



2012 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

Student Submission Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2012

The Children's Defense Fund Beat the Odds® scholarship program honors, celebrates, and rewards outstanding high school seniors who have overcome tremendous adversity to achieve academic excellence, demonstrate leadership in their community, and aspire to attend college to continue their education.

Nomination:

Scholarship applicants must be nominated by an adult (often a counselor, but not in all cases) who is both willing and able to shepherd the student throughout the application, selection, and award process. In collaboration with the student applicant, the nominator should confirm that the scholarship application packet submitted is complete, meets the eligibility guidelines, and arrives on or before the deadline.

Eligibility:

Nominees for the *Beat the Odds* Scholarship must meet all of the following criteria:

- Presently a senior enrolled in a public, charter, or alternative high school in Ohio and will graduate by July 2012
- Will attend a college, university, or vocational school in the Fall 2012
- Has achieved a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4 point scale and class ranking which demonstrates academic success
- Has demonstrated community service, volunteerism, and a commitment to leadership development
- Has experienced and overcome adversity such as, but not limited to, poverty, disability, homelessness or abuse
- U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident

Selection:

Scholarship applicants will be evaluated based upon:

- Student Essay
- Two Recommendations
- Academic success as demonstrated by the student's transcript
- Financial need

Scholarship recipients will be expected to share their stories publicly through a brief speech during the *Beat the Odds* awards dinner in Cincinnati on Monday, July 23, 2012, and in the media. (CDF will provide communications training and speech preparation.) Honorees will also have professional videos filmed of their stories to be aired at the awards presentation and by the Children's Defense Fund elsewhere for the benefit of other young people who are struggling to overcome similar obstacles and to inspire community leaders to help them succeed.

All applicants must be comfortable with telling their story publicly and willing to be videotaped as this will be an expectation of scholarship recipients.

Award:

- Five Ohio recipients will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship paid directly to the student's college, university or vocational school during enrollment; a laptop computer for higher education; and leadership training through the Children's Defense Fund. Additional gifts will also include professional attire and travel expenses for the event.
- Scholarship recipients must agree to and comply with the Terms of the Award and agree to maintain a relationship with the Children's Defense Fund for the duration of the award while they pursue higher education.
- Recipients will be given opportunities to participate in advocacy training, volunteer projects and internships during and after the award period. It is our hope that the *Beat the Odds* scholarship recipients will continue to be engaged and join with us to encourage, celebrate, reward and mentor others we serve.
- Should the scholarship recipient fail to enroll and continue to attend a college or university as expected or be unable to comply with the Terms of the Award, scholarship monies will be forfeited.

Application Deadline: **Friday, March 16, 2012**

Applications must be received by Friday, March 16, 2012, either by mail or email. **NO EXTENSIONS OR EXCEPTIONS.**

Application Packet:

- **Scholarship Application Form**

For applications to be reviewed they must be signed, dated, and social security # must be included.

- **Student Essay**

Essays must be 1 – 2 pages typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font. The student should explain in detail **how** he or she has overcome adversity and personal challenges in life and yet has achieved academically. Students should share their personal and professional plans, goals, hopes, and dreams for the future. Essays should clearly articulate how all of the eligibility criteria have been met.

It is suggested that students review their essay with their recommender or an adult advisor, counselor or mentor to assure that it sets forth all relevant details and that it is appropriately presented.

- **Two Recommendation Forms and Narrative Statements**

- **Educator Recommendation** - One recommendation **must** be from a teacher
The educator recommendation should speak to the student's academic record, the challenges he or she faced, and observations regarding the student's ability to cope with and manage adversity. Educators should make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education.
- **Community Member Recommendation** - The second recommendation **may** be from an educator, or a mentor, guidance counselor, coach, clergy member, or employer.
The community member should know the student well and be able to speak to the student's work ethic, challenges, experiences, and motivation to succeed. This recommendation should address how the student faced obstacles and adversity in his or her life, achieved success, participated in volunteer and community service activities, and demonstrated leadership. Additional insight into how the student qualifies for the Children's Defense Fund *Beat the Odds* scholarship can be offered, as it assists the selection committee in evaluating the student's application.

