

**Ecofin Tax-Exempt Private Credit Fund, Inc.**

**Supplement No. 2, dated June 21, 2024  
to the Prospectus (the “Prospectus”) and Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”)  
dated January 25, 2024**

**Dissolution of Fund**

After careful consideration, the Adviser and Sub-Adviser have recommended, and the Board of Directors of the Fund (the “**Board**”) has approved, subject to shareholder approval, (i) the liquidation, dissolution and termination (the “**Dissolution**”) of Ecofin Tax-Exempt Private Credit Fund, Inc. (the “**Fund**”) and (ii) the removal of the Fund’s fundamental policy of making quarterly offers to repurchase between 5% and 25% of its outstanding shares at net asset value (“**Fundamental Policy Removal**”). In the coming weeks, the Fund expects to file and provide shareholders with a proxy statement to seek shareholder approval of the proposed Dissolution and Fundamental Policy Removal, which will include further information regarding the proposals.

The Adviser and Sub-Adviser believe that an orderly wind down would provide shareholders with the best path to maximize portfolio recovery while also providing shareholders with liquidity.

Effective immediately, the Fund’s Prospectus is amended to incorporate the following information:

**Suspension of Sales.** Effective as of the date of this Supplement, the Fund is suspending offers and sales of its common shares (“**Shares**”).

**Repurchase Offers.** Pending the approval and implementation of the Dissolution and Fundamental Policy Removal, the Fund no longer expects to offer to repurchase a portion of the Shares from shareholders four times each year. Although the Adviser may still recommend that the Board approve one or more repurchase offers during this period, there is no guarantee it will do so or that the Board will approve any such repurchase.

**Mechanics of Liquidation.** If shareholders approve the Dissolution, the Fund expects to implement a Plan of Liquidation and Termination pursuant to which the Fund will seek to conduct an orderly liquidation to harvest the value of its assets, pay debts, make liquidating distributions to shareholders and otherwise wind up its affairs with the goal of maximizing value for shareholders. If the Dissolution is approved, the Fund currently expects to return liquidation proceeds through quarterly distributions, while aiming to complete the liquidation around mid-2027, all subject to market conditions. The mid-2027 target final liquidation date is not definitive, and the completion of the liquidation may occur before or after this target date.

Although the Adviser and Sub-Adviser will seek to maximize value in the liquidation, there is no assurance it will be successful in doing so. The Fund may depart from its stated investment objectives and policies as the Fund liquidates its holdings. The Fund will bear the costs in connection with the liquidation, including with respect to sales of assets and repayment of debt. As a result of these costs, as well as potential market movements, shareholders may receive less than the Fund’s net asset value per Share as of the date of this Supplement and as of the date of any approval of the Dissolution.

**Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan.** Effective as of the date of this Supplement, the Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the “**Plan**”) of the Fund has been suspended. As a result of the suspension of the Plan, no distributions (including the Fund’s distribution to shareholders of record as of March 31, 2024) will be reinvested in additional Shares after the date of this Supplement and instead shareholders will receive any distributions in cash.

**Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement.** The Board has approved, if shareholders approve the Dissolution, the termination of the Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement between the Adviser and the Fund. As a result, the Adviser would no longer be obligated to waive its fees and/or reimburse expenses of the Fund so that the Fund’s Specified Expenses will not exceed 0.25% of net assets (annualized) and would no longer be entitled to reimbursement of any previous expenses borne by the Adviser on behalf of the Fund.

**U.S. Federal Income Tax Matters.** For U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Dissolution will be a taxable event, causing the shareholders of the Fund to recognize any gain or loss in their Fund shares. The liquidating distributions, if any, paid to each shareholder will generally be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as payments in exchange for the shareholder’s shares (except for any portion of a liquidating distribution that is treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes), and a shareholder subject to U.S. federal income tax will generally recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between (i) the amount of the distributions that is treated as payment in exchange for the shareholder’s shares, including the fair market value of any assets distributed in kind, and (ii) his or her basis in such shares. However, any loss realized by a shareholder on shares that have been held for six months or less will be disallowed to the extent of any exempt-interest dividends (as defined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) received with respect to such shares. Each shareholder should consult his/her tax advisor with respect to the Dissolution and the potential tax consequences to the shareholder.

Capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings assigned to them in the Prospectus.

**Change of Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer**

Effective as of June 7, 2024, the Board appointed Nick Calhoun to succeed Courtney Gengler as Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Fund, effective as of the close of business on June 7, 2024. The appointment was made in connection with the resignation of Ms. Gengler effective as of June 7, 2024. All references to Courtney Gengler in the Fund’s Prospectus and SAI are hereby removed. Accordingly, the Prospectus and SAI for the Fund are amended as indicated below.

