

GUARD THE GRAND, ON-SITE WASTEWATER (SEPTIC) REPAIR/REPLACE PROGRAM

STATE PROGRAM: Oklahoma Water Resources Board

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Grand River Dam Authority
(GRDA)

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$100,000



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of the Guard the Grand Septic Repair/Replace Program, the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) partnered with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) to offer septic system repair or replacement assistance to homeowners in Oklahoma's Grand Lake and Lake Hudson watersheds. This septic program was created to address private septic issues that can cause sewage backup either at private residences or above the ground. It was funded through an agreement with OCC and Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) in partnership with ODEQ. OCC's financial contribution of \$50,000 was merged with GRDA's CWSRF pass-through dollars of \$100,000 in principal forgiveness from OWRB. Several private septic systems were identified as sewage discharge contributors within Oklahoma's Grand Lake and Lake Hudson watersheds. This year's pilot project focused on getting interested homeowners to apply for assistance, as well as implementing a marketing and outreach campaign to educate and increase awareness of the environmental issues created by failing private septic systems. As an indication of early success, one homeowners' group, consisting of thirty-five homes with private septic systems which sit directly on one of the lakes, is interested in connecting to a regional public wastewater treatment plant. Continuation of this program will help to reduce non-point source contamination of Oklahoma's lakes, resulting in improved water quality benefits for its residents.

To read more about this case study, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/pisces-2022-compendium.pdf>.