



**NAEVR**

National Alliance For  
Eye And Vision Research

*Serving as Friends of the National Eye Institute*

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## **NAEVR URGES FY2014 NIH FUNDING OF \$32 BILLION AND NEI FUNDING AT \$730 MILLION TO MAINTAIN RESEARCH MOMENTUM**

### **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding:**

- The vision community recommends Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 NIH funding level of \$32 billion, which reflects a \$1.38 billion, or 4.5 percent increase, over the FY2012 level. This increase consists of biomedical inflation of 2.8 percent plus modest growth.
- After nearly a decade of budgets below biomedical inflation, NIH's inflation-adjusted funding is close to 20 percent lower than in FY2003. Additionally, the sequester reduced NIH's budget by 5.1 percent or \$1.6 billion. This significantly limits NIH's ability to sustain current research capacity and encourage promising new areas of science.
- NIH's basic and clinical research into the basis of disease has resulted in new diagnostics, treatments, and prevention strategies that have saved and improved lives.
- NIH is also an economic driver. In FY2011, NIH-funded research supported 432,000 jobs across the U.S. and generated more than \$62 billion in new economic activity. Every \$1 of NIH funding generated about \$2.21 in local economic growth.
- The United States must capitalize on previous NIH investment to drive research progress, train the next generation of scientists, create new jobs, promote economic growth, and maintain leadership in the global innovation economy.

### **National Eye Institute (NEI) Funding:**

- NIH funding of \$32 billion results in NEI funding of \$730 million. This past decade, NEI has funded breakthrough research ranging from determining the genetic basis of eye disease to developing treatments that save and restore sight. NEI-funded researchers have identified more than 500 genes associated with both common and rare eye diseases, which is one-quarter of all genes discovered to date.
- FY2012 NEI funding of \$703 million reflects little more than one percent of the \$68 billion annual cost of eye disease and vision impairment in the United States. NEI estimates that 38 million Americans age 40 and older experience blindness, low vision, or age-related eye disease, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, or cataracts. This number will grow to 50 million by year 2020.
- In 2009, Congress commended NEI's leadership in basic and translational research through H. Res. 366 and S. Res. 209, which recognized NEI's 40th anniversary and designated 2010-2020 as the *Decade of Vision* reflecting the growing health and economic burden of eye disease, mainly as a result of an aging population. Congress must ensure that the NEI has the necessary funding to address these challenges.