



Weekend Miracles Program Non-Negotiables for Replication

Kidsave has been running the Weekend Miracles program in LA County since 2006 and has learned what works for successful implementation of this program. There are programmatic components of Weekend Miracles that Kidsave asks all agencies choosing to implement this model to adhere to because they have proven to be instrumental to the success of the program. There may be local community and cultural differences that a partnering agency needs to account for in launching and implementing the Weekend Miracles program. The goal is to expand the impact of this program, so finding the right balance between model fidelity while honoring local community needs is essential, and a priority for Kidsave.

In order to expand the impact of this work, Kidsave asks that all adaptations made by your agency be shared with Kidsave so we can apply lessons learned and any best practices your agency may have found to future expansion efforts.

To implement the Weekend Miracles Program successfully, Kidsave asks your agency to agree to the following:

Child Welfare Agency/Non-Child Welfare Agency

- Kidsave requires that the name “Weekend Miracles” be used to allow for direct transfer of all materials that have been developed. Additionally, the name accurately describes the program.

- Agency/organization agrees to credit Kidsave by including the words “a Kidsave program” and Kidsave’s logo on all printed and online materials.
- Overnight opportunities for youth must be incorporated for all hosts

Eligibility Criteria (Youth)

- Youth served ages 9-17 (exceptions may be made for sibling sets that include siblings under age 9)
- Children with Termination of Parental Rights or, in jurisdictions where TPR is not common practice, Family Reunification (FR) terminated, or, youth in need of relational permanency
- Eligibility Criteria (Hosts)
- Agency will ensure all prospective hosts attend program orientation
- Agency will ensure all prospective hosts undergo criminal background and child abuse clearances, have in-home assessment by a social worker, complete CPR/First Aid certification, driver’s license and insurance
- Agency will ensure hosts agree to a one-year commitment, including a minimum of twice a month visits with host youth
- Agency will work with hosts to ensure completion of host visit reports

Training

- Every staff member working on the launch of the Weekend Miracles program in your agency must participate in the comprehensive training facilitated by Kidsave
- Agency will ensure that all host families complete the Kidsave Program and Advocacy Training
- Agency will ensure all host families complete a foster care training with content from MAPP, PRIDE or similar training accepted as best practice
- Every youth participant must be prepared by a social worker on program goals and what it means to have a host

Weekend Advocacy Events

- Agency/organization will hold monthly events where prospective host and adoptive families and youth engage with one another for the purpose of matching for hosting or adoption
- Events must be youth-centered and interactive

Reporting

Kidsave will receive all information gathered through any evaluation efforts conducted by the agency or an independent evaluator

Liability

See License and Liability Agreement

Additional Recommendations for Successful Implementation of Weekend Miracles:

- Plan and budget for a program evaluation to be made at the two-year mark to validate program impact and efficacy and identify areas needing improvement.
- Utilize the Kidsave website photo gallery for advocacy purposes.
- Consider limiting the referral age of youth to no more than 16 so that you are able to potentially track program participation for two years.

Training:

- Utilize Kidsave's Host Training Curriculum (12 hours) to fulfill foster care training requirement
- Use Kidsave's Kid's Orientation Booklet for orienting youth to the program
- Include youth who are in probation and/or crossover youth.
- Consider reconfiguring the caseloads of social workers working with youth in Weekend Miracles, e.g., designate select social workers to work with only Weekend Miracles youth.