



Children's Defense Fund **BEAT THE ODDS[®]**

2017-2018 Beat the Odds[®] Scholarship Application

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND-MINNESOTA

Send all completed application materials together by email, fax, or mail to:

Email: btomn@childrensdefense.org

Fax: 651-227-2553

Mail: 555 Park Street, Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55103

(If mailed please follow up immediately with an email confirming that it was sent)

For more information or assistance, contact CDF-MN at btomn@childrensdefense.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59 PM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017



Hello Children's Defense Fund – MN's Beat the Odds Applicants and Nominators:

CDF-MN is committed to supporting all children and youth thrive here in Minnesota. Our Beat the Odds Scholarship is an opportunity to support young people who overcome significant challenges in their lives to make their dream of attending higher education an opportunity. Part of the Beat The Odds Scholarship is highlighting the amazing stories of our scholarship recipients. CDF collects personal information on applicants and creates written materials and audio/visual products which all may contain information regarding the youth's undocumented status. In this way, we collect, hold and disseminate personal information on students. These stories are shared at our Beat The Odds honoree event, CDF-MN's Website and on social media. We do this to honor our Beat the Odds Scholars and to help shape a positive narrative about the potential of all our young people.

Process for Undocumented Students

CDF has a history of honoring youth who are undocumented. (We have also honored students who are legal citizens of the United States, having been born in the U.S., but their parents are undocumented and are at risk of deportation.) In 2017, the hostile climate for undocumented youth and the federal government's statements that it is granting wider latitude to custom patrols and Immigration and Custom Enforcement officers, has increased the risk of deportation to youth and their families. Any activity we perform that shines a light on the young person's stories at our annual award events across the country, potentially places those students and/or their parents and family members at greater risk of being targeted, detained, and deported. We want to make sure we are taking every precaution in avoiding risks for the youth, their families, and our organization.

We believe that continuing to admit undocumented students, if they are the most qualified and compelling applicants, is the right approach and aligns with our values as an organization. Undocumented youth have limited access to loans or scholarships when even compared to immigrant students with DACA or temporary protected status. Any student, regardless of their citizenship status, is invited to apply for a Beat the Odds Scholarship. CDF-MN does NOT ask any questions regarding immigration status.

Given the current climate we advise against disclosing ANY and ALL information that address immigration status of the student or their family on the scholarship application. CDF-MN will maintain all applications as confidential, but on-going risks exist in our community. We understand that this may be a significant part of a student's story of overcoming challenge, however advise against including this information.

If you or a student have questions about this process, please call Bharti Wahi, Executive Director of Children's Defense Fund – Minnesota by phone at (651) 855-1171 or by email at bwahi@childrensdefense.org. We can discuss alternative ways of conveying the totality of a young person's experience without requiring written disclosure about citizenship or immigration status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bharti Wahi".

Bharti Wahi
Executive Director
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota

Beat the Odds® Qualifications and Application Check List

For consideration of Children's Defense Fund-MN *Beat the Odds* scholarship, you must:

1. Be a current high school senior who resides in or attends school in the broader Twin Cities Metro area. Diversity in geographic representation will be considered.
2. Be on track to graduate by June 2018.
3. Demonstrate academic achievement and have post-secondary or training goals at a college, university or other institution of learning (**there is no GPA requirement**), as well as potential for post-secondary success.
4. Be available for meetings including photo shoots and interviews from November 2017 through March 2018 (**Nominator will be responsible for helping coordinate transportation to required meetings**).
5. Have limited family and/or community support and/or limited income.
6. Demonstrate commitment to your community and/or social justice.
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 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 or community organizations or taking on major home and work responsibilities;
 - One scholarship will be designated to a student that shows passion for the broader arts; describe any relevant interests or experiences
8. Complete *Beat the Odds* application packet with all requirements including nominator form and letter of recommendation must be received together by **11:59 PM Friday, October 13, 2017**.

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

- ✓ Select a student(s) that meets criteria.
- ✓ Write 1 page nomination letter on behalf of your nominee(s) that addresses the following:
 - Your reasons for nominating this student including a description of the obstacles this student has overcome;
 - The length of time you have known this student;
 - A description of how the student has demonstrated leadership skills
 - A description of any additional personal achievements the student has attained;
- ✓ Confirm that nominee application packet is complete.
- ✓ Commit to act as a liaison to help facilitate communication with your nominee(s).

Nominee Check List

- ✓ Completed nominee information form
- ✓ Student Essay – No more than 750 typed words
- ✓ Signed media release form

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Fax: 651-227-2553

Mail: 555 Park Street, Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55103

*For faxed and mailed submissions, please add ATTN: BTO Scholarship Program

Nominee Information Form

Please type or print clearly below and complete all sections. All completed nomination packets **MUST** be received no later than 11:59 PM Friday, October 13, 2017.

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					
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			
NOMINATOR'S NAME		NOMINATOR EMAIL ADDRESS			
NOMINATOR'S PHONE #		NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE		DATE	

Media Release

I hereby authorize and irrevocably grant to the Children's Defense Fund and its affiliates, licensees, agents, employees and assigns the unrestricted right to use and publish any part of the information I have provided to the Children's Defense Fund and the right to record my name, appearance, likeness, the sound of my voice and my comments on film, videotape, audiotape, still photographs, print and any other form of 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 of its publications, exhibitions, public displays, editorials, advertising or for other purposes. I agree that I have not been paid, have not received other consideration and have no monetary rights to the audio recordings, films, videos or photographs and that such media belongs to the Children's Defense Fund.

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

I understand this permission signifies that photographic, audio or video recordings of me may be electronically displayed via the Internet or in other public settings. There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where the materials contemplated hereby may be distributed.

I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound hereby. This release shall be binding upon me and my heirs, legal representatives and assigns.

Date:

Signature:

Print name:

If a minor:

(Parent or Legal Guardian)

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:
