

Application Requirements

Students must be recommended or seek recommendation for the *Beat the Odds* scholarship program from **two adults** who can speak to your commitment to your community, your character, and your academic achievement.

All applications must include:

- ✓ **A completed application form;**
- ✓ **An educator recommendation letter** from a teacher or counselor who knows the applicant well;
- ✓ **A community member recommendation letter** from a mentor, employer, caseworker or other adult who knows the applicant well;
- ✓ **An unofficial high school transcript;**
- ✓ **A personal statement** of no more than 750 typed words, that accomplishes the following:
 - Describes an obstacle(s) you have faced relating to one or more of CDF's policy priorities and how it has shaped you. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to:
 - **Poverty:** Growing up in poverty, facing homelessness and/or food insecurity.
 - **Healthcare:** Living without health insurance and/or experiencing significant health challenges.
 - **Education:** Experiencing difficulty accessing educational opportunities and resources necessary for success.
 - **Child Welfare:** Interactions with the child welfare system, including foster care and adoption.
 - **Youth Justice:** Interactions with the juvenile justice system.
 - **Gun Violence:** Being impacted by gun violence.
 - **Immigration:** Facing challenges related to you or your family's immigration status.
 - Describes your commitment to serving others, for example: involvement in clubs at school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities;
 - Describes how you have been able to achieve academic success or show improvement in academics.
- ✓ **Essay responses** of no more than 400 typed words each that respond to the following prompts:
 - Who are two of your modern day (s)heroes (they can be anyone from a parent to a community member to a famous activist)? Why do you look up to them?
 - CDF's founder, Marian Wright Edelman, once said that "service is the rent we pay to be living." How does this quote relate to your current life and/or future aspirations?