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## DOH-Palm Beach Announces Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS) Conference

Contact:  
Communications Office  
Press50@flhealth.gov  
561-671-4014



**West Palm Beach, Fla.** - Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS) is the grassroots mobilization of black women in the fight against HIV/AIDS. SOS is a Florida Department of Health initiative which was started to encourage black women to get tested where they live, work, play, and worship. Here in Palm Beach County, Heart, Health, & Healing Ministries, Inc. (Triple H Ministries) is collaborating with Florida Health-Palm Beach County, Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida, FoundCare, and Palm Beach County Community Services Department to host the Sistas Organizing to Survive conference.

For over three decades HIV infections have impacted the lives of many Palm Beach County residents, and black women have been one of the groups most disproportionately impacted. There are over 8,400 persons living with HIV (PLWH) in Palm Beach County, and thirty-six percent (36%) of those persons are women. However, among the women living with HIV, seventy-six percent (76%) are black women. In recognizing that HIV in Palm Beach County is disproportionately impacting black women, this conference will serve as an avenue to address that impact, raise awareness of HIV among women in Florida, strengthen women's ability to take charge and control of their sexual health, and increase the capacity of women to build effective responses to the HIV epidemic in Palm Beach County.

The event is scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2019 at Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium, 531 N Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Florida, from 10 am to 3:15 pm. The theme is **"Removing The Mask; Preventing HIV By Creating Sistas Strength"**. Sponsored by: The Palm Beach County Department of Health, Humana Inc., Planned Parenthood, CVS Pharmacy, Gilead Sciences Inc., and Triple H Ministries, Inc.

In an interactive and an educational forum, the SOS conference will feature guest speakers, vendors, health screenings, HIV testing, access to medical resources and services, free continental breakfast and lunch, Give-A-Ways, a walk in the Botanical Garden, the Time for Your Teen Parent Education Program, and interactive learning areas. A multitude of information and resources will be provided while giving focus to empowering our women/girls to make healthy and wise choices.

Pre-register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sistas-organizing-to-survive-conference-tickets-56827109414> by March 25th. Also, for additional information and sponsorship opportunities, call Caroline Hill at 561-255-7711 or Linda Warren at 561-779-6734.