

## Shawnee YMCA Project Funding and "YMCA TIF" Inquiry: Timeline

6-21-2025

*January 1, 2020 - June 20, 2025 (Ongoing): Discussion and Development of YMCA Child Care*

### **Facility**

The YMCA of Shawnee, in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and other state-level early childhood initiatives, has been actively working to build a child care facility. This period would have included various communications between the City of Shawnee (staff, City Commission, Mayor's office, SEDA), the Shawnee YMCA, OKDHS, and the Potts Family Foundation regarding funding, tax incentives, and the project's development. Public support for the project from figures like Mayor Ed Bolt and Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) is evident. Discussions, potentially unofficial, regarding the use of TIF funds for the project appear to have circulated, leading to constituent concerns about "YMCA TIF money."

### **April 2023:** Shawnee News-Star Article Publication

An article in the Shawnee News-Star provided insight into the funding and political context of the YMCA project. This article mentioned a \$1 million grant from OKDHS and support from the Potts Family Foundation and Smart Start Central Oklahoma.

### **Undated (Prior to June 21, 2025):** Constituent Raises Concerns about "YMCA TIF" Money

A constituent confided in the report's author via text messages, stating they were told that some of the money the YMCA would be getting was "YMCA TIF" money, prompting the investigation.

### **June 21, 2025:** "Request 25-316" Initiated / Research Conducted

An internal research request, "Request 25-316," was initiated to investigate the existence of a "YMCA TIF" district and the funding of the YMCA project. The research involved cross-referencing internal project folders, Shawnee Minutes, DOGE data sets, and internet searches. The findings confirm no official "YMCA TIF" district exists. The research identifies existing TIF ordinances: **Downtown TIF (Ord. CS-2017-06)** and **Industrial Park TIF (Ord. CS-2022-10)**. The report discusses the pros and cons of using TIF for a nonprofit and offers recommendations for further investigation and public clarification.

**June 21, 2025:** Formal Public Records Request Drafted and Submitted Kenneth Crawford, a requester, drafts and submits a formal public records request (Request No.: 25-316) to the City of Shawnee.

The request specifically asks for documents, contracts, resolutions, ordinances, meeting minutes, emails, and financial records related to the YMCA project's funding and any potential connection

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to TIF revenues, from January 1, 2020, to the present. It also requests communications between city entities and the YMCA, OKDHS, and Potts Family Foundation, as well as feasibility studies or legal memos discussing TIF use for the project.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Kenneth Crawford:** The requester who submitted the formal public records request (Request No.: 25-316) to the City of Shawnee on June 21, 2025, seeking information on YMCA project funding and TIF revenues. He is located at 1308 Castle Creek St, Shawnee, OK 74804.

**Mayor Ed Bolt:** The former Mayor of Shawnee, who has expressed strong support for the YMCA child care facility project.

**Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee):** A Republican State Representative for Shawnee, who has also expressed strong support for the YMCA child care facility project.

**The Constituent:** An unnamed individual who informed the report's author via text messages that they were told the YMCA would be receiving "YMCA TIF" money, prompting the investigation into the funding.

**Shawnee YMCA:** The local branch of the YMCA, which is partnering with state agencies and foundations to build a child care facility in Shawnee.

**City of Shawnee (various entities):** City Staff: Involved in communications and potentially the administration of funds related to the YMCA project.

**City Commission:** The governing body that would approve ordinances and resolutions related to TIF districts and public funding.

**Mayor's Office:** The administrative office of Mayor Ed Bolt, involved in city planning and public endorsements.

**Shawnee Economic Development Authority (SEDA):** An entity within Shawnee responsible for economic development, potentially involved in discussions about incentive packages and TIF funds.

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**City Clerk:** The official who receives and processes public records requests.

Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS): A state agency that has provided a \$1 million grant to the YMCA child care facility project and is partnering with the YMCA and other initiatives.

**Potts Family Foundation:** A foundation that has provided support for the YMCA child care facility project.

**Smart Start Central Oklahoma:** An organization that has provided support for the YMCA child care facility project, likely focused on early childhood initiatives.

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