

2025

FARE IMPACT REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS



From the CEO.....	3
We're All in This Together	4
FARE 2025: A Snapshot.....	5
The State of Food Allergy.....	7
Preventing Food Allergy	9
Managing Food Allergy at Scale	10
Bringing Community Together at OctoberFARE.....	28
A Food Allergy Cure Is Within Reach	36
2025 Donors.....	40
FARE Leadership.....	42
What's Your Icon?	44



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.



Food allergy is a silent epidemic—and for patients with this disease, eating or even just being in the presence of food requires extra vigilance and creates heightened anxiety. More than 33 million food allergy patients have to practice strict avoidance of their allergen, even when it limits or prevents key life experiences, which can be isolating. But the alternative is far worse: the unpredictable nature of this disease can produce a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

This reality has to change.

2025 showed us a year when collaboration drove meaningful change for our community where we sharpened our focus around three priorities: prevention, management, and cure.

Prevention of food allergy takes years and multiple levels of collaboration. 2025 reflects the culmination of FARE's long-term work to ensure the inclusion of early introduction language in the *2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Preventing food allergy to peanuts and other allergens in infants is now a research-supported possibility for more than 80% of the infants whose caregivers follow the protocol. FARE has worked tirelessly, through meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and staff, to ensure that language aligned with early introduction is integrated into appropriations for the WIC program (supporting Women, Infants, and Children). FARE applauds the House Appropriations Committee for passing the Fiscal Year 2027 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill with a provision to require USDA to amend WIC food packages I and II to include peanut-containing foods for the purpose of early introduction of potentially allergenic foods.

Managing food allergy still requires constant vigilance and carries significant costs. To support safer dining experiences, the FARECheck program provided food allergy training in 2025 for more than 120,000 food service professionals and is a source of institutional best practices that covers a broad range of dining settings. FARE also executed a public service announcement series that has garnered 1.4 billion impressions to date since 2025, broadening awareness of treatment and epinephrine administration options.

Pursuing a cure for existing food allergy is an urgent objective. 2025 saw the introduction of the Mind Meld Innovation Summit, a Nobel laureate-led, proven, multi-disciplinary approach to research funding designed to accelerate cures—now applied to food allergy. To nurture the pipeline of the next generation of scientists, FARE has contributed over \$6.1M in direct support for new and mid-career investigator awards that will help advance breakthrough in basic, translational, and clinical research. Since 2015, this investment has resulted in nearly \$58M in newly obtained funding to address food allergy.

Thank you for being part of the community that powers FARE's work. Together, we are beginning to see the transformation of an invisible epidemic to a recognized disease. Food allergy as the cover story of *Scientific American* shows this disease is now being taken seriously by the public. And that is a big change.

This is just the beginning!

We Are FARE,

Sung Poblete, PhD, RN
Chief Executive Officer



Supporting a community of more than 33 million people with meaningful change takes collaboration across many partners and supporters. Your support takes many forms—through philanthropy, volunteer leadership, advocacy, and raising awareness. FARE is fortunate to partner with an extraordinary community of sponsors, donors, policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, advocates, and food allergy patients and their families, all united by a shared commitment to improving lives and advancing progress toward a future free from food allergy.

This report celebrates what we have accomplished together and reflects the meaningful impact your partnership continues to make.

FARE is deeply grateful for your support and collaboration.

Thank you!



Catalyzing Food Allergy Research

- Convened the Mind Meld Innovation Summit with Nobel-laureate-led scientists from multiple disciplines and participants from 30 organizations, 3 government agencies, and 5 pharmaceutical companies
- 4 peer-reviewed publications resulting from research supported by FARE
- Awarded 6 multi-year grants for food allergy research totaling \$3.95M



92% of total expenses directly supported FARE's programmatic pillars. Nearly 40% of program expenses were invested in advancing research.

Improving Systemic Management of Food Allergy

- 120,430 professionals received food allergy training
- 555 food service establishments enhanced their food allergy safety practices through FARECheck and FARE-approved training across 62,600 staff members
- 91% of food service professionals reported increased confidence supporting guests with food allergies

Providing Food Allergy Education

- 99,511 active learners participated in the Food Allergy Academy
- 89% of patients and caregivers reported increased knowledge after participating in FARE education programs
- 14,311 people engaged through FARE's community outreach such as the FARE Neighborhoods Initiative

Centering Food Allergy in Policy

- Represented 33+ million food allergy patients in the U.S. in dialogues that helped ensure food allergy is a priority concern in the *Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy Report*
- Supported 5 food allergy-related state legislative issues that could benefit approximately 7.2 million people with food allergy



Scientific American Takes on Food Allergy

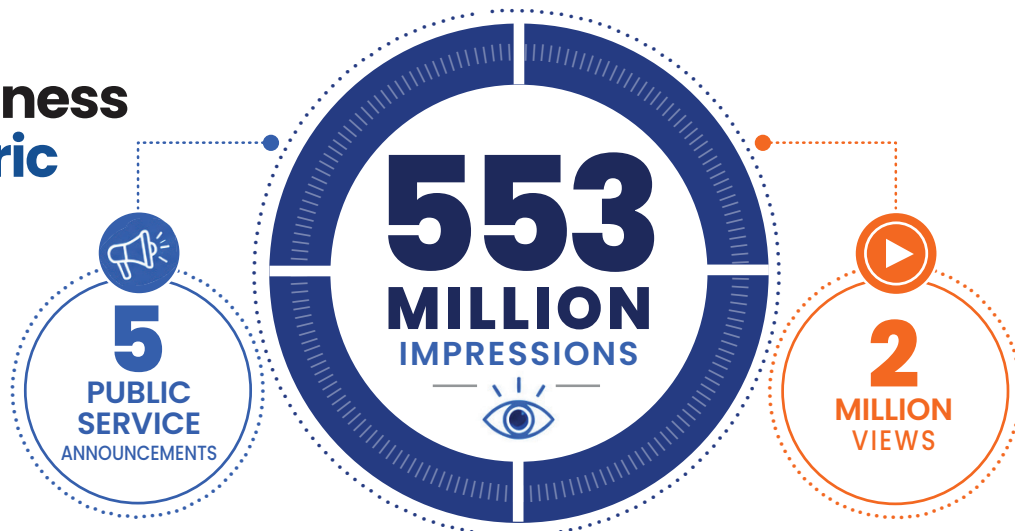
The August 19 cover story of *Scientific American* asked, “Can peanut allergies be cured?” and featured FARE’s CEO, **Dr. Sung Poblete**, as a contributing expert. By contributing our expertise to widely read publications, FARE is helping shape national understanding of food allergy by raising awareness, influencing key audiences, and increasing visibility for the urgent need for research and improved treatments.



Centering Food Allergy in Mainstream Conversation

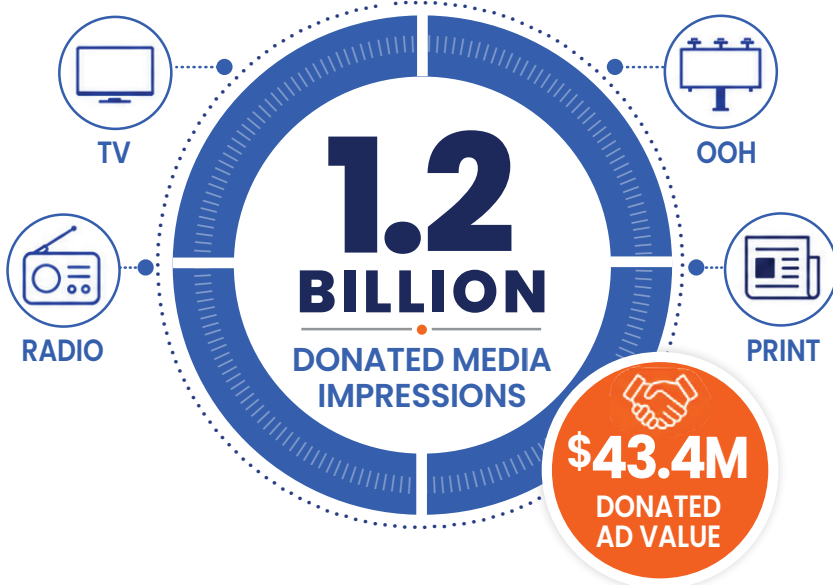
Raised food allergy awareness to stratospheric levels

Through 5 public service announcements, FARE earned **553 million impressions** and **2 million views**.



Select PSAs received another...

