

Discussion Summary — Initial Outreach to Sussex County and DEMA Regarding Flood-Mitigation Funding Pathways (November 2024–February 2025)

This summary reflects early correspondence regarding flood-risk research, FEMA mitigation funding pathways, and governmental coordination related to Mallard Lakes Community Association. It is provided for historical context only and should not be interpreted as an official commitment, funding determination, or policy position of Sussex County, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), or any participating official.

Beginning in November 2024, a Mallard Lakes property owner initiated discussions with Sussex County Emergency Management representatives regarding flooding concerns identified in the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the possibility of future FEMA mitigation funding opportunities for the community. Initial outreach focused on obtaining additional information regarding a prior flood-management study referenced in the County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and understanding why earlier mitigation efforts at Mallard Lakes had not advanced through available funding programs.

During subsequent discussions, Sussex County representatives indicated that FEMA-related mitigation programs such as Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) could potentially be relevant to Mallard Lakes, but explained that private HOA communities could not apply directly and would require sponsorship through a qualifying state or local governmental entity. Sussex County staff coordinated discussions with DEMA representatives to further explore available funding pathways and grant eligibility considerations.

As discussions progressed into early 2025, broader concerns emerged regarding the administrative workload, staffing limitations, and financial uncertainty associated with pursuing FEMA mitigation grants. Sussex County representatives explained that engineering and grant-management resources were limited and expressed concern about committing County staff time and funding toward complex federal applications amid uncertainty surrounding future federal funding availability and changing priorities in Washington, D.C.