Julia O’Brien is the FEMA Region II Geospatial Coordinator. In that role she works toward building connections in the geospatial community within FEMA, and within the Region II emergency management communities of New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Julia also works to improve GIS capability in FEMA Region II, and is responsible for improving project management process within the Region.

Julia has been involved in remote sensing and GIS for over 30 years and as a project manager for over 25. Most recently, she was a Senior Project Manager working on the Emergency Communications Transformation Program (ECTP) for New York City, responsible for management of a 15 million dollar, multi-year project to create a complete and accurate GIS data set of all the streets and addresses in NYC, ultimately called CSCL.

Julia has managed projects involving environmental remediation, environmental impact statements, and environmental assessments, particularly where the use of GIS was required. In the 1980’s, she worked at the USGS EROS Data Center, initially doing research in applications of remotely sensed data and earth resources data sets being developed by the USGS. That research led to the use of ArcInfo v. 1.0 for then-new vector data sets.

Julia is currently an adjunct professor at both Seton Hall University and Touro College. She teaches introductory courses in GIS.