



Program Guidelines & Applications Instructions FARE Mind Meld Team Grant Program

Executive Summary

The FARE Mind Meld Team Grant Program is a major funding initiative designed to accelerate breakthrough discoveries in food allergy through multidisciplinary, milestone-driven translational research. Building on insights from the [Mind Meld Innovation Summit](#), the program aims to bring together leading experts across multiple disciplines to pursue high-impact projects with the potential to improve patient care in the near term.

This distinctive funding mechanism seeks to fast-track promising ideas toward near-term impact. By employing FARE's strong clinical network, it combines substantial, flexible funding, patient-centered perspective, scientific oversight, with the urgency to move promising ideas forward. FARE seeks to catalyze teams that can do more than generate incremental knowledge; teams should use this opportunity to align diverse expertise, leverage unique patient and clinical infrastructure, test mechanistic hypotheses in humans, and create a platform for therapies, biomarkers, and collaborations that may not be possible through more conventional funding sources.

FARE intends to commit up to \$10 million over a maximum four-year award period, either to a single project team or across multiple proposals. Funded projects are expected to advance mechanistically grounded, patient-centered interventions and may include areas such as biomarkers, targeted and sequential immunotherapies, allergic effector cell modulation, host-microbiota interactions, engineered antibodies, cellular therapies, and artificial intelligence-enabled discovery. Projects must include laboratory and clinical components, with human studies beginning by the midpoint of the award period. Successful applications should demonstrate strong scientific merit, translational potential, efficient use of funds, and a collaborative structure capable of delivering measurable progress. **The lead institution must be a current member of the third cohort of the FARE Clinical Network.**

The application process begins with a mandatory Letter of Intent submitted through FARE's grant management portal. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal, and finalist teams will present their proposals at an in-person selection meeting. Proposals will be reviewed for completeness, feasibility, budget compliance, scientific merit, innovation, approach, environment, team leadership, patient engagement, data sharing, and likelihood of achieving milestones within the proposed timeline.

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About FARE

FARE is the largest charitable funder of food allergy research in the United States and the leading food allergy nonprofit in education and advocacy. FARE focuses on pursuing food allergy prevention, expanding and improving management options for food allergy patients, and defining and substantiating the scientific pathway to a cure. Through our unique collaborations with a range of public and private partners, FARE is the only food allergy nonprofit with the power to mitigate the disease's impact at scale in the U.S.

Program Mission Statement

Despite affecting more than 33 million people in the U.S., food allergy continues to face a significant gap in therapeutic innovation compared with other atopic diseases. To help close this gap, FARE launched the Mind Meld Program, a bold funding initiative designed to accelerate breakthrough discoveries through convergence science and collaborative innovation approaches. The program brings together experts across disciplines to foster milestone-driven research teams focused on generating high-impact, translational outcomes with the potential to transform patient care. Grantees benefit from dynamic scientific oversight and strategic guidance from leading experts. Including members of FARE's Scientific Advisory Council, helping to advance promising therapies toward patients with greater speed, coordination, and impact.

The Program officially launched with a Mind Meld Innovation Summit, held May 13–14, 2025, which brought together a multidisciplinary group of thought leaders to catalyze progress in food allergy science. Attendees represented a diverse mix of stakeholders from academia, industry, clinical practice, and federal agencies. Their collective expertise spanned food allergy, basic immunology, gastroenterology, systems biology, rheumatology, oncology, autoimmunity, machine learning, and therapeutic development. The Summit demonstrated that there is a unique opportunity to catalyze high-impact research at the intersection of basic and clinical research that addresses longstanding gaps in food allergy care. Participants in the Mind Meld Innovation Summit explored areas of success and opportunity in food allergy research, resulting in core themes and high-priority research opportunities.

By investing in multidisciplinary, mechanistically driven, and patient-focused research, the field can accelerate its trajectory toward transformative change—and ultimately, toward durable solutions that improve the lives of people with food allergy.

During the next phase of the Mind Meld Project, FARE will solicit applications that lead to the formation of teams that foster new food allergy research that can benefit patients in the near term, mentor a new generation of scientists focused on food allergy research and create collaborations to leverage discoveries and resources from other areas of disease research.

The funded Mind Meld Team(s) will benefit from FARE's established infrastructure, collaborative framework, and strategic oversight, which are designed to support multidisciplinary teams pursuing a focused and clearly defined set of research aims. Required semiannual progress reviews will help ensure accountability, maintain momentum, and keep projects aligned with key milestones and deliverables. In addition, FARE's commitment to convergence science and multidisciplinary collaboration—including the integration of patient advocates, advocacy organization leaders, and experts from non-clinical scientific disciplines—helps foster urgency, innovation, and a stronger focus on patient-centered outcomes throughout the research process.