Applicants may not submit letters of recommendation written by family members or peers.

- **Official High School Transcript**

Submission Instructions:

Incomplete application packets will not be considered.

Assemble the application packet in the order listed above. If mailing the materials, do NOT use staples. The application packet materials can also be scanned in the same order listed above and emailed. Whether sent by mail or by email, the entire application packet MUST be received by Friday, March 16, 2012.


Send application packet to:

Children's Defense Fund–Ohio
395 E. Broad Street, Suite 330
Columbus, Ohio 43215
LBess@cdfohio.org

Inquiries:

Linda Bess
614-221-2244
LBess@cdfohio.org

www.childrensdefense.org


Children's Defense Fund
BEAT THE ODDS®
2012 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Student Submission Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2012

Carefully type or print your information using blue or black ink.

Full Name	Age	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
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Current Address (include Apartment #)	City	State	Zip
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Permanent Address (if different from Current Address)	City	State	Zip
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Email Address	Home Phone	Cell Phone
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Yes / No

Are you a U.S. Citizen?	If "No", are you a Legal Permanent Resident?
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I live at home with both parents. I live in a single parent household with my: _____

Other, Please explain: _____

Please describe your family's approximate annual income: _____

Yes / No

Do you have any siblings?	If "Yes", how many?	What are their ages?	Do they all live with you?
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/ 4.0

School Name	School District	GPA	Calculated on a 4.0 scale
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School Address	School Phone	School Fax
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Counselor Name	Counselor Email	Counselor Phone
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Nominator Name (if not Counselor)	Nominator Email	Nominator Phone
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Community Service:

List your most recent volunteer / community service activities:

List your personal interests and hobbies:

List your personal and academic goals:

Authorization for Applicant’s Credential:

In connection with the Children’s Defense Fund and its evaluation of my suitability as a scholarship recipient, I hereby verify that all of the information included in this application is true and speaks to my eligibility of applying for this scholarship.

Applications will not be considered without complete information and signature below.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

STUDENT SOCIAL SECURITY #

NOMINATOR SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

Application Packet Checklist:

- Scholarship Application form
- Student Essay
- Educator Recommendation Form and Narrative Statement
- Additional Recommendation Form and Narrative Statement
- Official High School Transcript
- Application packet, including supporting materials

Assemble packet in the order listed above. Do not staple; paper or binder clips are acceptable. Applications must be postmarked received, either by mail or email, no later than Friday, March 16, 2012.

Incomplete applications and those received after the deadline will not be considered.

Mail or Email to:

Children’s Defense Fund–Ohio
395 E. Broad Street, Suite 330
Columbus, Ohio 43215
LBess@cdfohio.org



2012 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP EDUCATOR RECOMMENDATION COVER FORM

Student Submission Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2012

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Beat the Odds® Scholarship program honors, celebrates, and rewards outstanding high school seniors who have overcome tremendous adversity to achieve academic excellence, demonstrate leadership in their community, and aspire to attend college to continue their education.

Thank you for your willingness to provide a recommendation for a deserving high school senior for the CDF *Beat the Odds* Scholarship. **Every scholarship applicant must submit two letters of recommendation with their application.** (*Applicants may not submit letters of recommendation written by family members, relatives, or peers*)

- **Educator Recommendation** - One recommendation **must** be from a teacher. The educator recommendation should speak to the student's academic record, the challenges he or she faced, and observations regarding the student's ability to cope with and manage adversity. Educators should make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education.
- **Additional Recommendation** - The second recommendation **may** be from an educator, or a mentor, guidance counselor, coach, clergy member, or employer. The additional recommender should know the student well and be able to speak to the student's work ethic, challenges, experiences and motivation to succeed. This recommendation should address how the student faced obstacles and adversity in his or her life, achieved success, participated in volunteer and community service activities, and demonstrated leadership. Additional insight into how the student qualifies for the CDF *Beat the Odds* scholarship can be offered, as it assists the selection committee in evaluating the student's application.

