## Project Summary

### Participating Faculty

1. **Lead PI**  
   **Name:** Jama Shelton  
   **Department:** Social Work  
   **Rank:** Assistant Professor  
   **Campus:** Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter

2. **Additional PI**  
   **Name:** Spring C. Cooper  
   **Department:** Community Health and Social Sciences  
   **Rank:** Associate Professor  
   **Campus:** CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Policy

### Project Title: Understanding the role of sexual agency in the lives of homeless and unstably housed LGBTQQ youth

### Summary (200 words maximum): Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth and young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness are disproportionately affected by a range of negative sexual health outcomes. They are at increased risk of victimization due to their engagement in high-risk sexual behaviors and have higher rates of HIV/STI infection than their homeless heterosexual and cisgender counterparts (Ferguson & Maccio, 2015). Additionally, they have difficulty assessing risk and risky behaviors. This project seeks to counteract these negative outcomes through exploring sexual agency among LGBTQQ YYA experiencing homelessness. Individual interviews with LGBTQQ YYA experiencing homelessness, in partnership with The Ali Forney Center, will build knowledge regarding: 1) What sexual agency means to young LGBTQQ people experiencing homelessness; 2) The ways in which LGBTQQ YYA experiencing homelessness exercise sexual agency; and 3) What kinds of support LGBTQQ YYA experiencing homelessness need in order to further develop and exercise sexual agency.