

**LOUDOUN COUNTY "BEAT THE ODDS"® SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**REVISED DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: MAY 15, 2020**

The Loudoun County *Beat the Odds*® Program honors outstanding high school students who have overcome adversity, have demonstrated academic excellence or a marked improvement in overall academic achievement and have 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:**

1. 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.
2. Maintained a grade point average that demonstrates a marked improvement or continuing success, while participating 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.
3. 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.
4. Applicant or someone in their immediate family or household received one or more of the following services or used one or more of the following agencies:
  - A. Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court
  - B. Juvenile Court Services Unit (Probation)
  - C. Mental Health, Substance Abuse, or Developmental Services
  - D. Community Services Board
  - E. Department of Family Services
  - F. Child Protective Services
  - G. Foster care
  - H. Individual and/or family counseling
  - I. Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT)/Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)/Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)
  - J. Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice/Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS)/Domestic abuse shelter or services
  - K. Homeless shelter services

**COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

A. **A personal statement not to exceed two (2)** pages from the applicant describing how he or she has “beaten the odds” including **detailed information** as to what hardships he or she has overcome and from which organization(s) the applicant has received services.

**\*\*\*The personal statement is given substantial weight by the Scholarship Committee. The applicant 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 applicant is continuing their efforts to overcome these adversities the applicant should identify all steps being taken in that effort.**

B. **A letter of recommendation** from a teacher, school counselor, coach, or school activity leader with knowledge of how the applicant has overcome adversity or hardship. **THE LETTER MAY BE SENT BY EMAIL or MAIL from the student, the person making the recommendation, or someone acting on behalf of the student or person making the recommendation.**

The applicant **may provide additional recommendation letters** from other persons from school, community organizations, service providers, employers, etc. who have knowledge of the challenges faced by the applicant and how the applicant has overcome those challenges.

Applicants **must submit one letter of recommendation**, but additional letters of recommendation are optional.

C. A copy of the applicant’s **high school transcript**. **The transcript can be an unofficial transcript generated by the student or one generated by the school/a school official.**

D. **A completed “Beat the Odds” Scholarship Application.**

E. A copy of the applicant’s **FAFSA, SAR or other student aid application** if applicable.

F. A copy of all **letters of acceptance** from the college, university, or vocational school the applicant intends to attend and the status of any pending applications.

All supporting documents should clearly identify the applicant.

**\*\* The listed documents are required for your application to be complete. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered. \*\***

Applications may be sent via email to: [BeatTheOddsLoudon@gmail.com](mailto:BeatTheOddsLoudon@gmail.com) or by mail to: Beat the Odds Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 134, Leesburg, VA 20178

**“BEAT THE ODDS”<sup>®</sup> SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Please print or type the requested information (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 two- or four-year college, university, vocational school or trade school? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what school will you be attending or what trade will you be pursuing:  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to use this scholarship award? (e.g. tuition, books, trade tools, living expenses): \_\_\_\_\_

List any other financial aid or scholarships you have received: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List all extracurricular activities (including years you participated and any offices held):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any responsibilities you have to care for other family members or to earn part of your family's income: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List any Honors you have received: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

<b>AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>IN WHAT COUNTY, STATE</b>	<b>NATURE OF SERVICES RECEIVED</b>	<b>DURATION OF SERVICES</b>	<b>WHO RECEIVED SERVICES</b>
Dept. of Family Services				
Foster Care				
Juvenile Court Services Unit (probation)				
Community Services Board				
Family Assessment & Planning Team (FAPT)/Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) / Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)				
Child Protective Services (CPS)				
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court				
Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Developmental Services				
Family Connections				
Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS)				
Other: (Please Identify)				

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.