

## **Discussion Summary — Correspondence Regarding FEMA Grant Pathways and Sussex County Sponsorship (January 2025)**

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

In January 2025, Simone Reba exchanged correspondence with representatives from Sussex County and DEMA regarding potential FEMA funding pathways that might support future engineering studies or flood-mitigation efforts at Mallard Lakes. The discussion focused on understanding the applicability and procedural requirements associated with several FEMA mitigation grant programs, including Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Congressional Directed Spending (PDM-CDS).

During the exchange, DEMA representatives confirmed that the 2024 FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance grant cycle had recently opened and explained that Mallard Lakes could potentially qualify for several mitigation-related programs if Sussex County agreed to serve as the required sponsoring subapplicant. The correspondence also clarified that the PDM-CDS pathway involved an additional Congressional appropriations process requiring advance coordination with a U.S. Senator's office prior to formal FEMA application submission. Participants discussed the timing and sequencing requirements associated with these federal funding programs, including the need for sponsorship, political support, and advance planning before future application cycles.

The correspondence further highlighted the important role local governmental sponsorship would play in any future mitigation effort, including Sussex County's authority to establish application requirements, assurances, and supporting documentation needed before submitting grant applications on behalf of the community. The exchange reflected broader efforts to better understand the practical and procedural challenges associated with securing federal resilience funding for flood-prone HOA-governed coastal communities.