Overarching goals of the program are to:

- Advance innovation in food allergy through the convergence of physical and biological sciences
- Remove knowledge silos between traditional academic and clinical disciplines
- Accelerate timelines to new food allergy treatments



Research Project Criteria

The Mind Meld Team(s) presents an unprecedented opportunity to bring together the best scientific minds from diverse fields of research to focus on new approaches to address food allergy treatment. The collaborative, preferably multi-institutional, multidisciplinary team(s) will address one or more research opportunities, conducting a milestone-driven project that includes laboratory and clinical components including human studies that begin by the midpoint of the project. This grant will provide up to \$10 million over four years.

Proposed research may explore concepts, including, but not limited to:

- Sensitive and specific biomarkers for patient stratification and clinical trial enrollment to increase the impact of therapies and better predict patient responses to immunotherapies
- Targeted immunotherapies and sequential immunotherapy, building on work in autoimmune disease and cancer
- Anti-IgE therapies designed to rapidly desensitize allergic effector cells by disrupting IgE binding to FcεRI (e.g., biparatropic DARPin)
- BTK and JAK inhibitors, which can reduce mast cell, basophil, and T-cell activation, as well as therapies targeting KIT and Siglecs to deplete allergic effector cells
- Targeting inhibitory dendritic cell subsets that suppress effective T-cell activation
- Efforts to better understand host-microbiota interactions in food allergy pathogenesis, and develop preventative and therapeutic strategies to mitigate the allergic response
- Engineering epitope-specific antibodies may enable the rational design of hypoallergens
- Advancing the development of safer, more effective immunotherapies
- BCMA/CD3-targeting therapies as a way to eliminate IgE-producing cells
- CD8+ CAR T cell therapies
- AI combined with large-scale datasets to improve drug discovery, identify disease drivers, and model immune mechanisms; applications ranging from generative protein-design models (e.g., Boltz) that can rapidly predict molecular interactions and binding strength, to deep learning systems that integrate clinical, genetic, and behavioral data to predict disease risk and severity, and to structural biology tools that simulate allergen-immune interactions and underlying genetic mechanisms

In addition, proposals should reflect a set of core principles focused on speeding the development of patient-centered interventions. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Adopting a mindset of "interventional immunology," wherein clinical trials serve not only to demonstrate safety and efficacy, but also to generate mechanistic insights; this approach encourages the use of existing clinical trial data and biospecimens to explore immune pathways, refine therapeutic hypotheses, and inform future trial design
- Stronger integration across disciplines and sectors because complex diseases demand diverse expertise including cross-sector partnerships—spanning academia, industry, regulatory agencies, and advocacy organizations
- Early and sustained involvement of patients and caregivers in the research process to ensure that interventions are not only scientifically robust but also acceptable, accessible, and equitable



Funding Level & Number of Awards

FARE intends to commit up to a total of \$10 million to this funding opportunity. FARE may award the full amount to a single integrated project team or distribute funding across multiple complementary proposals, depending on scientific merit, strategic alignment, feasibility, and available resources.

The maximum total budget for any proposal is \$10 million over a project period not to exceed four years, inclusive of indirect costs. Indirect costs are capped at 10% and must be included within the total requested budget.

Applicants should request a budget that is appropriate to the scope, timeline, milestones, and expected translational impact of the proposed work. Budgets will be evaluated for cost effectiveness, efficient use of funds, and alignment with the program's goals, including convergence science, patient-centered impact, collaborative execution, and initiation of human studies by the midpoint of the award period. Continued funding will be contingent on satisfactory progress against approved milestones and deliverables.

Award decisions will be based on scientific merit, translational potential, adherence to the overarching goals of the program, collaborative team structure, feasibility, and efficient use of funds.

Application Process Overview

A Letter of Intent shall be submitted by **September 2, 2026**, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET via [FLUXX](#), FARE's grant management portal. The Letter of Intent is a project summary that contains a title and three-page scientific narrative (including figures). Additionally, biographical information on Key Personnel ([NIH Biosketch](#) preferred), a preliminary budget, and institutional letters of support must be submitted. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal.

The Full Proposal shall be submitted by **December 18, 2026**, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EDT via [FLUXX](#), FARE's grants management portal.

The Team Leader and Co-Leader of the finalist team(s) will be required to present the proposal at an in-person selection meeting to be held during the week of January 25, 2027, in Washington, D.C. The selected team will be notified by February 3, 2027, with anticipated project start dates in March/April 2027.

See the section "[Application Instructions](#)" on page 14 for further information.