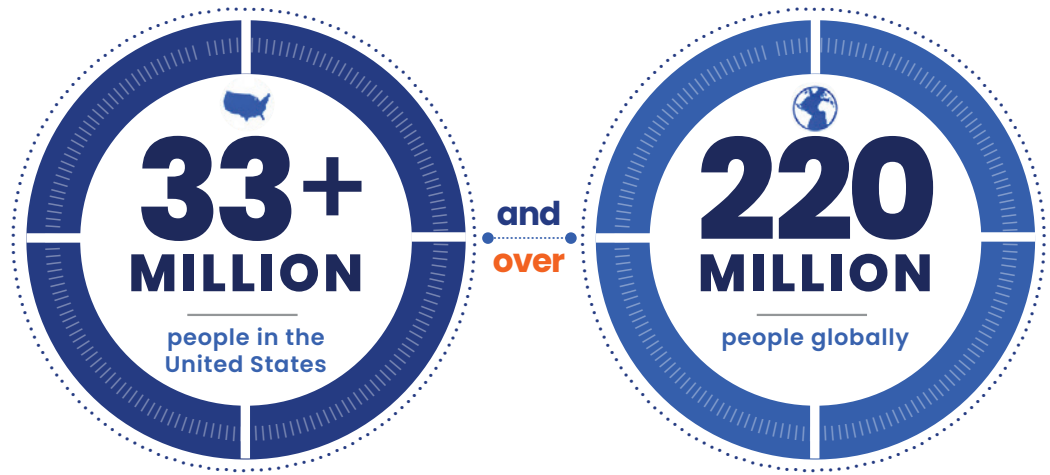
\$43.4M in donated ad value, and **1.2 billion** donated media impressions across TV, radio, Out-Of-Home (OOH), and print.



THE STATE OF FOOD ALLERGY

Food allergy is a growing health crisis

that affects more than **33 million** people in the United States and **over 220 million** people globally.



Food allergy is a **serious disease of the immune system** that can trigger a severe type of allergic reaction called **anaphylaxis**, which is life-threatening. Epinephrine is the only emergency treatment that can stop anaphylaxis.



A 2025 study estimates that the societal cost of food allergy in the U.S. may be as much as

\$370.8B



SOCIETAL COST PER YEAR

\$22,000



ANNUAL COST PER PATIENT

The time to act is now.

In 2025, FARE formed **Food Allergy AWARE: Advancing Wellness, Awareness and Resources to Educate**, an initiative dedicated to increasing awareness and knowledge of the growing prevalence, societal cost, and burden of food allergy as a potentially life-threatening, chronic disease among public health professionals, primary care clinicians, affected patients, caregivers, and the public.

The **Food Allergy AWARE Advisory Council (FAAAC)** is a diverse team of subject matter experts and thought leaders that represent the voices and perspectives of key stakeholders in food allergy, including primary care clinicians, public health professionals, and those living with or impacted by food allergy. The FAAAC provides guidance and input on surveillance and data collection, Indicator Report generation, education program development, awareness and promotion plan development/execution, and evaluation and monitoring of overall project reach and impact.



Looking for more information on the state of food allergy in the U.S.?



Read FARE's *National Indicator Report on Food Allergy*
[FoodAllergy.org/
IndicatorReport](https://www.foodallergy.org/IndicatorReport)

This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$375,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS.



Food Allergy AWARE Advisory Council Members

- **Kelly Cleary, MD, FAAP**, Medical Director and Vice President of Health and Education for FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education)
- **John M. James, MD**, President at Food Allergy Consulting and Education Services, LLC (FACES); Chairperson of FAAAC (Food Allergy AWARE Advisory Council), Year 1
- **Ashley D. Koranteng, MPH, CHES**, Health Engagement Senior Analyst, Cigna
- **William A. McCann, MD, MBA**, Chief Executive Officer for Allergy Partners
- **Jennifer Obenrader, PharmD, CDCES**, Clinical Senior Research Project Lead, Research & Analytics, American Medical Group Association (AMGA)
- **Michael Pistiner, MD, MMSc**, Director of Food Allergy Advocacy, Education and Prevention for MassGeneral Hospital for Children, Food Allergy Center
- **Jennifer Platt, DrPH**, Director of Research & Programs, Tick-Borne Conditions United
- **Sung Poblete, PhD, RN**, Chief Executive Officer of FARE (ex officio)
- **Rebecca D. Szwczak, DO, FACOF, ACOFP**, Chief Medical Officer at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Enid, Oklahoma
- **Christopher M. Warren, PhD**, Director of Population Health Research and Research Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Institute for Public Health and Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine, Division of Epidemiology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Center for Food Allergy and Asthma Research; Chairperson of FAAAC (Food Allergy AWARE Advisory Council), Year 2
- **Charisse Wilson, MSHA**, Community Health Worker, Food Allergy Parent
- **Andrea A. Pappalardo Wlochowicz, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, Allergy Service Director, University of Illinois Chicago



FARE's Commitment to Prevention

Studies show early introduction may help prevent as much as 80% of infant peanut allergy and suggests this approach may work for other common food allergens. With support from our donors and partners, FARE has helped translate science into real-world guidance, policy, and practice, bringing prevention within reach for more families nationwide. FARE is dedicated to promoting public awareness that infants should **“Eat Early, Eat Often”** using infant-safe foods and beginning at the developmentally appropriate period.

The **2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans** (DGA), which were finalized in 2025 ahead of publication by the U.S. Departments of Health & Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) in early 2026, include a recommendation for the early introduction of potentially allergenic foods—including nut butters, eggs, shellfish, and wheat—along with complementary foods during infancy to reduce the risk of developing food allergy. This language reflects years of advocacy and scientific advancement, supported in part by FARE's work to elevate prevention as a national priority.

Promoting Early Introduction and Raising Healthcare Provider Awareness

FARE promotes prevention through awareness campaigns, community-based pilots, and education and training programs for families and healthcare providers. In July, FARE hosted a **Food Allergy Academy** webinar on early introduction with Dr. Carina Venter with over 1,300 registrants, expanding access to evidence-based guidance on early introduction and helping accelerate adoption of prevention practices. In December, FARE expanded its reach into clinical care by publishing an educational module for registered dietitians on the **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** continuing education website, equipping providers nationwide with practical strategies to guide families on early introduction and food allergy prevention.

Watch **“Eat Early, Eat Often”**—click here!



[FoodAllergy.org
/EatEarlyEatOften](https://www.FoodAllergy.org/EatEarlyEatOften)



FARE's public service announcement, **“Eat Early, Eat Often: ‘Peanuts’”** won the Silver Telly Award in the category of “Education & Training.” This PSA helped bring prevention messaging to a broader audience, raising awareness of early introduction among families who may not otherwise be reached through clinical channels.

Support for the PSA from the **National Peanut Board** helped FARE scale prevention efforts to reach more families nationwide.

Bolstering Future Federal Investment in Food Allergy Prevention

When food allergy is stopped before it starts, tens of thousands of people every year are saved from having this disease, which results in a substantial reduction in daily and cumulative healthcare costs.

FARE supports the urgent need to amend Infant Food Packages I & II of the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**. This provision would include infant-safe, peanut-containing products in order to scale a broad early introduction strategy. The WIC program serves roughly 41 percent of all infants born in the U.S.—about 3.6 million babies annually, according to CDC data. Yet, despite strong scientific evidence, current infant food

packages include no provision for infant-safe, peanut-containing foods for infants 6-11 months of age.

MANAGING FOOD ALLERGY AT SCALE



After multiple meetings with members of the House Appropriations Committee and staff, FARE was pleased to see this behind-the-scenes work had impact in the form of the Committee passing the **Fiscal Year 2027 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill** with a provision to require USDA to amend WIC food packages I and II to include peanut-containing foods for the purpose of early introduction of potentially allergenic foods.

FARE will continue to advocate on this matter, since the bill now goes to the Senate—where the language must be retained, and must survive a House-Senate conference on the bill—before going to the President for signature.

Every food allergy patient's journey is different, but by working together we improve the journey for everyone.

FARE's Commitment to Management

To create deep and lasting impact, FARE facilitates food allergy management at all levels. This includes communicating with individuals and families, guiding institutions and communities, and influencing systemic and national change at the top echelons. FARE regularly takes on the responsibility of authoring best practices materials, and in 2025 we initiated production on the *National Indicator Report on Food Allergy* based on a competitive, multi-year federal grant.

FARE draws on its wealth of institutional knowledge and its understanding of the food allergy patient mindset to meet individuals and families at every point in their patient journey. This includes milestones such as receiving diagnosis, seeking treatment, navigating school environments, and lifestyle experiences such as eating out and traveling with food allergy. Through the **FARE Neighborhoods Initiative**, FARE is dedicated to meeting individuals where they are and ensuring that knowledge, care, and safe nutrition are not limited by zip code, income, or insurance status.

The food allergy community in the U.S. is a robust and dynamic organism. FARE fosters that growth through our annual **Food Allergy Awareness Week** celebration and the Halloween-themed **Teal Pumpkin Project** campaigns. We also create opportunities for gathering that, in 2025, focused on **OctoberFARE** in Washington, D.C., and included **FARE Neighborhoods Day, Clinical Development Day, and the Food Allergy Summit**.



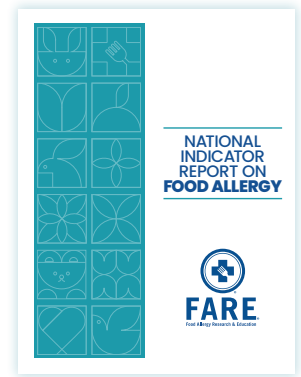
Surveying the State of Food Allergy in the U.S.

