



Appropriations Requests for Food Allergy Research, Education, and Prevention Funding Background Information for House and Senate Meetings

Summary: With no definitive conclusion on the cause of food allergies, one FDA approved treatment for peanut allergy and only for those ages 4-17, and the rapid increase of adult onset of food allergies, increasing the share of federal money spent on food allergy research, education, and prevention is of paramount importance. Beyond research, we know that increasing education about food allergies in our schools would keep children safer through better school safety guidelines and more flexibility around proper accommodation and inclusion. We are also working to ensure that the early introduction of known allergens, a proven way of curbing food allergies, is part of the federal food package offered to WIC families.

Increasing Federal Research: FARE successfully lobbied to increase federal research funding last year, nearly doubling the budget for NIAID's CoFAR (Consortium of Food Allergy Research) budget from \$6.1 million to \$12.1 million to "expand its clinical research network to add new centers of excellence in food allergy clinical care and to select such centers from those with proven expertise in food allergy research." This year, we are asking for an additional \$6.1 million for CoFAR.

Making Our Schools Safer: In addition to increasing CoFAR's research budget, FARE was also able to improve conditions in public schools by securing \$2 million "for a school-based effort to address food allergies and reduce potentially fatal anaphylactic reactions" and this money was awarded to the CDC through its Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion work. This year, we are asking for an additional \$5.5 million for this program.

Ensuring the Early Introduction of Allergens in the WIC Food Package: For the first time in 2020, the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#) (DGA) included recommendations for the early introduction of potentially allergenic foods for children from around six to 24-months old. As the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers what foods to include in its WIC food package, we want to ensure that known allergens are part of that package to help ensure that the most economically families using WIC have the same opportunity as others to reduce the chance that their children will develop food allergies later in life.

Our ask in the U.S. House: FARE has already submitted these appropriations requests to more than 180 House offices. During your visit, we would you like to reinforce the importance of these requests and encourage the House member to support them and, vote for them later in the year. In your folder, we have included the letter submitted by Rep. Matsui (CDC and Early Introduction) and the language of the letter used by Rep. Khanna (CoFAR increase).

Our ask in the U.S. Senate: When it comes to the appropriations process, the House goes first followed by the Senate. It is the perfect time to be meeting with your Senators and their staffs to share with them the importance of increasing federal spending on food allergy research, help protect the nearly six million children with life-threatening food allergies attending school, and ensure the early introduction of known allergens in the WIC food package. In certain offices with early deadlines, we have already submitted our requests which mirror those in the U.S. House. We would like you to ask your Senators to support our three priorities and vote for the appropriations package when it comes to the floor later this year.