Team Composition & Member Eligibility Criteria

To maximize creativity, innovation, and collaboration, the Mind Meld Team(s) would ideally include laboratory sciences and clinical sciences researchers with senior and early-career investigators, some of whom have not worked together in the past. For large scale projects, the Team(s) shall consist of a Team Leader, a Team Co-Leader, no more than four additional Team Principals, a Project Manager, and at least two Patient Advocates. A **minimum of three participating institutions is highly encouraged**. Racial and ethnic diversity among Mind Meld Team personnel is strongly encouraged.

For more modest projects, smaller team compositions may be justified and will be considered commensurate with the budget.

Role definitions, eligibility requirements, and team composition are detailed below as well as in Tables 1 and 2.



Mind Meld Team Composition Overview

Definitions

- 1. Team Leader (TL)** (required for all proposals regardless of scale): The Team Leader is the person responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the proposed research project, contractual and financial obligations, and other organizational assurances/certifications. The TL must ensure that the Team complies with the terms and conditions of the award and will be the primary contact person for FARE science staff.
- 2. Lead Institution** is the organization at which the Team Leader is employed, and it will be legally and financially responsible for the conduct of Mind Meld Team activities supported by the grant. ***The Lead Institution must be a current member of the FARE Clinical Network.***
- 3. Team Co-leader (TC)** (required depending on project scope): A Team Co-leader is designated by the Team Leader to assist in directing the scientific and technical work of the Team. A Co-leader serves as an alternate contact person for FARE science staff.
- 4. Team Principal (TP)** (required depending on project scope): Team Principal(s) is/are senior investigator(s) who will lead a component(s)/subproject(s) of the Team research project.
- 5. Project Manager (PM)** (required depending on project scope): The Team Project Manager (PM) is the administrative leader of the Team and the key administrative contact for the Team with FARE. The PM is responsible for the coordination of all team efforts to consistently maintain a high level of functionality, collaboration, and communication. The PM coordinates the Patient Advocates and the scientific reporting, and, where appropriate, assists the Team in developing a plan for clinical trial accrual, diversity, and tracking.
- 6. Patient Advocates** (required depending on project scope): Patient Advocates bring the perspectives of those affected by food allergy (e.g., patients, caregivers) to the work of Team. They enable the Team scientists to see their research through the eyes of the target audience and integrate these perspectives into the direction of the Team research. Patient Advocate members do not represent the viewpoints or issues of any advocacy organization or their individual personal issues. Where appropriate, Patient Advocates also work with the Team in developing a plan for clinical trial accrual, diversity, and tracking, including measures to ensure recruitment and retention of diverse participants. If you need assistance with the identification of qualified Patient Advocates for your application, you may contact grants@foodallergy.org.
- 7. Investigators:** Senior investigators, other than the TL, TC, and TPs, who are employed at the TL, TC, or TP institutions and contribute substantively to the Team research project, may be included as members of the Team.
- 8. Early-Career Investigators:** (required) Junior faculty, defined as independent investigators who have completed their training no more than seven years prior to the start of the grant term, postdoctoral fellows, clinical research fellows, or any other researchers-in-training who are working under the direction of a scientific mentor (i.e., a TL, TC, TP, or Investigator) may be included as members of the Team.
- 9. Collaborator:** An Investigator who is not employed by a participating institution and is unfunded in this project budget yet makes valuable contributions to the Team.
- 10. Budget and Contract contact** (required per institution): For each participating institution/clinical trial site, provide at least two officials responsible for grant agreements.
- 11. Other (Scientific/Technical):** Any person providing scientific or technical support, such as lab managers, technicians, biostatisticians, or individuals support the data management plan
- 12. Other (Administrative):** Any person providing administrative support such as administrative assistants
- 13. Public Information Officer (PIO)** (required per institution): The PIO is the communications coordinator or spokesperson for the institution.



Table 1: Recommended Mind Meld Team Members & Roles

Core Leadership Key personnel	Scientific Contributors Research expertise and execution	Operations & Patient Partnership Coordination, compliance, and patient voice
<p>Team Leader Primary scientific, technical, contractual, and financial lead</p> <p>Team Co-Leader Supports scientific direction and serves as alternate FARE contact</p> <p>Team Principals Up to four senior investigators leading components or subprojects</p>	<p>Investigators Senior investigators contributing substantively to the project</p> <p>Early-Career Investigators Junior faculty, fellows, clinical research fellows, or trainees under mentorship</p> <p>Collaborators Unfunded outside contributors, including industry partners when appropriate</p>	<p>Project Manager Coordinates operations, communication, reporting, and advocate engagement</p> <p>Patient Advocates Integrate patient and caregiver perspectives</p> <p>Institutional Contacts Budget/contract contacts and Public Information Officer required per institution</p>
<p>Team design principle: Applications should demonstrate multidisciplinary collaboration, meaningful patient engagement depending on scope of project, and a structure capable of achieving milestone-driven translational outcomes.</p>		