FARE is working on a three-year initiative, **Food Allergy AWARE** (Advancing Wellness, Awareness, and Resources to Educate), to address the need for a comprehensive U.S. resource on food allergy. The culmination of Year 1 was preparing the *National Indicator Report on Food Allergy*—an index of key food allergy science and data, vetted by a diverse team of subject matter experts and thought leaders.



This invaluable resource will increase awareness of food allergy as a growing public health challenge, help attract critical funding, and identify significant areas for future research.

Years 2 and 3 of this project are focused on creation of resources and food allergy awareness for adults with food allergy, caregivers of children with food allergy, healthcare professionals, including primary care physicians and public health professionals, and the general population. This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



Read FARE's *National Indicator Report on Food Allergy*—click here! [FoodAllergy.org/IndicatorReport](https://www.foodallergy.org/IndicatorReport)

Understanding the Spectrum of Food Allergy

One of the fastest growing cohorts of food allergy patients are those with **alpha-gal syndrome (AGS)**, which begins with a tick bite. People with AGS can react to any mammalian meat—including beef, pork, and lamb—and mammal-derived ingredients. It is estimated that as many as 450,000 people in the U.S. live with AGS. Alpha-gal syndrome was the topic of a January 2025 webinar offered through FARE's **Food Allergy Academy**. FARE is convening a wide variety of experts and stakeholders, including the **Alpha-gal Alliance** and other patient advocacy groups, in anticipation of a major expansion of AGS-centered strategy initiatives in 2026.

FARE also supports patients with non-IgE-mediated food allergy such as **food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome (FPIES)**, a rare type of delayed allergic reaction to food, and **eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE)**. This year, FARE produced **Beyond the Bite: EoE and Food Allergy**, a 10-minute film that captures the realities of life with EoE, which causes inflammation in the lining of the esophagus, making it difficult for food to go down. This emerging and chronic disease is found in about 1 of every 700 people in the U.S. The video has amassed over 2,000 views since debuting in February 2025.



Watch "Beyond the Bite"—click here! [FoodAllergy.org/EoE](https://www.foodallergy.org/EoE)



Tracking Progress on the Diagnostic Challenge

FARE's **Diagnostic Challenge** is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative designed to accelerate the development of simple, safe, and accurate assays to diagnose food allergy, with the goal of offering alternatives to oral food challenges that include easy-to-use, point-of-care tests. Through our Diagnostic Challenge, FARE is accelerating innovation from early-stage validation of promising technologies to advancing clinically viable diagnostic tools, bringing more accurate, accessible food allergy diagnosis closer to patients.

"Phase 1" Project

Project Period: October 2022 through October 2025 (3 years)

Funding Amount: \$1M

Led by **Dr. Jean-Marc Busnel** at **Beckman Coulter Life Sciences**, the Phase 1 recipient project focused on modernizing a powerful but complex laboratory assay known as the **Basophil Activation Test (BAT)**. BAT can determine if a patient is truly allergic (not just sensitized); however, in its traditional form, it is technically challenging to perform, requires larger, freshly obtained blood samples, and is not easily standardized across hospitals and clinics.

The goal of the **SMMABAT (Streamlined, Miniaturized, Multi-Allergen Basophil Activation Test) project** was to "democratize" this technology and make it practical for widespread use. With donor support, FARE funded early-stage research to validate the SMMABAT approach.

Over the project's three-year run, the team not only proved the concept, but showed that it works in real research environments. Our investment helped move a complex laboratory assay toward real-world application. Following promising results, Beckman Coulter Life Sciences advanced the SMMABAT technology for broader research use in April 2025, contributing to progress toward more accessible and standardized food allergy diagnostics.

Why do we need BAT and MAT testing?

These methods of diagnosing food allergy offers reliable, safe alternatives to oral food challenges. Being able to create and study "an allergic reaction in a test tube" can help move samples and subjects more quickly into the pipeline for clinical trials.



“Phase 2” Project

Project Period: January 2025 through January 2027 (2 years)

Funding Amount: \$2M

FARE’s Phase 2 investment focuses on demonstrating the clinical utility and performance of a novel diagnostic tool, with early results demonstrating high levels of accuracy. This project is led by **Dr. Jean-Pierre Kinet** at **ATANIS Biotech** and centers on a test called **FAST-PASE®**, a **mast cell activation test (MAT)** designed to diagnose food allergy using stored patient blood samples.

FARE’s \$2M investment is supporting a rigorous development effort to determine the diagnostic accuracy and analytical parameters of FAST-PASE® for multiple food allergens, including peanut, cashew, milk, egg, and alpha-gal; compare its performance directly with existing tests; and evaluate whether the test can also be used to monitor patient response to immunotherapy over time.

The progress to date has been striking. FAST-PASE® has demonstrated 94% diagnostic accuracy, 88% sensitivity, and 97% specificity in analytical testing.

Together, these investments reflect FARE’s role in accelerating the development of next-generation diagnostic tools, helping move innovations from concept to clinical application and improving how food allergy is diagnosed and managed.

Enabling Research Toward Future Food Allergy Treatments

Making It Easy to Find Clinical Trials

To help food allergy patients and families locate research opportunities and treatment options that may only be available through clinical trials, FARE partnered with **Carebox** to launch a new **clinical trial finder**. This is a free and confidential service that allows users multiple ways to search for and find potential research studies.

Supporting Ongoing Studies in SLIT

In 2025, FARE assisted in securing a multi-million-dollar influx of resources for the **CASCADE trial (Cashew Allergy Study in Children: Assessing Desensitization, Efficacy, and Safety)**, a trial led by Dr. Edwin Kim of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Dr. Kim received a grant from FARE in 2024 to support a study on the efficacy of sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) for treating tree nut allergy in children 1-11 years of age.

Through a partnership with **Stallergenes Greer**, FARE secured “in-kind” support in the form of allergen extracts, reducing CASCADES trial costs and enabling more efficient progress in this important clinical research.



Empowering Patients With Treatment Options

In September, FARE released the public service announcement (PSA), “RISE,” which encourages food allergy patients to talk with an allergist to open up options. Just as a dancer has daily warm-ups and exercises to maintain their readiness and sure footing, people living with food allergy know the daily steps they need to take to feel secure. When you educate yourself, you don’t live in fear—you live in motion.

The PSA features performer, coach, and food allergy advocate Andy Hartman; dancer and actor Hugo Miller, also a person with food allergies; as well as dance partners Sophia Oddi and Anne Kim. Choreographed by the acclaimed Laura Gorenstein Miller, “RISE” evokes the challenges and triumphs of the food allergy community.

We thank **Genentech, a member of the Roche Group**, and **Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation** for supporting the PSA.

RISE
FoodAllergy.org/Empower

FARE | **Genentech**
A Member of the Roche Group | **NOVARTIS**



Watch “RISE”—click here! [FoodAllergy.org/Empower](https://www.foodallergy.org/Empower)



When Food Allergy Emergencies Happen

Acting Fast Can Save a Life

“**Save a Life: Recognizing & Responding to Anaphylaxis**” guides people through the symptoms of an allergic reaction and provides specific administration guidance for all epinephrine options. This **Food Allergy Academy** course, which is available for free in English and Spanish, includes interactive learning modules, and is updated annually.

The FAA offers free webinars and trainings to help individuals confidently manage food allergy. Sign-up is free, quick and provides access to live sessions, recordings, and self-paced learning modules. As information about food allergy and new approaches to diagnosis and treatment become available, it is crucial that everyone affected—not just patients and families, but healthcare providers, other professionals, and food allergy allies—have the latest insights.

FARE is grateful to **HealthFirst** for supporting the Food Allergy Academy.

Priming Everyone to Be Ready to Act

In 2025, FARE released two public service announcements emphasizing the importance of recognizing the signs of anaphylaxis and being prepared to administer epinephrine.

“**The Kitchen**” features former NFL player, Super Bowl champion, food allergy dad, and FARE Innovation Ambassador **Jason McCourty**, and his daughter Kai, in a spot that blends pickleball’s growing popularity with family-friendly storytelling, to highlight the importance of preparation in managing food allergy.

The “**Ready to Act**” PSA, featuring acclaimed actress **Angela Bassett**, underscores the importance of being prepared to respond in an emergency because as first responders know, emergencies don’t wait.

These two PSAs were honored as Silver Winners in the 5th Annual Anthem Awards, which are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences to celebrate purpose-driven work that inspires social impact.

Generous support for these resources was provided by **ARS Pharmaceuticals**.

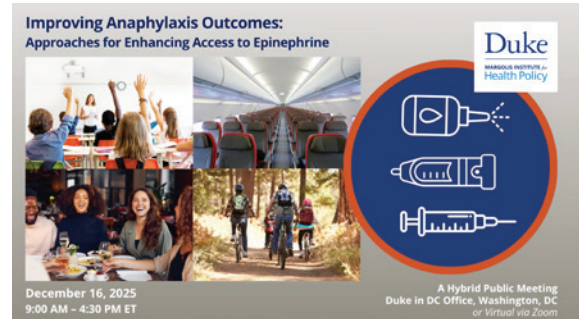


Watch “**The Kitchen**” and “**Ready to Act**”—click here!
FoodAllergy.org/ReadyToAct



Broadening Access to Epinephrine

In December, FARE’s Medical Director and Vice President of Health and Education, **Kelly Cleary, MD, FAAP**, served as a panelist at a **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** and the **Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy** meeting. The workshop focused on expanding access to epinephrine. Dr. Cleary participated in Session 3, on “Current Accessibility to Epinephrine for Treating Anaphylaxis.” In the session, Dr. Cleary cited FARE PSAs on the critical importance of getting a prescription and carrying epinephrine, and the ongoing community-level access work facilitated by the FARE Neighborhoods Initiative.



