



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **IMPOWER is Offering Free Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services via Telehealth for Individuals Impacted by COVID-19**

*Statewide behavioral health nonprofit helps South Florida residents cope with the emotional turmoil of the pandemic.*

January 29, 2021 – COVID-19 has profoundly affected the mental health and emotional well-being of many South Florida residents. Even with the arrival of new vaccines, the mental, emotional, and behavioral side effects from the pandemic will remain with individuals long after infection rates subside.

Sadly, the trauma of anxiety, bereavement, isolation, fear, and uncertainty have prompted many to turn to alcohol, drugs and suicide and have left others reeling with feelings of helplessness and depression.

Yet, while the needs are great, IMPOWER, a premier statewide behavioral health non-profit, has been helping South Florida residents effected by COVID-19 with free mental health and substance misuse services via telehealth.

Mental health and substance abuse counseling, case management, and psychiatric services (including evaluations, medication management and financial assistance with obtaining necessary medication) are all offered at no charge for those who qualify.

Services are for individuals aged 6 through adult who are experiencing a serious mental illness, substance use disorder and/or behavioral health challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic and who are indigent, underinsured or uninsured.

To date, IMPOWER has helped more than 250 individuals through the grant, and there is plenty of funding still available as the demand for service continues to increase.

The free services are being offered through an emergency grant awarded to IMPOWER in May 2020 by the Department of Children and Families from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA). The grant will last through June 30, 2021 and an extension after is possible.

Anna Kesic, President/CEO of IMPOWER, recently stated “We have experienced a 48% increase in the request for mental health services since the onset of the pandemic.”

If you are a South Florida resident in need of support, IMPOWER encourages you to reach out and take the first step to healing.

For more information contact IMPOWER at (321) 639-1224; ext 2, via email at [referrals@impowerfl.org](mailto:referrals@impowerfl.org) or by visiting [www.impowerfl.org](http://www.impowerfl.org).

### **About IMPOWER**

IMPOWER, a 501 (c)(3) organization, is a leading non-profit behavioral health and child well-being organization focused on “inspiring life’s potential”. Established in 1994, IMPOWER serves more than 9,000 individuals and families statewide each year and has provided over 1m telehealth visits since 2011. Programs and services include: outpatient mental health and substance misuse treatment, youth residential substance abuse treatment and prevention, foster care/adoptions and youth transitional housing. For more information visit [www.impowerfl.org](http://www.impowerfl.org).

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