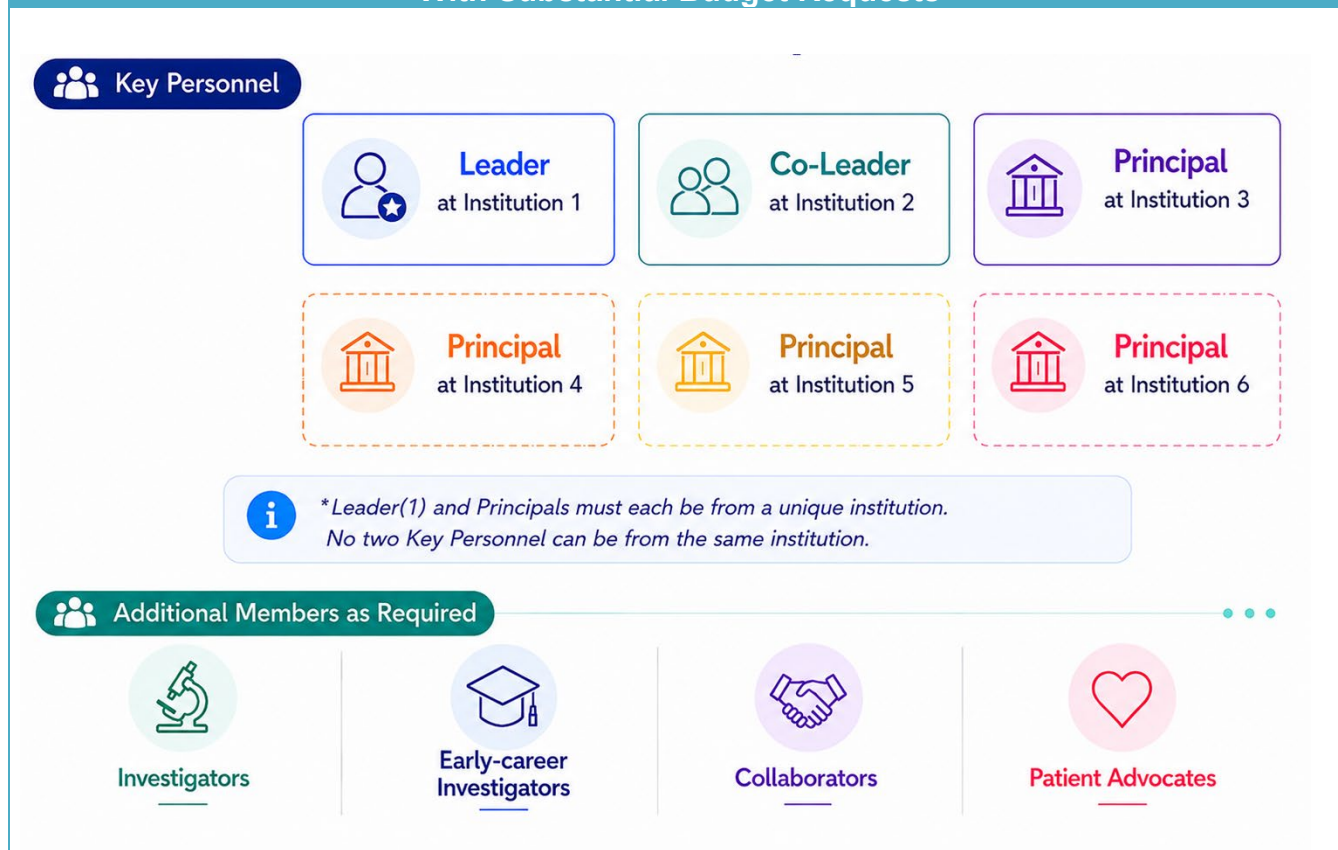
Team Member Eligibility Requirements

1. The TL, TC, and TPs, must have acquired a doctoral or medical degree and must be independent investigators affiliated with an academic, medical, or research institution. Individuals on the FDA Debarment List may not apply.
2. Research must be carried out within the United States. There are no citizenship or residency status restrictions for team members.
3. The TL and TC are expected to each dedicate at least 20 percent (or 40 percent combined) of their time and effort to the Team research project.
4. TPs must each dedicate at least 10 percent of their time and effort to the Team research project.
5. No Team will have more than one Key Personnel (TL, TC, or TP) from any given institution at the time of their initial appointment on the Team. No more than two Key Personnel may be from affiliated institutions. It is expected that additional Investigators from the TL, TC or TP institutions may be involved in the Team research project in some other capacity, and there is no limit to the number of Investigators from each of these institutions that may contribute to the Team project.
6. Employees or subcontractors of for-profit industry are not eligible to serve as a TL, TC, or TP; however, their participation as unfunded Collaborators is encouraged, where appropriate, to foster the development of novel strategies.
7. Early-Career Investigators are not eligible to serve as a Team Leader, Co-leader, or Principal; however, their participation in the Team research projects is highly encouraged.
8. Neither members of the FARE Scientific Advisory Council, the Mind Meld Team Selection Committee, nor members of their individual laboratories are eligible for funding as part of the FARE Mind Meld Team Grant Program.

