



## The Vision Community Urges Robust NIH and NEI Funding for FY25 and FY26

### National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Eye Institute (NEI) Requests

- **FY25:** At least \$48.8B for NIH (Senate Bill) and at least level funding of \$896.5M for NEI
- **FY26:** \$51B for NIH and \$1B for NEI
- **Preserve NEI as a dedicated Institute** within NIH to safeguard sight-saving research

### Sustained NIH Funding is Critical

We thank Congress for its past investments in NIH, which have led to groundbreaking medical discoveries. To maintain momentum, we urge:

- An **increase for NIH in FY25 and FY26** to counter inflation and ensure continued support for medical research and breakthroughs.
- Continued support for **NEI as a dedicated institute** to prioritize vision research.

### Strengthening NEI's Role in Fighting Vision Loss

- **FY25 Request: at least \$896.5M** (level funding compared to FY24)
- **FY26 Request: \$1B** to reflect the growing need for vision research funding.
- Vision disorders are the **fifth-highest** medical cost in the U.S. (\$190B/year), yet research investment remains inadequate (\$2.64 per American).
- By 2050, the CDC projects a **doubling in cases of glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic eye disease**, and by 2030 more than 50% of the global population will be myopic.

### NEI Research Delivers Economic and Health Benefits

NEI funding has directly led to **sight-saving innovations** and economic growth:

- **Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT):** A \$1B/year industry that has saved Medicare \$9B.
- **Gene Therapy and Regenerative Medicine:** First FDA-approved gene therapy was in the eye and advancements in stem cell therapies have been led by vision researchers.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Imaging, early diagnosis, and systemic health treatment opportunities.
- **Anti-VEGF Drug Therapies:** FDA-approved treatments for AMD and diabetic eye disease.
- **AREDS Nutritional Supplements:** Proven to slow AMD progression and improve outcomes.
- **Pressure-Reducing Glaucoma Drugs:** Developed through NEI-backed research.
- **Sutureless Amniotic Membrane Grafts:** Revolutionizing corneal healing and reducing scarring.

### The Urgent Need to Invest in Vision Research

- The U.S. faces a **doubling in blindness and vision impairment by 2050** unless proactive investments are made.
- Increased NEI funding will ensure continued **vision-restoring innovations** and address the growing crisis of age-related eye diseases.

We urge Congress to protect the future of vision science by **supporting the NEI as a dedicated Institute prioritizing vision research and increasing NEI funding.**