

# Impact of Inflation on NEI Funding

Despite the budget for the NEI increasing by 27.6% over the last decade (from \$702 million in 2012 to \$896.5 million in 2026), the 32.8% biomedical inflation over the same period means the net change after adjusting for inflation is actually -5.2%.

## Overview

Despite the funding increases provided by Congress over the last decade, we have failed to keep pace with inflation. As a result, the NEI's purchasing power to invest in vision research in 2026 is lower than it was in 2012, as highlighted in the chart below.

Given the anticipated growth of major eye diseases and an aging population, it's crucial to prioritize investment in vision research. Vision researchers are at the forefront of groundbreaking advancements in gene therapies, imaging technologies, artificial intelligence, big data, and regenerative medicine. It's essential to support these researchers in their quest to preserve sight and restore vision.

## NEI Operating Budget vs Buying Power (dollars in millions)

