

# 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 2020.
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 2019 through March 2020 (**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
8. Complete and submit the *Beat the Odds* application with all requirements including nominator form and letter of recommendation by **11:59 PM Friday, September 27, 2019**.

## **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 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

**Completed applications must be  
submitted no later than  
11:59 PM Friday, September 27, 2019.**