Applicants with a question about the eligibility requirements are encouraged to contact FARE at grants@foodallergy.org prior to submitting the proposal.



Table 2: Mind Meld Team Composition for Proposals With Substantial Budget Requests



Study Benchmarks & Timeline

The intent of this RFA is to fund a four-year proximal translational research study designed to move laboratory discoveries, preclinical studies, and basic science findings into early-phase clinical trials and human studies. The first two years of the award should focus on completing basic scientific or mechanistic science. By year two of the award, human studies must commence. If milestones and timelines are not achieved, including if human studies do not commence by the midpoint of the grant, FARE’s oversight committee will advise on continuation versus termination of the project.

Key Dates

Request for Applications released	June 24, 2026
Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline	September 2, 2026
LOI review/notification to proceed with full application	October 9, 2026
Full application deadline	December 18, 2026
Finalists notified, invited to attend in-person selection meeting	January 11, 2027
Presentation by finalists	Week of January 25, 2027
Finalists notified	February 3, 2027



Mandatory Letter of Intent

Prospective applicants are **REQUIRED** to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by September 2, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET. Provide a single PDF that includes the information below in the specified order:

- 3-page scientific narrative about the proposed study, including project title. Figures are permitted but count toward 3-page limit.
- NIH Biosketches for all Key Personnel, and any research mentor(s)
- A preliminary budget, using the provided template
- Institutional letters of support

The LOI Materials should be submitted per the application procedure noted below. Following review, applicants will be notified if their proposal is selected to advance to a full proposal.

Submission Style Guide

Letters of Intent and full applications must adhere to the following formatting specifications:

- 11-point Arial font
- Single-spaced
- ½" margins on all sides
- 8½" x 11" (i.e., standard size) paper
- Number all pages

Application Procedure

Proposals shall be submitted via FARE's online grant submission system.

- To apply visit [FLUXX](#) and click on "Create New User" or log in if you already have an account.
- For questions concerning user accounts, passwords, or system issues, please contact grants@foodallergy.org.

For those advancing to full proposal submission, applicants will enter general project information via the web-based form and upload the required documents.

General Review Process

All proposals will be triaged for feasibility and close alignment to the nature and purpose of the RFA, including completeness, feasibility, and budget compliance.

- Applications that meet all technical criteria will move forward to undergo scientific review.
- Each application will receive at least two independent reviews. Assigned reviewers will score the proposal utilizing the same criteria employed by NIH.
- Final funding decisions are based on reviewer scores and other RFA criteria and principles.
- Investigators will receive final notice of award or non-award.

Each proposal will be evaluated using the NIH 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional; 9 = poor) scoring system. Each application will receive a separate score for each of five core review criteria (Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment) and Overall Impact. Scientific merit will be determined by averaging these preliminary impact scores from two independent reviewers with appropriate expertise. Applications deemed of high scientific merit will be evaluated and ranked by a review committee.

Additional review considerations will include feasibility of the proposal, and probability that the project will lead to additional grant funding.



Evaluation of Proposals

The FARE Mind Meld Team Grant Selection Committee will review the proposals for the Program. The Selection Committee consists of highly accomplished experts in food allergy and related disciplines, senior laboratory researchers and physician-scientists who are respected internationally for their own accomplishments in food allergy research and as leaders in the field, as well as at least two Patient Advocates.

The Selection Committee will consider the following criteria when evaluating the proposals:

- Scientific merit of the proposed research project and translational potential of the research
- Significance of the proposed research
- Novelty of the hypothesis or methodology
- Degree to which the studies have a positive impact on the treatment of food allergy
- Team leadership qualities (TL, TC, TPs): Willingness to collaborate, research credentials, unique contributions to the Team research project, demonstrated ability to bring together and lead a multidisciplinary team of experts to a successful conclusion, expertise in the field, and commitment to translational research with clear emphasis on near-term clinical application
- Involvement of patient advocates and/or community members in study design and implementation
- A clear commitment by the Team that all data resulting from their work will be available to the scientific community at large at the earliest opportunity, as allowed under patient privacy and other applicable laws
- Likelihood that the research project will achieve its stated goals given the budget requested, institutional environments, and other resources available
- Likelihood that patient enrollment to clinical trials will be completed within the timeframe of the grant
- Whether the studies are designed to capitalize upon the unique populations and environments, specialized expertise, new concepts and perspectives, innovative methodologies, and/or emerging technologies that are available as a result of the multi-institutional collaboration
- Whether adequate institutional and/or financial support exists to sustain the research project
- The cost effectiveness of the budget

Grant Terms

Changes to application. Applicants are not allowed to change the project nor the Team members proposed in the Letter of Intent. If changes are necessary, prior written approval from FARE is required.

