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# Indian services agency moving

*Site on Central near light rail*

**Betty Reid**  
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The Phoenix Indian Center, Inc., is relocating on Central Avenue south of Camelback Road in December.

The 60-year-old non-profit will move to 4520 N. Central Ave. Suite 250 and continue to serve about 5,000 Native Americans with social services, school-based prevention, workforce development and native language classes. The center bought property, said Patti Hibbeler, PIC's chief executive officer.

"As the center evolved over its nearly 60 years of existence, one thing has always held true: It provides a home environment for Native people looking for opportunity and finding a difficult and challenging, foreign and unfamiliar environment in the Phoenix Valley," Hibbeler said.

She added that the new site should be more efficient for Native Americans.

PIC will be housed in the same building with the Native American Community Health Center. Native American Connections, which provides a substance-abuse treatment program and affordable housing, also will be in the building.

Light-rail construction might hinder clients, but only for a short time, Hibbeler said.

"The ultimate reason we chose this site was because of its placement on the light rail, creating quick and easy access for services by riding the light rail," Hibbeler said. "There is a light-rail stop just south of the building."

Laverna Wilson, a Phoenix resident, attends Navajo literacy classes twice a week at PIC. She'll make an effort to adjust to the move because she values the lessons.

"I know it is going to be a little difficult probably the first time I attempt this after they move," Wilson said. "Not because of their move, but because of all the construction that is going on around there due to the light rail."

The Phoenix Indian Center has leased property at 2601 N. Third St., Suite 100 since 1991. The center was founded in downtown Phoenix in 1947.

It grew as Native Americans moved to Phoenix because of the federal government's attempt to assimilate Indians through its Relocation Act of the 1950s and 1960s.

Several Indian centers emerged in metropolitan cities across the country and provided a place for American Indians to connect and socialize with other Indians.

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