

**For Immediate Release**

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**EMPOWER U, INC.**  
**AWARDED PRIMARY CARE MEDICAL HOME CERTIFICATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION**

Miami, Florida – January 11, 2018– Empower “U”, Inc. , Miami-Dade County’s newest Federally Qualified Health Center is pleased to announce today that on 9/1/2017 it has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® for [Primary Care Medical Home \(PCMH\) Certification](#). The Gold Seal of Approval® is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting optional standards demonstrating a commitment to patient-centered care. PCMH Certification is a special add-on option for Joint Commission-accredited ambulatory health care organizations.

Empower “U”, Inc. underwent a rigorous onsite survey on July 6-7, 2017. During the review, a team of Joint Commission expert surveyors with expertise in ambulatory health care, evaluated compliance with standards related to how effectively the primary care clinician and the interdisciplinary team work in partnership with patients to provide comprehensive, coordinated and patient-centered care.

Established in 2011, The Joint Commission’s PCMH Certification, awarded for a three-year period, encourages accredited ambulatory care organizations to ensure patients receive timely and appropriate treatment. PCMH Certification can potentially result in increased patient satisfaction, improved patient outcomes and reduced overall costs to the health care system. Today, the Ambulatory Care Accreditation Program certifies nearly 170 organizations, with more than 1,300 sites of care, which, in turn, serve over 4 million patient visits annually.

In addition, PCMH Certification provides ambulatory care organizations with the processes needed to improve patient access to care. It also encourages these organizations to focus on educating patients and showing them how to self-manage their illness or condition.

“Ambulatory care organizations that pursue PCMH Certification from The Joint Commission are demonstrating the highest commitment to delivering quality primary care in the ambulatory setting,” said Michael Kulczycki, executive director, Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation Program, The Joint Commission. “We commend Empower U, Inc. and its staff for achieving this pinnacle demonstrating a commitment to patient safety and quality. Your passion, dedication and tenacity can ultimately improve patient care. Thank you for your commitment to patient safety and entrusting The Joint Commission to assist you.”

“Empower “U”, Inc. is delighted to receive certification from The Joint Commission, the premier health care quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation,” added Vanessa Mills, LPN, BSN, and MPH CEO of Empower U, Inc. “By achieving PCMH Certification, we are operating within a framework to provide care that is better coordinated and tracked to allow for an effective interdisciplinary team approach.”

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