Contracts. A Grant Agreement will be executed between FARE and the Team Leader's Institution, referred to as the Lead Institution. The Lead Institution must serve as the administrator of the grant funds and hold responsibility for the disbursement of the funds, management of the budget, and provision of progress reports. It is expected that the Lead Institution will enter into subcontracts with the institutions of the Team Co-leader and Principals, and assurances that these contractual agreements have been executed will be required for continuation of funding. Applicants may contact FARE for assistance establishing relationships with industry.

Commencement. The Team Leader will commence the project upon execution of the contract agreement with the Lead Institution. FARE retains the right to terminate the grant if the research project is not commenced in a timely manner.

Budget. Mind Meld Team(s) may apply for total support up to \$10M over a four-year term (inclusive of indirects). The templates provided with the grant application should be used to complete a detailed budget. FARE strongly advises a limited first year budget to allow for appropriate start-up time. All funding is contingent upon milestones and objectives being appropriately selected and satisfactorily pursued and achieved, as determined by FARE and the Selection Committee.



Use of Funds. Grant funds may be used for direct research expenses attributable to the proposed research, which may include:

- A percentage of the salary and benefits expenses (limited to 20 percent of the total budget) of senior investigators
- A percentage of salary and benefits expenses of the Early-Career Investigators on the Team
- Salary and benefits expenses for research assistants or technicians
- Equipment, supplies, and other laboratory or clinical expenses
- Travel expenses relevant to the Mind Meld Team research project, including travel to the institutions of the Team Leaders/Principals and travel to meetings with the Selection Committee, as well as to FARE research convenings
- Expenses (limited to a total of \$20,000/year) related to publication page charges and/or the presentation of research data at scientific meetings or through other means that will contribute to the dissemination of the scientific knowledge derived from the proposed research

The funds may not be used for salary or benefits of any Collaborators from a government institution/agency or a for-profit industry, or for any research expenses related to the Team project that are incurred by these individuals. Tuition and professional membership dues are not allowable expenses.

Any indirect costs charged by the institutions will be negotiated to a minimum, but in no event will there be permitted a charge of more than 10 percent of the total budget.

Payments. The payment schedule between the Team and FARE will be delineated in the contract agreement after the grant is awarded.

Reporting Requirements. Progress reports must be submitted every six months and shall highlight the accomplishments of that specific time period, bearing in mind the pre-defined Milestones and Deliverables of the Team. Progress Reports will be reviewed by FARE and a Review Team drawn from the Selection Committee.

FARE may withhold release of any or cancel future Grant Funds until the reports have been filed and approved. Failure to address deficiencies, meet grant requirements, or achieve the pre-defined Milestones and Deliverables may result in discontinuation of the grant.

Teams must meet three times a year, either in person, by teleconference, or videoconference, to review progress and, if necessary, adjust research plans. Two of the required meetings can be fulfilled prior to the semi-annual reviews, where Team Leader(s) meet with the Review Team and all other Team members, following the submission of Progress Reports, to thoroughly discuss the Teams' progress. Review meetings schedule will be an appendix to the Team contract.

A final written progress and financial report shall be submitted no later than sixty (60) days after the ending date of the grant term. The reporting materials must include all project components.

FARE will share copies of interim and final progress reports and may provide these materials, at their discretion, with other funders that have provided financial support for the grant and also may use all or portions of the report for public dissemination, such as within FARE newsletters or websites, or in other similar manners.

Publications and Acknowledgment of Support. Any publications resulting from research funded in whole or in part by the grant must cite FARE as a funder in the acknowledgment. The contract between FARE and the Lead Institution will contain exact wording. Copies of such publications shall be forwarded to FARE after acceptance, but before publication.



Intellectual Property. FARE must be notified of any discovery that is protectable under applicable law (e.g. patentable), that is discovered in the course of the research funded through this grant. FARE shall have no responsibility or interest in the protection of, commercialization or licensing of intellectual property resulting from the Team. The Team Leader and the Lead Institution shall notify FARE of the granting of each patent or other legal protection and of all commercial exploitation of any Invention.

Insurance. Insurance shall be maintained by the Team Members and Institutions for professional liability and comprehensive general liability insurance, on an “occurrence” basis, against claims for “personal injury” liability, including bodily injury, death or property damage liability. Such insurance shall be primary and noncontributory with any other insurance carried by FARE and shall provide appropriate waivers of subrogation against FARE, and its directors, committee members, employees, affiliates and agents.

