<tr>
<th>YEARLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME</th>
<th>TOTAL # IN HOUSEHOLD</th>
<th>TOTAL ADULTS</th>
<th>TOTAL CHILDREN (including nominee)</th>
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BRIEFLY LIST WHO YOU LIVE WITH (for example: Mom, dad, 1 brother, etc…)

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<th>NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN</th>
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<tr>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL NAME AND ACADEMY (if applicable)</th>
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<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>ZIP CODE</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL’S/DEAN’S NAME</th>
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<th>SCHOOL PHONE #</th>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS</th>
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<tr>
<th>COUNSELOR AT SCHOOL</th>
<th>PHONE #</th>
<th>EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
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<th>COUNSELOR’S SIGNATURE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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Phone #: (212) 697-2323  Fax: (212) 697-0566
Email: BTO@childrensdefense.org
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I mail my application?

Yes, mail your application to:

Children's Defense Fund-New York
Beat The Odds Scholarship Program
15 Maiden Lane, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10038

Who can you contact to find out more information about the Beat The Odds Scholarship Program?

Email questions to BTO@childrensdefense.org.

When will I find out if I was selected for the Beat The Odds Scholarship Program?

Students who will be juniors in the Fall of 2014 will be notified on Monday, July 14th.

Students who will be seniors in the Fall of 2014 will be notified on Friday, July 18th.

If selected, when will Orientation will take place?

When: Tuesday, July 22rd
Time: 4:30pm-6:00pm
Location: Children's Defense Fund-New York
15 Maiden Lane, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10038

*One guardian must be present.

How can the scholarship be used?

Funds will be used for tuition to the college/university of your choice. Scholarship funds are distributed per semester or school year. Scholarship funds can also be deferred; in the case that a student receives a full scholarship from a college/university.

Is there a GPA requirement?

No, there is no GPA requirement. Although, we do take into account whether a student has taken AP and honors classes. Also, if there have been improvements in their GPA throughout their high school academic transcripts.

Will I have to participate in the documentary filming, if selected?

Yes, all students who apply must agree to share their story on camera if selected. Documentaries are shown at the Annual Beat The Odds Awards Gala. To view documentaries from the 2014 Beat The Odds honorees, go to www.cdfny.org.