Watch Dr. Cleary take part in the panel—click here!
[YouTube](#)

Providing Professionals the Latest Insights

FARE hosts the **Groetch and Venter’s Pediatric Food Allergy Nutrition Course**, which offers a comprehensive, exclusive learning experience on nutrition and care for IgE- and non-IgE-mediated food allergy. This training ensures healthcare professionals are prepared to provide up-to-date and evidence-based care, and awards **continuing education credits** for registered dietitians, registered nurses and physicians. Since 2020, almost 300 students from 20 countries have enrolled, and 2025 saw a record-setting number of enrollees in the course. Historically, this course has provided continuing education credits for registered dietitians, and in 2025, this course was approved for continuing education credits for other healthcare professionals, including physicians and nurses for the first time.

FARE is also grateful to **Nutricia North America**, for providing educational grants to FARE, which supports our hosting of this course and other educational programs and events.

“In an era of technology-first everything, I really appreciated that this course kept human connection present in our learnings. I also appreciated that it focused on mixed modes of learning, which can appeal to any type of learner...I secretly (or not so secretly) would love to take it again!”

—Pediatric Dietitian and Course Graduate

Implementing Food Allergy Management in K–12 Schools

Through FARE’s partnership with the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**, schools across the country are translating best practices into action as a result of the CDC-backed 2024 report, **Food Allergy Management in Schools (FAMS): Expert Recommendations for K–12**.

During the 2024-2025 school year, through the awarded grant, FARE collaborated with **10 micrograntees nationwide**; each micrograntee was a school/district and most included a school nurse, parent, out-of-school (OST) representative, and physician.

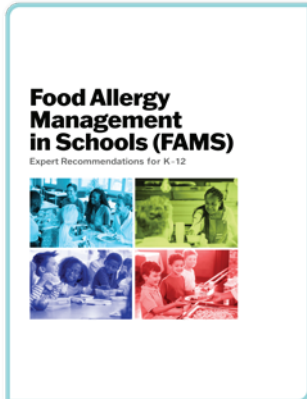
MANAGING FOOD ALLERGY AT SCALE



Each participated in a virtual learning community, organized by FARE, which focused on strengthening food allergy management in schools and OST settings.

100% of participating schools implemented at least one new food allergy management strategy, strengthening safety and preparedness for students nationwide. School staff also reported increased confidence and knowledge in supporting students with food allergy, helping create safer, more inclusive learning environments.

FARE also received a second year of grant funding, in a collaborative agreement with the CDC and AAP, to present a 3-part-webinar series for school staff that covers best practice recommendations outlined in FAMS for the 2025-2026 school year.



Bring FAMS to your school—click here! FoodAllergy.org/FAMS

“We were able to reach a lot of people who need to know about food allergies and didn’t. That was huge, especially in the case of our out-of-school providers who deal with food. I also feel really good about providing support for our school nurses when they have families that need support for recent diagnosis.”

—Micrograntee Recipient

Bringing Food Allergy Management at Scale to Colleges and Universities

In March, FARE team members traveled to **Duke University**, in Durham, NC, to celebrate awarding **FARECheck Gold** recognition to the dining venue It’s Thyme, a stand-alone venue without the 9 most common allergens and gluten in their meal offerings.

To achieve FARECheck Gold status, operations must ensure that at least 90% of its workforce has undergone food allergy safety training, in addition to a food service policy review and an on-site facility audit conducted annually. It’s Thyme reflects a pioneering and collaborative effort: student feedback helped evolve what was originally planned as a market, with some made-to-order options, into a fully dedicated kitchen that offers from-scratch prepared meals.

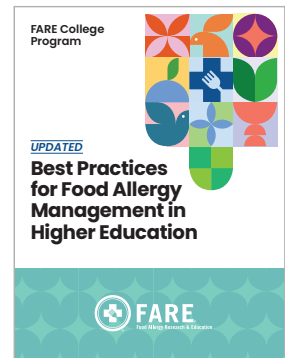


MANAGING FOOD ALLERGY AT SCALE



In early 2025, FARE launched the **Food Allergy Education, Support, and Training Excellence (FEAST) Awards** to recognize campus dining teams that go above and beyond to support students with food allergy. These winners were recognized at OctoberFARE:

- **Northwestern University**, for Best Collaborative Approach to Food Allergy Management
- **Duke University**, for Best Comprehensive Allergen-Free Dining Program
- **Appalachian State University**, for Outstanding Allergen-Free Menu Innovation
- **James Madison University**, Community's Choice (14 community-sourced nominations)



FARE's resources for college students and their families includes our **College Search Tool**, where you can research how colleges accommodate students with food allergy, and our newly updated 2025 edition of **Best Practices for Food Allergy Management in Higher Education**, which has endorsements from 5 stakeholder organizations.

The FARE Neighborhoods Initiative is expanding access to food allergy education and care in under-resourced communities, growing from a pilot reaching 100 individuals to a community-driven model engaging more than 14,000 people in 2025.

Enriching Community Knowledge Through the FARE Neighborhoods Initiative

Cutting the Ribbon on FNI in Hampton Roads, VA

In April, FARE, together with healthcare leaders, Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences M. Foscue Brock Institute for Community & Global Health at Old Dominion University (ODU); Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD); and Children's Specialty Group (CSG), held a ribbon-cutting and ceremony to celebrate bringing the FARE Neighborhoods Initiative (FNI) to Hampton Roads, Virginia.





“This partnership represents the power of collaboration—especially when we focus our efforts on underserved communities where healthcare disparities are greatest. Together, we are building a healthier, more equitable future for every child with food allergies.”

—Angela Hogan, MD, Professor of Pediatrics ODU, CSG, Allergy/Immunology at CHKD

Food allergy affects 878,090 individuals in Virginia, or about one in 10 adults. With an estimated 300,000 military personnel and their families in the Hampton Roads area, roughly 30,000 individuals are likely impacted. High social vulnerability and unique access challenges faced by military members and their families made Hampton Roads a clear choice for FNI.

The collaboration, which began in 2024, has already placed a local community health worker dedicated to food allergy in the region who educated nearly 1,000 Hampton Roads residents across the first 18 events.



Going Back to School with FNI in Kansas City

Patrick Mahomes’ game-worn cleats were presented to Children’s Mercy and The University of Kansas Health System during a fall 2025 back-to-school event in Kansas City. LK Snacks, a Top 9 allergen-free meat snack brand, purchased the cleats as part of the My Cause My Cleats auction, generously donating one cleat each to the two area health systems. This FARE Neighborhoods Initiative event highlighted back-to-school tips and new food allergy treatments.

15 and FARE receives support from the **15 and the Mahomies Foundation**.

“Our goal is to make sure families here in Kansas City have access to the resources they need to manage food allergies confidently and safely...This isn’t just about awareness—it’s about being ready to act.”

—Brittany Mahomes



Watch a highlights reel and learn more—click here!

FoodAllergy.org/15andFARE

MANAGING FOOD ALLERGY AT SCALE



FARE's Community Health Workers Make It Happen

FARE presented research at the American Public Health Association Conference highlighting how FNI advances food allergy education in under-resourced communities through trained community health workers (CHWs). By delivering tailored, culturally relevant education via cooking demonstrations, interactive games, and community events, CHWs work to bridge gaps in awareness and access. This national model offers a potentially replicable strategy to expand program reach, growing from a single staff-led effort serving 100 people to a CHW-led initiative reaching 14,000+ people in 2025 across seven sites—and shows how trusted local partnerships can broaden outreach and improve health access.

FNI by the numbers



Growing Youth Engagement



In 2025, FARE expanded its youth engagement efforts nationwide, strengthening the **Girl Scout Food Allergy Awareness Patch Program** and launching a new **Food Allergy Awareness Youth Program** to reach young people across a broader range of community organizations. Together, these initiatives equip youth with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become food allergy allies and advocates.

The **Girl Scout Food Allergy Awareness Patch Program** brought 15 new councils on board in 2025. As of December, the program spans 66 councils across 37 states, the District of Columbia, and select international locations. Girl Scouts complete hands-on activities that build real-world skills, including recognizing the signs of anaphylaxis, preventing cross-contact in the kitchen, and reading food labels to identify hidden allergens.

The **Food Allergy Awareness Youth Program** was introduced as a free national resource for youth-serving organizations to educate and empower children and teens. It is now active in 15 organizations, including local Girls Inc. chapters, specific Boys & Girls Club sites, and university-based 4-H programs, and provides accessible educational materials, certificates, and program incentives that reinforce creating safer and more welcoming environments for those with food allergy.