Notification of Changes. It is the responsibility of the Team Leader to notify FARE immediately of any changes in the composition of the Team, and changes in the position or institution of any of the Team Members. Proposals to change the research project from that described in the application must be examined by the Review Team who will make a recommendation to FARE. Under the direction of its Scientific Advisory Council, FARE has the option to accept, deny, or modify the proposed changes, or may terminate the grant.

Organizational Assurances. It is the responsibility of the Team Leader and Lead Institution to ensure that organizational assurances/certifications from all Team Member Institutions are obtained. For research involving human subjects, the appropriate Team Member(s) and U.S. Institution(s) shall certify that:

- A. Prior to the initiation of human research, the proposed research project has been reviewed and approved in writing by an Institutional Review Board (“IRB”) constituted in accordance with current regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) and registered with HHS.
- B. The Team Member(s) shall secure a legally acceptable informed consent from all human subjects taking part in any research funded in whole or in part by FARE in accordance with and to the extent required by current regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and approved by HHS. IRB approval for human subjects research should be submitted to FARE, and funds for human subjects research will NOT be released unless and until proof of all IRB certifications is received by FARE. Prior IRB approval for another project cannot be substituted but can be officially amended to include the proposed project.

For research involving animals, the Institution(s) shall ensure compliance with applicable chapters of the Public Health Service Animal Welfare Policy, the NIH Manual for Grants and Contracts, and any and all requirements of the Institution concerning animal welfare. Certification by the Institution Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or equivalent shall be documented by submitting a copy of the institutional letter of approval, which identifies the Team Member(s) responsible for the project, the Team research project title, FARE as the funding agencies, and the date of approval, and is signed by the IACUC Chair or equivalent Institution official. Prior IACUC certification for another project cannot be substituted, but can be officially amended to include the proposed project.

Team Members at non-U.S. institutions must adhere to ethical standards for the protection of human and animal subjects that are at least equivalent to U.S. standards, and to the legal requirements of the country of origin. Certification of ethical standards review and approval should be documented by submitting a letter which cites all relevant approval and license numbers and dates required by the country of origin. In the absence of an official ethical review board (or equivalent) or legal requirements, the Team Member(s) must agree in writing to adhere at minimum to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki: Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects and the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH) Good Clinical Practice (GCP) guideline (E6).



Sponsors

The Mind Meld Program is made possible through the visionary support of our sponsors. FARE extends its sincere gratitude to Serena and John Liew, the National Peanut Board, the Soy Nutrition Institute Global, an anonymous family foundation, and Peggy and Yung Bong Lim for their commitment to advancing this critical research.



Application Instructions

Applications must be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) EDT **December 18, 2026**, via [FLUXX](#). The application includes both (1) a text application template and (2) spreadsheet templates for completion and submission. The application templates will be provided to teams selected to submit Full Applications. Instructions are available within the templates.

The required components of the proposal are outlined below. Please upload the document as a single PDF file.

1. Title Page

2. Signatures Page

Signature pages must be submitted for every Institution requesting Team funds through this grant mechanism. The Team Leader, Team Co-Leader, every Team Principal, and Patient Advocate(s) must be included in the Signature Pages.

3. Scientific Abstract (500 words maximum)

The abstract, which is limited to 500 words in the respective text field, is a succinct and accurate description of the proposed project. The abstract must state the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims; design and methods for achieving the stated project goals; and alignment with the goals of the RFA. The abstract should be informative to other people working in the same or related fields and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Avoid using first-person language or describing past accomplishments.

4. Lay Abstract (300 words maximum)

The general audience summary provides an overview of the proposed research for people who are not trained in the sciences. Summaries may be shared with the public and thus should not include proprietary/confidential information. The general audience summary should not duplicate the structured technical abstract and should be written in an understandable way for a lay audience. Describe concisely the background, significance, question(s) being asked, information to be obtained, and potential impact of the proposed research.

5. Research Proposal (20-page maximum; include the following sections)

- A. Background and Rationale
- B. Specific Aims
- C. Research Design and Methods
- D. Statistical Plan and Data Management Plan
- E. Projected Timeline and Milestones
- F. Significance and Therapeutic Impact
- G. Collaboration/Team Members
- H. Data Sharing Plan
- I. Patient Advocate Role
- J. Clinical Trial Recruitment and Retention Plan



6. Facilities (maximum of 1 page per Institution)

7. References (no page limit)

8. Other Support

9. Budget Justification: (3-page maximum per institution)

Detailed justification of the separate budget requests for expenses related to the research components/subprojects conducted by the Team leader, Team Co-Leader, and Team Principals are required for all items of the equipment costing over \$1,000, and the need for personnel, supplies, and other items. Provide the names of individuals whose salaries will be supported by the grant funds and justify the amount of support requested. If requesting “Other Expenses,” a thorough list of these expenses along with the justification is required.