Scholarship Applicant: (to be completed by the applicant)

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Recommender: (from this point forward, to be completed by the person providing the recommendation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____ **Employer:** _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Length of time you have known the applicant: _____

Attributes	Compared to peers, this student rates (1) Fair, (2) Solid, (3) High Performing, or (4) Extraordinary. Evaluate the student by circling the appropriate number 1 to 4				
Academic Motivation	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Academic Potential	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Creativity	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Self Discipline	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Leadership	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Initiative	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Reaction to Setbacks	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Analytical Ability	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Oral Communication	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Classroom Participation	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Communication	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Independence	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Problem Solving	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment
Overall Impression	1	2	3	4	<input type="checkbox"/> No basis for judgment

In a general and overall comparison with similar students (age, grade, academic track), you would rank this student within the ___ top 10% ___ top 25% ___ top 50% ___ lower 50% of *that group* of students. Note: this is not a class ranking.

Narrative Section: Please Use Additional Paper (1 - 2 pages in length, 12 pt font, single spaced)

As an educator, please describe the student’s academic record, the challenges he or she has faced, and observations regarding the student’s ability to cope with and manage adversity. Please make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education. Please discuss demonstrated leadership skills or potential and any additional personal achievements the student has attained.

Please return both this form and your narrative to the student (you may do so sealed if you wish) for inclusion in his/her application packet. Please do not use staples. The applicant must include letters of recommendation from you and another individual, and the two recommendations may not be submitted separately.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



2012 OHIO SCHOLARSHIP ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION COVER FORM
Student Submission Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2012

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Beat the Odds® Scholarship program honors, celebrates, and rewards outstanding high school seniors who have overcome tremendous adversity to achieve academic excellence, demonstrate leadership in their community, and aspire to attend college to continue their education.

Thank you for your willingness to provide a recommendation for a deserving high school senior for the CDF *Beat the Odds* Scholarship. **Every scholarship applicant must submit two letters of recommendation with their application.** (*Applicants may not submit letters of recommendation written by family members, relatives or peers.*)

- **Educator Recommendation** - One recommendation **must** be from a teacher. The educator recommendation should speak to the student's academic record, the challenges he or she faced, and observations regarding the student's ability to cope with and manage adversity. Educators should make mention of situations where the student has shown significant effort or improvement or has consistently excelled despite obstacles to his or her education.
- **Additional Recommendation** - The second recommendation **may** be from an educator, or a mentor, guidance counselor, coach, clergy member, or employer. The additional recommender should know the student well and be able to speak to the student's work ethic, challenges, experiences, and motivation to succeed. This recommendation should address how the student faced obstacles and adversity in his or her life, achieved success, participated in volunteer and community service activities, and demonstrated leadership. Additional insight into how the student qualifies for the CDF *Beat the Odds* scholarship can be offered, as it assists the selection committee in evaluating the student's application.

Scholarship Applicant: (to be completed by the applicant)

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Recommender: (from this point forward, to be completed by the person providing the recommendation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____ **Employer:** _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Length of time you have known the applicant: _____

In consideration of these criteria and the nominee, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements and provide comments as you feel warranted. *This nominee:*

Achieved academic success	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Worked hard to graduate	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Is prepared to succeed in college	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Has goals and ambitions	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Demonstrates leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Volunteers in the community	<input type="checkbox"/> rarely	<input type="checkbox"/> occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/> often	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Needs financial assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Has a positive attitude	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Overcame significant obstacles	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment
Has strong character	<input type="checkbox"/> to a small extent	<input type="checkbox"/> somewhat	<input type="checkbox"/> to a great extent	<input type="checkbox"/> no basis for judgment

Comments on above ratings: _____

Narrative Section: Please Use Additional Paper (1 - 2 pages in length, 12 pt font, single spaced)

Please describe how well you know the student and speak to the student's work ethic, challenges, experiences and motivation to succeed. Please address how the student faced obstacles and adversity in his or her life, achieved success, participates in volunteer and community service activities, and demonstrates leadership. Any additional insight is welcome about how the student qualifies for the CDF *Beat the Odds* scholarship, as it assists the selection committee in evaluating the student's application.

Please return both this form and your narrative to the student (you may do so sealed if you wish) for inclusion in his or her application packet. Please **do not** use staples. The applicant must include letters of recommendation from you and another educator, and the two recommendations may not be submitted separately.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____