Collaborating With Industry Through the FARE PACT Alliance

The **FARE PACT Alliance** was founded to bring together leaders across the food industry to collaborate on solutions that improve safety and trust for individuals living with food allergies. The Alliance focuses on building industry partnerships that create win-win opportunities for companies seeking to better serve food allergy consumers.



Advancing Dialogue on Labeling, Allergen Thresholds, and PAL

The **Manufacturing and Marketing Working Group** continued discussing allergen thresholds and precautionary allergen labeling (PAL), and exploring how clearer, science-based approaches could improve consumer understanding and strengthen trust in food labeling. They also reviewed the ramifications of early 2025 changes to the FDA labeling guidance in support of Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (FALCPA), including alterations to the definitions of “major” food allergens milk, egg, and tree nuts.

Revising the Script for Guest Communications

The **Hospitality Working Group** advanced efforts to improve guest communication and ingredient transparency in restaurants and hospitality settings. In 2025, the group developed a draft of FARE’s first guidance on food allergy guest communication best practices, informed by operator experience and consumer research. This guidance will be shared broadly with the hospitality industry to help equip restaurants and food service operators with practical tools to better serve guests living with food allergies, and to build transparency for those guests.

FARE engages with a spectrum of industry—including commodities, restaurants, and pharmaceuticals—to help address the burdens of food allergy by bringing every stakeholder to the same table.

Our Thanks to the Members of the FARE PACT Alliance

88 Acres, Absurd Snacks, Applegate, Aramark, Canyon Ranch, Compass Group, CVS, Enjoy Life, Every Body Eats, Foodini, Free2b Foods, Groucho’s, Ingredilens, Jack Link’s | Lorissa’s Kitchen, Mandell Ventures, MenuTrinfo, Nikigo, Miss Shirley’s Café, OWYN, Panera Bread, Red Lobster, SAGE Dining Services, Sodexo, Steritech, SupermarketGuru.com, Target, That’s It, The Greater Knead, The Pink Bakery, Universal Orlando Resort, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Vermont Nut Free Chocolate, Voyage Foods

Advocating for Our Community

Federal Legislative Priorities

FARE’s advocacy efforts are strengthening the policy and funding landscape for food allergy nationwide. In 2025, FARE’s efforts contributed to sustained federal research funding and secured new congressional prioritization of food allergy research, unlocking additional resources to accelerate progress. FARE’s initiatives also focused on strengthening the policy and regulatory foundation to advance food allergy prevention, and expanding access to epinephrine.





Coordinating with the **Congressional Food Allergy Research Caucus** throughout the federal appropriations and rulemaking processes, FARE successfully advocated for continued **Consortium for Food Allergy Research (CoFAR)** funding and the **Defense Health Program's** prioritization of food allergy research through the Department of Defense. Additionally, FARE secured language that, for the first time, prioritizes interdisciplinary research on the genetic and biological mechanisms of food allergy at the **National Science Foundation**, unlocking new sources of funding to advance food allergy research.

FARE's engagement in meetings, events, thought leadership and positioning with congressional offices, committees, leadership and regulatory agencies resulted in these legislative successes and improved agency rules for the benefit of the patient community today.

Showing Up for Patients State by State

At the state level, FARE supported legislative changes expanding access to epinephrine across multiple states, helping ensure that life-saving treatment is more readily available in emergencies. FARE successfully supported advancement to changes to statutory definitions of epinephrine to include all FDA-approved administration systems, with laws signed in **California, Connecticut, New York, Texas, and Virginia**, and additional legislation introduced or advanced in **Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania**.

In June, the FARE team traveled to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to visit Pennsylvania state lawmakers in support of House Bill 77, which would improve food allergy safety in restaurants. The bill honors the memory of Matthew Briden, who died at age 28 due to food allergy anaphylaxis after eating in a Pennsylvania restaurant.

The Briden family, several legislators including PA State Rep. Natalie Mihalek and Senator Judy Schwank, and FARE's CEO Sung Poblete, PhD, RN, spoke at a rally that took place inside the Capitol. Through these efforts, FARE continues to advocate for stronger policies that improve transparency and safety for individuals with food allergy when dining out. This is an essential step toward reducing risk and increasing confidence for families managing everyday experiences.

Dr. Poblete provided several rounds of public testimony and regulatory engagement before state officials and committees, including testimony in **Massachusetts** in the presence of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

FARE led outreach to state Medicaid directors and P&T committees requesting coverage of FDA-approved epinephrine nasal spray, including formal testimony and written submissions in **Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, and West Virginia**.

A FARE-led letter with multiple signatories, including members of the Food Allergy Collaborative, was sent to state Medicaid directors asking for epinephrine nasal spray to be included on state preferred drug lists (PDLs).





Activating Grassroots Energy

FARE's established Advocates community, patient support-group infrastructure, and engaged digital network are used to mobilize patients, caregivers, and clinicians in targeted districts.

For decades, progress in food allergy treatments has been slow. Now, with new therapies emerging, patients are finally seeing meaningful innovation, but access remains a significant barrier. Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which control insurance coverage and formulary decisions, can delay or restrict access to prescribed therapies, leading to higher costs, longer wait times, or inability to obtain life-saving medications.

Through advocacy, patient engagement, and targeted outreach, FARE is working to reduce these barriers and ensure that individuals with food allergy can access the treatments their physicians recommend without unnecessary interference from third-party decision-makers.

In June 2025, FARE was in dialogue with 148 food allergy advocates to discuss their families' patient experiences. Responses revealed significant barriers in their efforts to fill epinephrine prescriptions. Over a quarter of respondents live more than 20 minutes from an ER, making reliable epinephrine access even more critical.

In response, FARE has activated its national network of advocates to elevate patient voices and apply targeted pressure on insurers and PBMs in key states, helping drive policy and coverage decisions that improve access to critical treatments.

Uniting Over Unmet Needs

In fall 2025, FARE rolled out a public service campaign called **"Ready to Care,"** which reinforced our community's concern over difficulty in obtaining medications and treatments due to interference by insurance providers and pharmacy benefit manufacturers (PBMs). Because this affects many beyond the food allergy community and because we are stronger together, FARE released version of this PSA general to all patients. Both versions included a letter-writing campaign that sent hundreds of emails to key decision-makers.

Special thanks to **ARS Pharmaceuticals** for supporting Ready to Care.

BUILT ON BREAKTHROUGHS

Watch "Ready to Care"
—click here!
[FoodAllergy.org/
ReadyToCare](https://FoodAllergy.org/ReadyToCare)



Joining Forces for Change

Coordinating With the Congressional Caucus

FARE works closely with the **Congressional Food Allergy Research Caucus**, which is reconstituted annually, and which is a bipartisan group committed to advancing policies that prioritize increased research funding, better treatment options, and stronger education initiatives for those living with food allergy.

As of 2025, the leadership of the Caucus is comprised of 22 members including the following leaders:

- **Rep. Ben Cline** (R-VA-06) (Co-Chair)
- **Rep. Doris Matsui** (D-CA-07) (Co-Chair)
- **Rep. Glenn Grothman** (R-WI-06) (Vice Chair)
- **Rep. Ro Khanna** (D-CA-17) (Vice Chair)

Gathering With Fellow Food Allergy Nonprofits

The **Food Allergy Collaborative (FAC)** is an alliance of food allergy nonprofit advocacy organizations who are uniting to advance effective, patient-centered initiatives in food allergy awareness, research, and care.

In 2025, FARE hosted the FAC gathering in San Diego, California, in tandem with the **2025 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Annual Meeting/World Allergy Organization Joint Congress**, to discuss ongoing activities.



The Food Allergy Collaborative's work in 2025 was supported by **Genentech, a member of the Roche Group**.

Securing Safe Food

When wildfires disrupted access to safe food in Los Angeles, FARE mobilized its community to respond, helping fund the distribution of more than 16,000 servings of allergy-friendly, shelf-stable food to families in need. FARE collaborated with the food security organization **Securing Safe Food (SSF)**, which worked with four SSF partner pantries across the Los Angeles area. In moments of crisis, this rapid response ensures that individuals with food allergy are not overlooked in emergency food access.





Directing Audiences to *The Last Bite*

FARE helped amplify *The Last Bite*, a short documentary created by Braxton Kimura, a high school student, member of FARE's **Teen Advisory Group**, and founder of the national initiative Beyond the Shell. The film captures the daily reality of living with life-threatening food allergies, offering a deeply personal perspective on the constant vigilance required to stay safe.

By elevating youth voices and lived experiences, projects like this help increase understanding and empathy, bringing visibility to the real-world challenges faced by individuals and families navigating food allergy.



Amplifying Voices to Create Awareness

Calling on Who Is Responsible

FARE's short documentary, *A World Unaware: When Every Bite Matters*, explores the life-and-death realities of food allergy through the experiences of affected families. In a culture where food allergy is often misunderstood or minimized, the film challenges audiences to reconsider assumptions and recognize the seriousness of the condition.

The documentary debuted at the AmDocs Film Festival in March 2025, with additional screenings underway ahead of a broader release in 2026. By reaching wider audiences through storytelling, FARE is helping to increase awareness, encourage preparedness, and foster greater accountability across communities, schools, and public spaces.

