

Name: Shakur A. Bolden, BBA

Project Role: Stakeholder Co-Investigator

Affiliation: Patient/Caregiver

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Personal Statement: I am a kidney transplant recipient. I was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in 2001. I began in-center hemodialysis in 2006 and transitioned to a kidney transplant in 2011. I have experienced the lows associated with being diagnosed with kidney disease and not having a support network to help you navigate the path. I have experienced the joy of getting a kidney transplant and being able to take control of one's life again. It is my experiences to date that I feel makes me well suited for my role in the project.

Hobbies/Interests: Researching African American History; Traveling; Learning Arabic

Why this project is important to me: As I mentioned above, back in 2001, I was diagnosed with kidney disease (probably stage 3) and was unaware of what that meant or the consequences of not treating the disease. Recently, I attended a Kidney Options meeting at my nephrologist's office that was put on by a representative of one of the major dialysis providers. The attendees did not know that I was a former dialysis patient who had received a transplant. When I told them my story at the end of the presentation, I could see the hope in their eyes. I feel that this project will not only provide the hope but will also provide the results of making their life better.