



LOUDOUN COUNTY “BEAT THE ODDS” SCHOLARSHIP

A program of the Loudoun Bar Foundation

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 5, 2024

The Loudoun County *Beat the Odds*® Scholarship Program honors outstanding high school students who have overcome adversity, demonstrated academic excellence or a marked improvement in overall academic achievement and given back to their communities or provided support for their families. Since 2004, the Program has identified and rewarded youth who have experienced significant hardship in their lives by encouraging them to continue on their paths of success with scholarship opportunities and providing them with the recognition that they are greater than their circumstances.

CRITERIA:

- Currently a resident of Loudoun County
- On track to meet the requirements for a high school diploma at the end of the current school year.
- A grade point average that demonstrates ongoing academic success or demonstrates marked improvement
- Participation in activities, either formal or informal, which are helpful to others such as volunteering, community service, taking responsibility for other family members, or earning part of the family's income.
- Persevered despite significant hardships such as poverty, disability, severe physical or mental illness, abuse, homelessness, personal tragedy, past criminal or delinquent behavior, or addiction involving themselves or a family member.
- Applicant or someone in their immediate family or household receives or has received services from one or more of the following agencies in Loudoun or elsewhere:
 - Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
 - Juvenile Court Services Unit (Probation)
 - Mental Health, Substance Abuse, or Developmental Services
 - Community Services Board
 - Department of Family Services
 - Child Protective Services
 - Foster care
 - Individual and/or family counseling
 - Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT), Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), or Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)
 - Domestic violence shelter or service provider
 - Homeless shelter services

APPLICATION PROCESS: A completed application must include each of the following:

- **Personal statement**

- Not to exceed 2 pages
- Written by the applicant describing how they have “beaten the odds”
- The statement should include **detailed information** as to the challenges they have overcome, and any agencies that have provided assistance/services.

****The personal statement is given substantial weight by the Scholarship Committee.**

Applicants should make every effort to explain in detail the nature of the adversity or hardships they experienced and how they overcame such difficulties. If the efforts to preserve are continuing, identify what steps are currently being taken.

- **Recommendation Letter(s)**

- At least 1 letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, or activity leader with knowledge of the challenges faced by the applicant.
- The applicant *may* provide additional letters from other persons from the school, community organizations, service providers, employers, or others who have knowledge of the challenges faced by the applicant.

****Applicants must submit at least one letter of recommendation.** Additional letters of recommendation are optional.

- **Transcript:** A copy of the applicant’s high school transcript.
- **Loudoun BTO Application:** A completed Loudoun Beat the Odds Scholarship Application
- **FAFSA/SAR:** A copy of the student’s FAFSA, SAR, or other financial aid application if applicable.
- **Letters of Acceptance:** Copies of all letters of acceptance from colleges, universities, or vocational schools the applicant is considering attending.

Transmission

- Application materials may be sent by the applicant, the applicant’s school, or another person acting on the applicant’s behalf.
- Applicants are encouraged to send their personal statement, completed Loudoun BTO application, and, if applicable FAFSA and acceptance letters together in a single packet.
- Any letters of recommendation (whether sent with the other application materials or separately) must clearly identify the applicant by name.
- Transcripts may be included in the applicant’s packet or sent separately by the school.
- **Application materials should be**
 - **Emailed to** BeatTheOddsLoudoun@gmail.com; or
 - **Mail to:** Beat the Odds Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 134, Leesburg, VA 20178



Loudoun County "Beat the Odds" Scholarship Application

Please print or type the requested information (you may add pages if needed)

NAME: _____ Age: _____

Email Address: _____

**If no email address is available, provide an alternate contact:* _____

Preferred Gender (optional): _____

Race/Ethnicity (optional) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

How long have you lived in Loudoun County? _____

School Currently Attending _____

Anticipated graduation date _____ GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____

Estimated annual family income _____ Number of persons in household _____

Have you been accepted to a 2 or 4 year college, university, vocational school or trade school?

If so, what schools have you been accepted to? And which is your preferred school to attend?

How do you plan to use this scholarship award? (ex: tuition, books, tools, living expenses)

List any other financial aid or scholarships you have received to date. _____

List all extracurricular activities (including years you participated in and any offices held)

Describe any responsibilities you have within your family unit or household to care for other people or provide financial support or assistance with expenses. _____

List any honors or awards you have earned. _____

Have you, an immediate family member, or a household member received services from any of the following agencies or organizations? If so, please indicate below:

| AGENCY or ORGANIZATION | COUNTY & STATE | SERVICES RECEIVED | DURATION OF SERVICES | WHO RECEIVED SERVICES |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court | | | | |
| Juvenile Court Services Unit (Juvenile Probation Dept.) | | | | |
| Mental Health, Substance Abuse, or Developmental Services | | | | |
| Community Services Board | | | | |
| Department of Family Services | | | | |
| Child Protective Services | | | | |
| Foster Care | | | | |
| Individual or Family Counseling | | | | |
| Family Connections | | | | |
| Family Assessment & Planning Team (FAPT) | | | | |
| Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) | | | | |
| Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) | | | | |
| Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS) | | | | |
| Other domestic abuse service provider (Please identify) | | | | |
| Homeless shelter or services | | | | |
| Other housing assistance | | | | |
| Other (please describe) | | | | |

Do you or your family currently receive or have you or your family received in the past any of the following (check all that apply):

_____ TANF _____ Food Stamps _____ Medicare/Medicaid
_____ Housing Subsidy _____ Emergency Relief _____ SSI/SSDI

Is there anything that you would like the scholarship committee to consider that is not otherwise identified on this application? _____

Name/Title of Recommendation Letter Authors:

By signing below I affirm all of the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand should it come to the Committee's attention at a later date that I have provided false or misleading information in my application, the Committee may withdraw any scholarship funds awarded to me.

I further understand I may be asked to participate in an interview with the Selection Committee prior to any award decisions being made.

Student

Date

*The Beat the Odds Selection Committee reserves the right to interview any applicants under consideration for a scholarship. Interviews are conducted solely at the discretion of the Selection Committee *if* the Committee believes such an interview may assist it determining the award of scholarship funds. Students may *not* request an interview and should *not* withhold any information in their application in expectation he or she will be granted an interview to provide or further explain information contained in the application. The Committee is not required to conduct interviews before making any award determinations. Any interviews will be conducted at the student's school and will be conducted either in person, by video link or telephonically.



Loudoun County “Beat the Odds”[®] Scholarship Application Checklist

- Personal statement** (not to exceed 2 pages)
- Loudoun BTO Application**
- School Transcript**
- Letters of Acceptance** (if applicable)
- FAFSA/SAR** (if applicable)
- Recommendation Letter(s)** (minimum of one)

Please ensure all documents contain the applicant’s name.

Application materials should be emailed to

BeatTheOddsLoudon@gmail.com

or

Mailed to:

Beat the Odds Scholarship Program

P.O. Box 134

Leesburg, VA 20178

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION is April 5, 2024