Together, these efforts reflect FARE's commitment to using storytelling as a powerful tool to elevate awareness, influence behavior, and ultimately create safer environments for individuals living with food allergy.

Generous support for the creation of this documentary was provided by **ARS Pharmaceuticals**.

A WORLD UNAWARE WHEN EVERY BITE MATTERS FARE

“The film is a powerful piece that shows the seriousness of food allergies and how many people are ignorant to the fact that millions in the country have it. The film doesn't pull punches. It details how some have succumbed to such allergies and how others have learned to deal with them. The story about a high school football player in Austin, Carter Mannon, shows how cruel students, even former teammates, can be when they face someone with a food allergy. In my opinion, this should be a mandatory watch for every middle and high school in the country.” – Rick Cantu, Austin American-Statesman



Watch the trailer for “A World Unaware”—click here!
FoodAllergy.org/AWorldUnaware

MANAGING FOOD ALLERGY AT SCALE



Celebrating Food Allergy Awareness Week

This year's **Food Allergy Awareness Week (FAAW)** took place May 11–17, 2025. Our core themes were “Food Allergy Myths and Facts” and “Creating Food Allergy-Aware Workplaces.” Through FAAW, FARE reaches tens of thousands of individuals with critical information. Our work helps increase understanding of food allergy, reduces risk, and equips patients, workplaces, and communities to better support those living with food allergy.



Community-Led Fundraising Spotlight: Amari Sims

Community-led fundraising plays a vital role in uniting the food allergy community.. During Food Allergy Awareness Week, Bay Area student leader Amari Simms organized a school-based walk that brought together more than 120 students and raised \$2,500 in support of FARE.



Amari coordinated every aspect of the event from rallying student participation to purchasing teal wristbands. Along the way, he educated his peers about food allergy and encouraged them to become allies for classmates managing the disease.

Examples like this reflect the growing role of community leaders in advancing awareness at a local level and helping build more informed, supportive, and welcoming environments for individuals and families living with food allergy.



Turning Halloween Teal

FARE counted this year's **Teal Pumpkin Project** participants from all 50 states, U.S. territories, and Washington, D.C., in addition to 13 other countries—over 10,000 home and event locations in total.



As an additional dimension to raising awareness, there was a **Teal Pumpkin Walk-in** on Capitol Hill on October 29. Some families showed support by taking part in a **Teal Pumpkin "Write-In"** to their local legislators.

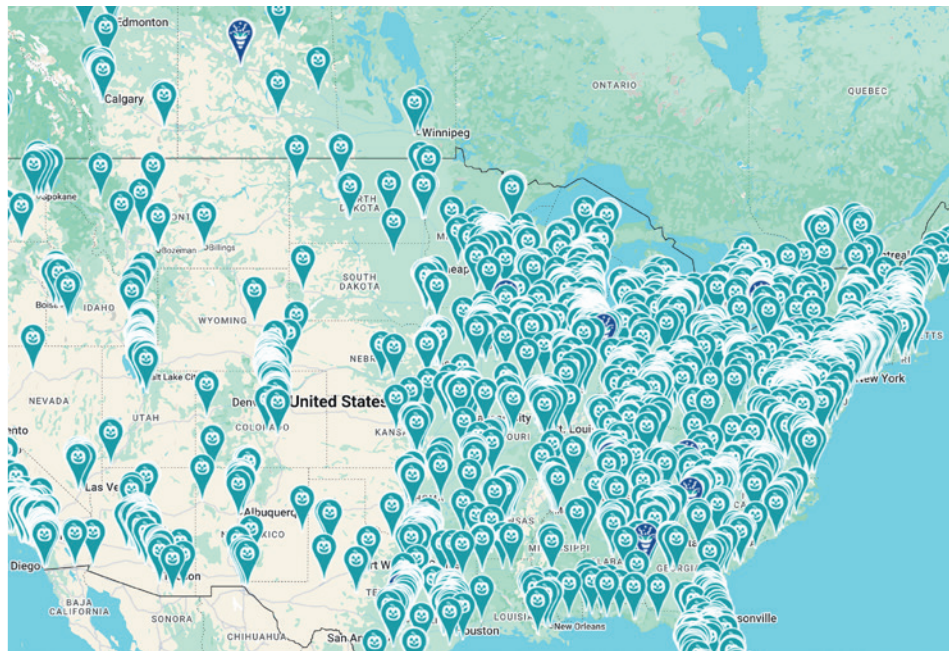
As an extension of the **Girl Scout Food Allergy Awareness Patch Program**, 504 teal pumpkin patches were earned by Girl Scouts who added their houses to the map and provided non-food treats. The Girl Scouts that participated came from California, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Every year, enthusiastic **FARE Support Group Leaders** bring the Teal Pumpkin Project to their local communities, as was the case in Tampa, Florida. Tampa Food Allergy Support and Education held their annual "Teal-O-Ween" party with non-food trick-or-treat stations, crafts, games, cheerleaders, DJs, and a costume parade for families managing food allergy.



The event is volunteer-run, led by Tara Geise, President of Tampa Food Allergy Support and Education. Teal-O-Ween started as a party at a local park and, over the years, has grown into a community-wide celebration and even a partnership with the Tampa Tarpons—allowing participants to celebrate the spooky season at George M. Steinbrenner Field. This year's Teal-O-Ween party drew about 150 attendees.

FARE continue to educate people on the significance of the Teal Pumpkin Project through an astonishing **2,300+ news stories and media mentions** in such venues as NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, *People*, and more. **Dr. Kelly Cleary**, FARE's Medical Director and Vice President of Health and Education, filmed a guest spot on WJLA's *Good Morning Washington* on-site during OctoberFARE.





FARE's OctoberFARE gathering, which took place October 30 through November 1 in Washington, D.C., combined the **Food Allergy Summit**—which many attendees called our best one yet—with **FARE Neighborhoods Day** and **Clinical Development Day**, and featured a special **Teal Pumpkin Project Halloween bash**.



Watch our highlights reel—click here!
FoodAllergy.org/OctoberFARE

Raising \$50K+ to Bring Families to OctoberFARE

FARE's **Rising Leaders Committee** hosted a fundraiser in New York City that raised more than \$58,000, making it possible for 68 teens with food allergy and their caregivers to attend OctoberFARE. By removing financial barriers, these scholarships helped ensure that a broader and more diverse group of patients and families could participate in conversations shaping the future of food allergy.

This effort reflects the growing role of young advocates in mobilizing their networks to expand access, strengthen community engagement, and support the next generation of leaders in the food allergy space.



Building Bridges at FARE Neighborhoods Day



FARE Neighborhoods Day convened more than 80 community leaders, clinicians, researchers, and advocates from across the country to align on solutions that address disparities in food allergy education, access, and care.

Through facilitated discussions and cross-sector collaboration, participants advanced shared priorities focused on improving equity, strengthening community-based care models, and integrating clinical and lived experiences into future approaches to food allergy management.

BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER AT OCTOBERFARE



The morning keynote, “The State of Food Allergy,” delivered by **Dr. Carla M. Davis**, Chair of Pediatrics and Child Health at Howard University, and AAAAI President—the first-ever African American President of the American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology—offered a powerful combination of data and storytelling, illuminating current disparities in diagnosis and care across diverse communities. Attendees discussed how research can better align with lived experience to shape a more equitable future.

Key themes included the importance of culturally responsive community health strategies, stronger partnerships between healthcare and local organizations, and expanding access to education and resources in underserved communities. The event was co-chaired by **Dr. Edith Perez**, Professor Emeritus, Mayo Clinic, **Dr. Andrea Pappalardo Wlochowicz**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at University of Illinois Chicago, and **Elizabeth Bradford, MS**, FARE’s Assistant Director of Community Health & Analysis.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders, FARE is helping to bridge the gap between local experience and national system to accelerate progress toward more equitable and effective food allergy care.

FARE Neighborhoods Day was supported by **Genentech**, a member of the **Roche Group**, and **DBV Technologies**.



Convening Experts to Accelerate Food Allergy Innovation

FARE’s fourth annual **Clinical Development Day** convened academics, industry leaders, and government stakeholders to explore food allergy diagnosis and treatment across the lifespan. By bringing together these key partners, FARE is helping to strengthen collaboration and align priorities across the research clinical, and regulatory ecosystem to accelerate progress toward more effective diagnostic tools and treatment approaches.

The event focused on “**Ages and Stages of Food Allergy: Diagnosis and Treatment Across the Lifespan.**” Looking at food allergy through a longitudinal lens, it is evident that phenotypes—observable traits—can differ





among individuals and change over the course of a patient's life. Recognizing these patterns can inform more innovative and effective disease management practices.

The closed session included academics, pharmaceutical representatives, federal employees (where possible), and allergen manufacturers, among others. Four of FARE's current New and Mid-Career Investigator Award recipients were able to attend. The event was co-chaired by **Sarita Patil, MD**, Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School; **Stephen Tilles, MD**, FARE's Research and Strategic Innovation Advisor; and **Yamini Virkud, MD, MA, MPH**, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The 2025 convening saw increased engagement, reflecting growing engagement across the scientific and clinical community, underscoring FARE's role in convening experts and partners to help advance innovation in food allergy research and care.

