



## Phoenix Indian Center, Inc.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### NEWS RELEASE

PHOENIX, Arizona – The Phoenix Indian Center has just been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Governor’s Office for Children Youth and Families. As the lead organization for the Arizona Urban Indian Center directed project, the Phoenix Center is partnering with the Tucson Indian Center and Native Americans for Community Action in Flagstaff to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment with a coalition building focus around urban Native youth, underage drinking, and other illicit drug use, culminating in strategy development.

The grant, entitled the Governor’s Tribal Community Capacity Project to Prevent Underage Drinking and other Illicit Drugs Program, is a one year grant with an additional two years of potential funding. Additional funds are designed to create and to implement a responsive strategic plan focusing on Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff urban Native youth.

Katosha Nakai, Phoenix Indian Center Board President stated “The Phoenix Indian Center is yet another hidden jewel of the Central Corridor community that improves the lives of those of us who call Phoenix and the Valley of the Sun home; as a Board, we are extremely proud of the Phoenix Indian Center's and staff's accomplishments, the most important of which is its outreach that inspires others to become accomplished, defeat and avoid obstacles, and recognize their value and ability to contribute to our community. The Center's central location, its history and track record in this area of expertise and its ability to successfully partner with other organizations for the benefit of urban Indians make it an ideal choice.”

“This is a great project for the three Centers to be collaboratively working on. It allows us to have some time planning and developing a strong collaboration in our respective cities, creating a long-term plan to help our urban Native youth,” stated Jacob Bernal, Executive Director of the Tucson Indian Center.

Dana Russell, Director of Native Americans for Community Action in Flagstaff noted “The Governor’s Office is forward thinking by creating funding specifically focused on our urban youth, a population that is definitely growing and in need of services.”

For further information on the project, please contact Carol Ortiz (above) or Patricia Hibbeler, Phoenix Indian Center, CEO.