10. Appendix

A. Milestones and Deliverables Timeline

Refer to Tab A in Spreadsheet Templates

B. Requested Funding and Required Regulatory Approvals per Specific Aim

Refer to Tab B in Spreadsheet Templates and Clinical Trials (Tab B.1 in Spreadsheet Templates)

C. Budget (not to exceed \$10 million USD)

Refer to sections “Budget” and “Use of Funds” on p. 5-6 for additional information

- i. Total Budget per Year (Tab C1 in Spreadsheet Templates)
- ii. Budget per Institution (Tab C2 in Spreadsheet Templates; complete for every institution)
- iii. Total Budget per Institution (Tab C3 in Spreadsheet Templates)

D. Personnel Tracker

Refer to Tab D in Spreadsheet Templates and review section “Eligibility Criteria” on p. 2-4 for additional information.

E. NIH Biosketches for Team Leadership (e.g., Team Leader, Team Co-Leader, Team Principals). Do not exceed five (5) pages per individual.

F. Letters of Support

- i. Letters from Leadership at each Institution involved in the Team
- ii. Letters from other Company(ies) collaborating with the Team

G. Clinical Trial Protocol (if applicable)

The Clinical Trial Protocol must include the following, in no particular order:

- Study Rationale: Provide a brief description of the medical question and the rationale of how this trial addresses the question. Provide a rationale for the dose schedule outlined for all treatment arms. Reference any non-labeled indication.
- Primary Objective: Provide the main study goal and the study population. Provide a detailed definition that is directly linked to the primary objective. In some cases, the detailed description may be more appropriate in the statistical section.
- Primary Endpoint
- Hypothesis
- Study Assessments: Specify type and frequency of safety, efficacy, and outcome measures. Also indicate the method(s) used to assess measures.
- Secondary Objective



- Data and Statistical Plan: Describe the planned statistical analysis including timing of the primary and secondary measurements and sample size calculation. The range of sophistication will depend on a number of factors, including the size and complexity of the study.
- References: List references, studies, and sources that support the study design.
- Targeted Patient Population: Specify age, gender, diversity, and other demographic information for the trial population.
- Recruitment and Retention Plan: Specify approach to accrue representative patient population to the trial. Provide patient recruitment and retention plan addressing methods to ensure appropriate representation of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic minority populations.
- Specify the dose, schedule, duration, and any pre-medications, etc.
- Sample Size Calculation
- Sample Size Justification: The sample size must reference the primary endpoint.
- List any correlative studies.
- Key Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria: List all inclusion and exclusion criteria necessary to support the trial design and drug safety requirements.
- Secondary Endpoint
- Data Handling and Record Keeping including a formal Data Use Agreement
- A Data and Safety Monitoring Plan (DSMP) outlining procedures to ensure participant safety and data integrity

H. Other Application Information

The spreadsheet templates include: (1) Milestones and Deliverables Timeline, (2) Requested funding and required regulatory approvals per Specific Aim, (3) Budget per year and per Institution, and (4) Personnel Tracker. Collaborative groups of researchers from diverse institutions are preferred; all applications are strongly encouraged to include inter-institutional collaborations. Biosketches with recent (five year) publication list as well as current funding should be included for Team Leadership. Teams requesting significant funding are required to have a Team Leader and a Team Co-Leader, must include a Project Manager and at least two Patient Advocates. Proposals with a modest budget may propose a smaller scale project team. All projects should be planned for no more than four years, with any proposed human studies commencing by year two and completing by the end of the grant period. The proposed budget should not exceed \$10 million USD including indirects. If a clinical trial is proposed, then a clinical trial protocol or a compelling justification for delaying the protocol development is required.

I. Application Submission

The application submission site is available at https://foodallergy.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new. An email will be sent to confirm receipt of your online submission.

J. Changes to the Application

Following the submission of an application, the Team Leader should notify FARE at grants@foodallergy.org of (1) any changes of address, email, or phone number for any Team member, (2) any changes in institution for any Team member, or (3) withdrawal of the application for any reason.

K. Notification

The Full Application shall be submitted by **December 18, 2026**, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EDT at https://foodallergy.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new. The Team Leader and Co-Leader of the finalist teams will be required to present the proposal at an in-person selection meeting to be held during the week of January 25, 2027, in Washington, D.C. The selected team will be notified by February 3, 2027, with anticipated project start dates in March/April 2027.



Inquiries

Inquiries about the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application materials may be directed to the grants@foodallergy.org.