Clinical Development Day was supported by **Genentech, a member of the Roche Group, DBV Technologies, ARS Pharmaceuticals, Stallergenes Greer, Aquestive Therapeutics, ALK, and Rapt Therapeutics.**

Despite 10% of registered federal employees being unable to attend due to a government shutdown, 2025 saw a 35% increase in attendance from 2024.

Gathering (in Costume!) for the Food Allergy Summit

FARE's **Food Allergy Summit** brought together patients, families, clinicians, and advocates from across the country creating a space for learning, connection, and shared progress in managing food allergy.



BRINGING COMMUNITY TOGETHER AT OCTOBERFARE



A key priority in 2025 was expanding access. Through the support of the community, FARE significantly increased travel scholarships, enabling 85 individuals and families to attend—more than doubling participation from the previous year. By reducing financial barriers, the Summit ensured that a broader and more diverse group of voices could take part in shaping the future of food allergy care and advocacy.

The educational program was robust, opening with a thought-provoking keynote address by **Dr. Zachary Rubin** and culminating in an inspiring closing keynote by **Dr. Robert Wood**.

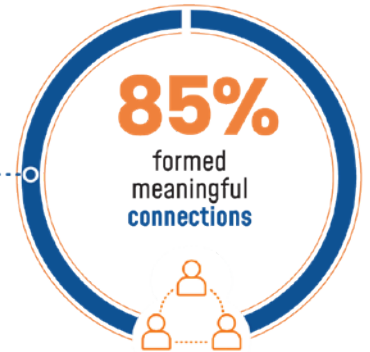
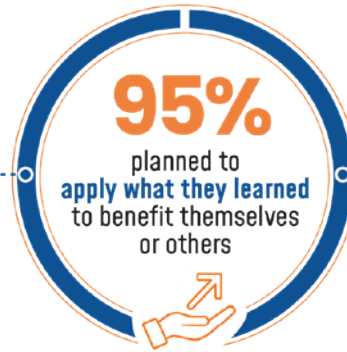
Throughout the event, attendees benefited from an impressive lineup of **37 expert speakers** representing a spectrum of disciplines, and over **25 interactive sessions**, with continuing medical education (CME) credits available to further professional development. The Summit welcomed back food allergy experts such as Dr. Wayne Shreffler; Dr. Julie Wang; Dr. Cathryn Nagler; Marion Groetch, MS, RDN; Dr. Anna Nowak Wegrzyn; Tamara Hubbard, LCPC; and more.

The festivities kicked off on Halloween with the lively **Teal Pumpkin Halloween Bash**, where attendees—children and adults alike—embraced the spirit of the occasion by dressing in creative costumes. A focus on connection suffused the event, which included the **Teen Track** and a brand-new **Child Track**, designed for children aged 7 to 11, which welcomed nearly 50 enthusiastic participants. The Child Track offered tailored programming that empowered young attendees with knowledge and confidence in navigating food allergies in their daily lives.





Summit delivered meaningful educational impact



We are particularly grateful for the support the Food Allergy Summit from our Premier Sponsor, **Genentech, a Member of the Roche Group**, as well as Champion Sponsors **ARS Pharmaceuticals** and **Novartis**; Advocate Sponsors, **Aquestive Therapeutics** and **CVS Pharmacy**, and Ally Sponsors, **DBV Technologies** and **RAPT Therapeutics**, as well as exhibit hall participants and in-kind donors.

Awards of Distinction Recipients

- Denise Bunning Community Leadership Award: **Tara Geise**
- Young Leader Award: **Braxton Kimura**
- Changemaker Award: **Carter and Shawna Mannon**
- Changemaker Award: **Kathy Briden**
- Advocate of the Year Award: **Representative Ben Cline**
- Allies and Champion Award: **CVS** (accepted by Amari Sims on behalf of CVS)





Celebrating Teen Innovation

A perennial highlight of Summit is the **Teen Advisory Group Poster Session**, when members of the **Teen Advisory Group (TAG)** showcase multi-month projects and we celebrate their achievements and positive contributions to the food allergy community.

This year, **13 projects** were presented on topics that included epinephrine accessibility on airplanes, international food allergy guidelines, and TAG-led creative publications. Keynote speaker Dr. Wood, FARE CEO Dr. Poblete, Board of Directors member Dr. Edith Perez, and Board of Governors member Denise Bunning evaluated the posters during a “Spotlight on Teen Innovation” hour and awarded special recognition to participants **Celine Sims** (first place), **Braxton Kimura** (second place), and **Amari Sims** (third place).

FARE thanks **Novartis** for their support of the Teen Advisory Group Poster Session.

Unveiling the Hospitality Track

This exciting new programming offered hospitality professionals attending the Food Allergy Summit an opportunity for interactive sessions as a chance to connect, discuss, and network. Panel topics included:

- Pep Rally: How to Thoughtfully Engage Your Staff to Better Understand Food Allergies
- Make It Right: How To Respond After an Incident
- Pitch In: How The Hospitality Community Plays a Role in Disaster Relief





Visiting the FAREGrounds

The **FAREGrounds** exhibit hall hosted **17 companies** across varying industries—CPG, pharmaceutical, and lifestyle brands. The FAREGrounds also included **CollegeFARE**, which allowed prospective students and their caregivers the opportunity to engage with campus ambassadors from nine schools and ask questions in real time about the accommodations process and their food allergy practices on campus.

The FAREGrounds were a key part of the **Teal Pumpkin Project Halloween Bash**. Exhibitors hosted a special trick-or-treat on Friday night (October 31) with non-food treats, candy, and giveaways.



To view the full 2025 Summit program—click here!
[Summit Program PDF](#)





For Jim Pontarelli, supporting FARE is both deeply personal and purpose-driven. As a grandfather of two boys, a preschooler with tree nut allergies and a toddler with egg and peanut allergies, Jim brings a unique and powerful perspective.

“I draw on both my natural instincts as a food allergy grandfather—my reason for attending OctoberFARE—and a lifetime of professional experience and relationships,” Jim shares.

Like many families, Jim’s journey began with little awareness of food allergies. That quickly changed. What followed was a profound shift from normalcy to a life defined by vigilance, learning, and, at times, uncertainty.

Through that journey, Jim and his wife Patty are stepping up more than ever as caregivers and supporters within the family, but also as thoughtful voices within the broader food allergy community and beyond. Jim’s reflections reveal several truths that resonate widely including the steep and often overwhelming learning curve following diagnosis, the paradox of being surrounded by others living with food allergies yet still feeling alone, and the constant balancing act between caution and living fully and confidently.

As a grandparent, Jim occupies a distinct role that carries both emotional weight and strategic perspective. He is deeply aware of the responsibility grandparents hold in creating safe environments, often without having grown up with any understanding of food allergies themselves. At the same time, he recognizes the opportunity this group represents.

“Grandparents are responsible for supporting two generations. Our kids are doing an amazing job as parents. And our understanding, encouragement, and steady presence mean more than we realize,” he says. “Many of us also have time, resources, and strong ties in our communities. By speaking up, we can raise awareness and support policies that keep everyone safe.”

This perspective has fueled Jim’s growing commitment to advocacy. Most recently, he has been working in his home state of Rhode Island to advance legislation that would mandate and equip first responders and police with epinephrine, a critical step in improving emergency response for individuals experiencing severe allergic reactions.

“Most of the world remains innocently unaware, and largely indifferent, to the true prevalence and severity of food allergies,” he says. “People need to understand what’s at stake and know the simple, actionable steps that can save lives.”

Jim is equally motivated by legacy. As a grandfather, he reflects candidly on the future and what it means to support a cause that will outlast him and shape the world his grandchildren inherit. He said, “With food allergies, every day can feel like a leap into the unknown. I won’t always be here to help protect them. But, if my contribution and the work I do today makes the world safer for them, then in some way I always will be.”

Through his generosity, advocacy, and voice, Jim Pontarelli is helping to build a safer, more informed world for families living with food allergy both today and for generations to come.



FARE's Commitment to Cure

FARE is advancing a coordinated approach to accelerate progress toward a cure by investing in research, supporting the next generation of investigators, and bringing together leaders across disciplines to move promising science closer to patients.

To accelerate progress, it is imperative for stronger integration across disciplines and sectors. Cross-sector partnerships—spanning academia, industry, regulatory agencies, and advocacy organizations—are key drivers for innovation. Such collaboration not only enhances scientific rigor and resource sharing but also ensures that research remains focused on real-world challenges and patient needs.

FARE has convened an unprecedented intersection of experts from academia, industry, and federal agencies who have begun building an ecosystem that will transform the future of food allergy science and defining multiple opportunities for future study.

FARE's executive leadership works closely with a panel of advisors, including the **Scientific Advisory Council**, which includes world-renowned experts across a range of fields—from oncology to artificial intelligence to microbiology—including a Nobel Prize winner and a MacArthur Fellow.



