

Application Check List

The *Beat the Odds* application requires information about your personal background, family life, and academics. Please ensure you have access to the following information **before** beginning the application:

- **Personal Information:** Your name, address, phone, email, gender, race and date of birth
- **Family Information:** Parent/ Guardian(s) name, phone, and email; annual family income; total size and make up of household
- **Academic Information:** Name, address, phone and fax of current high school; school principal's name, phone, and email; school counselor's name, phone, and email
- **Uploads:** Applicants will be asked to upload the following supplemental items:
 - A personal statement, of no more than 750 typed words, that describes the major obstacles and challenges in your life and how you have or are working to overcome them; your past and current family, financial, educational, and emotional support systems; how you have been able to achieve academic success or show marked improvement in academics, despite your hardships; and your commitment to serving others, for example; involvement in service clubs at school, community-based service, or taking on major home or work responsibilities.
 - A signed Media Release Form
- **I have requested an Official High School Transcript from my registrar to be mailed to:**

Children's Defense Fund-Texas
Attention: Beat the Odds
5410 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 203, Bellaire, TX 77401

In addition to the application, please be prepared to provide the names and email addresses of the two adults whom you wish to submit letters of recommendation on your behalf.

If you have any questions about the application or nomination process, please contact Cecilia Joseph at texasbto@childrensdefense.org.