Breaking Down Silos

The **Mind Meld** initiative is designed to culminate in a \$10 million, milestone-driven research award over five years, supporting a multi-institutional team conducting both laboratory and proximal translational research, ultimately resulting in a clinical trial to accelerate new diagnostics and treatments.

FARE's **2025 Mind Meld Innovation Summit** was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 13-14, 2025. FARE convened leading scientists and immunology researchers, experts in atopic march, cancer, autoimmunity, and HIV. By widening the conversation and breaking out of the silos of scientific knowledge, the Summit was a crucial step toward creating an ecosystem that supports FARE's vision to position food allergy at the forefront of immunological research, linking scientific disciplines in order to accelerate timelines to new diagnostics and treatments.

The 50+ attendees included representatives from 30 organizations, three government agencies, and five pharmaceutical companies. This landmark event was chaired by three leaders in food allergy or translational research: **Dr. Philip A. Sharp**, Nobel laureate, Institute Professor and Professor of Biology Emeritus at MIT, and FARE Special Advisor to the CEO; **Dr. M. Cecila Berin**, Bunning Professor of Food Allergy Research, Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University; and **Dr. Corinne Keet**, Professor of Pediatrics, Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research, School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina.

A lunchtime keynote address focused on artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of healthcare, from diagnostics to drug discovery. Sessions introduced foundational topics through concise presentations on food allergy pathophysiology, disease genetics, and available research models, and provided a forward-looking discussion of therapeutic targets, intended to identify opportunities prime for translation to patients. To complement formal presentations, "5x3" presentations offered brief, three-slide talks by attendees highlighting novel ideas, tools, or potential collaborations.

Fundraising is underway for the next phase of the Mind Meld initiative, which will support a translational research project identified through a Request for Proposals.

A FOOD ALLERGY CURE IS WITHIN REACH



Rather than being tied to a single medical center or institution, FARE's broad network fosters the flexibility to identify promising innovations—regardless of where they originate—and move quickly in funding, coordinating, and scaling solutions.

Nurturing the Pipeline for Investigators

FARE cultivates the next generation of scientists through its New Investigator Awards and Mid-Career Investigator Awards. Recipient scholars receive mentorship, peer-to-peer support, and learning and networking opportunities. Four Investigator Award recipients were able to attend this year's Mind Meld Innovation Summit.

New Investigator Awards

Project Period: March 2025 through February 2027 (2 years)

Funding Amount: \$150K each

- **Caitlin Burk, MD**, Massachusetts General Hospital (“Association Between Activated, Gut-homing Peripheral CD4+ T cells, Gastrointestinal Adverse Events in Peanut Oral Immunotherapy, and Eosinophilic Esophagitis”)
- **Johanna Smeekens, PhD***, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (“Salivary Component-specific IgA and IgG4 throughout Peanut Sublingual and Oral Immunotherapy”)
*Talia and Andrew Day Investigator in Food Allergy Award
- **Simin Zhang, MD**, University of Cincinnati (“The C3/C3aR Axis in Mast Cells and Fibroblasts in Eosinophilic Esophagitis”)



Mid-Career Investigator Awards

Project Period: March 2025 through February 2030 (5 years)

Funding Amount: \$750K each

- **Jennifer Dantzer, MD, MHS**, Johns Hopkins University (“Prioritizing the Impact of Food Allergy Treatments on Patient-Centered Outcomes”)
- **Victoria Martin, MD, MPH**, Massachusetts General Hospital (“Food Protein-Induced Allergic Proctocolitis (FPIAP): Atopic Dermatitis (AD) of the Gastrointestinal Tract and a Novel Step on the Allergic March”)

FARE applies the highest standards of scientific rigor, including our Scientific Advisory Council's review of every research dollar funded.



Watch a video on FARE's Investigator Awards program—click here!
[Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

A FOOD ALLERGY CURE IS WITHIN REACH

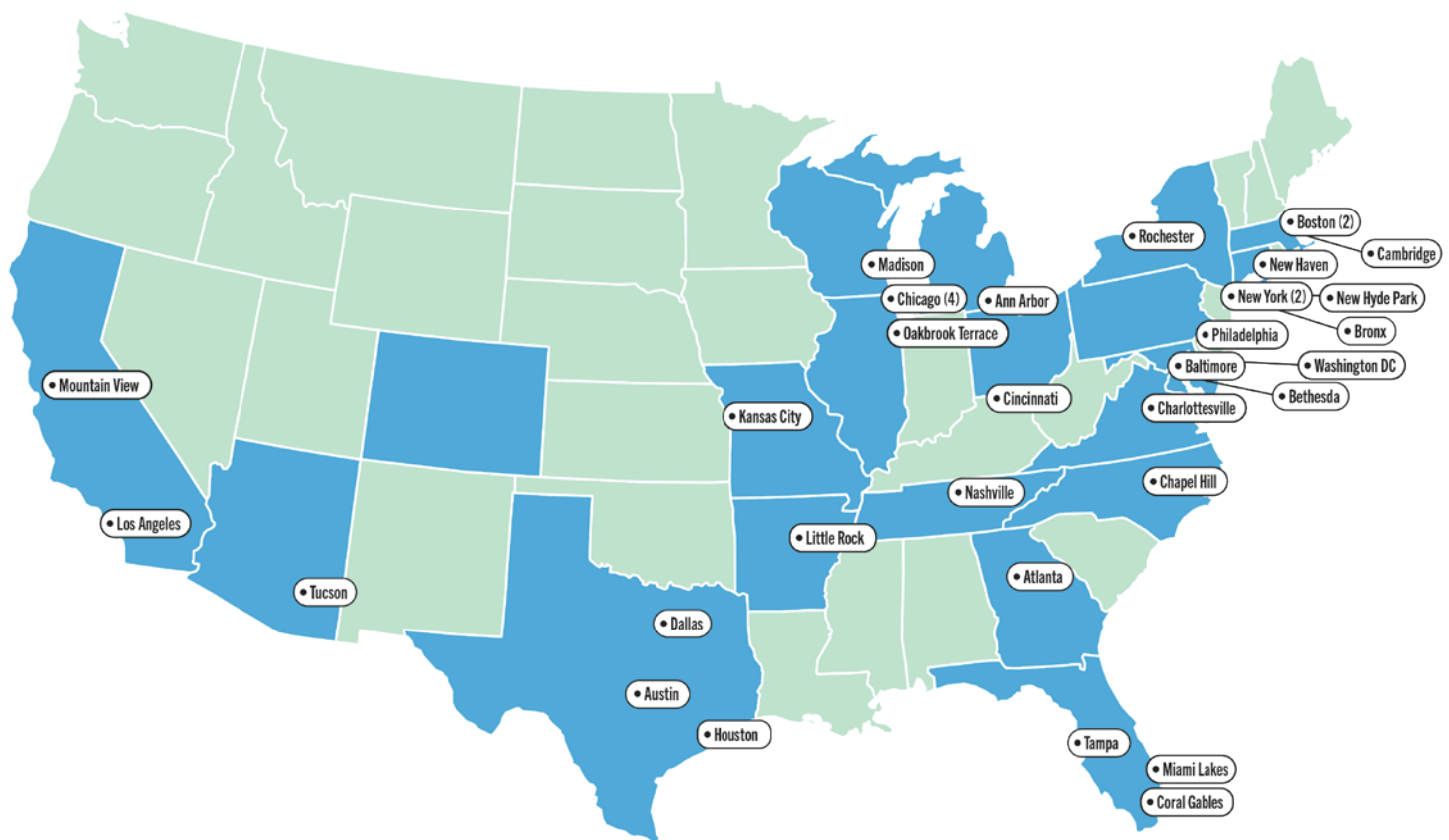


The FARE Clinical Network Levels Up

FARE's commitment to cutting-edge research includes the **FARE Clinical Network (FCN)**. The second iteration of the FARE Clinical Network (FCN) was a 5-year commitment from 2020-2025 that united premier food allergy research and clinical care organizations advancing innovation and optimizing patient care.

As part of the 2025 wind-down process, FARE's team documented the scope and reach of oral immunotherapy treatments administered through FCNs. They also surveyed sites on the impact of recent shifts in federally administered research funding.

The sunset of FCN 2.0 gives rise to a new structure for **FARE Clinical Network 3.0**. Built as a Community of Practice, this FCN community of allied researchers and clinicians will be invested in uncovering and promoting pathways to diagnostics, treatment, and prevention. Going forward, membership in the FCN 3.0 is a prerequisite for FARE funding eligibility.



FARE is accelerating progress by investing in multi-disciplinary, mechanistically driven, and patient-focused research.



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WHAT'S YOUR ICON?



The food allergy community is not just a group of patients and allies: we're a movement. We needed a bold, clear visual language to amplify our message. In 2025, we took action.

FARE deconstructed the shapes of our enduring fork + plate logo and recombined them to create a vocabulary of colorful icons. Each icon is tied to a word used by food allergy patients and their families, describing what it's like to live with food allergy.



Learn more—click here! FoodAllergy.org/Icons



FARE[®]

Food Allergy Research & Education

**FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education)
is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission
to improve the quality of life and health of those
with food allergy through transformative
research, education, and advocacy.**

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