*The Executive Officers table in the section entitled “Management of the Fund – Directors and Officers” in the Fund’s SAI is updated to include the following:*

<b>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</b>	<b>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</b>	<b>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</b>
<b>Executive Officers<sup>(4)</sup></b>				
Nick Calhoun (Born 1992) . . . . .	Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer since June 2024.	Vice President – Financial Operations of the Adviser since January 2022; previously served in various roles at Deloitte & Touche, LLP from September 2016 to November 2021, including most recently as an audit manager.	N/A	N/A

**Please retain this Supplement for future reference.**

**ECOFIN TAX-EXEMPT PRIVATE CREDIT FUND, INC.**

**Supplement No. 1 dated April 4, 2024  
to the Prospectus (the “Prospectus”) and Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”)  
dated January 25, 2024**

Effective as of March 31, 2024, the Board of Directors of Ecofin Tax-Exempt Private Credit Fund (the “Fund”) appointed Gary Henson to succeed P. Bradley Adams as Chief Executive Officer of the Fund, effective as of April 1, 2024. The appointment was made in connection with the retirement of Mr. Adams, who in addition to stepping down from his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Fund retired from his position as Managing Director of Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. (the “Adviser”) effective as of March 31, 2024. All references to P. Bradley Adams in the Fund’s Prospectus and SAI are hereby removed. Accordingly, the Prospectus and SAI for the Fund are amended as indicated below.

*Gary P. Henson’s biography under “Management of the Fund” in the Fund’s Prospectus is replaced with the following:*

***Gary P. Henson, Chief Executive Officer of the Fund and Senior Managing Director of Ecofin Advisors, LLC***

Mr. Henson is the Director and Chairman of the Board of the Fund and serves as Senior Managing Director of Ecofin Advisors, LLC. He also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund.

Mr. Henson served on the board of the Adviser’s parent company from 2009 to November 2023. He formally began working at TortoiseEcofin in 2016. Mr. Henson was formerly the CIO for a family office as well as the CIO of Mariner Holdings and its affiliates. Mr. Henson has more than 30 years of institutional money management experience at banks, insurance companies and foundations. In addition, he is Trustee of 1248 Holdings. He serves on the board of directors of Mariner Wealth Advisors, and Shatterproof, a national organization committed to ending the stigma of addiction with a particular focus on the prescription pill crisis. He is also a board member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character. Mr. Henson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in business from Westminster College (Fulton, Mo.) and is a CFA® charterholder.

*The Interested Director table in the section entitled “Management of the Fund – Directors and Officers” in the Fund’s SAI is replaced with the following:*

<u>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</u>	<u>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</u>
<b>Interested Director<sup>(2)</sup></b> Gary Henson (Born 1966)	Director and Chairman of the Board since February 2018.	Senior Managing Director of Ecofin Advisors, LLC (July 2020 – Present); President, TortoiseEcofin Investments, LLC (October 2016 – November 2023); President and Chief Investment Officer, Montage Investments, LLC (January 2010 – October 2016); President, Mariner Holdings, LLC (August 2007 – October 2016).	1	None

The Executive Officers table in the section entitled “Management of the Fund – Directors and Officers” in the Fund’s SAI is replaced with the following:

<u>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</u>	<u>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</u>
<b>Executive Officers<sup>(4)</sup></b>				
Gary Henson (Born 1966)	Chief Executive Officer since April 2024.	Senior Managing Director of Ecofin Advisors, LLC (July 2020 – Present); President, TortoiseEcofin Investments, LLC (October 2016 – November 2023); President and Chief Investment Officer, Montage Investments, LLC (January 2010 – October 2016); President, Mariner Holdings, LLC (August 2007 – October 2016).	1	N/A
Courtney Gengler (Born 1986)	Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer since May 2021.	Managing Director – Financial Operations of the Adviser since July 2021; Director – Financial Operations of the Adviser from January 2020 to July 2021; Vice President, Accounting and Financial Reporting of the Adviser from 2017 to 2020; previously served in various roles at Adknowledge, Inc. (digital advertising technology company) from May 2015 to March 2017 including most recently as Manager of Accounting and Financial Reporting; Chief Executive Officer since April 1, 2024, and Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer from July 2021 to April 1, 2024, of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.	N/A	N/A
Kate Moore (Born 1987)	President since April 2021.	Managing Director of TortoiseEcofin since March 1, 2021; Chief Operations Officer of TortoiseEcofin since March 1, 2023; Chief Development Officer	N/A	N/A

<u>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</u>	<u>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</u>
		of TortoiseEcofin from March 2021 to March 2023; Director – Head of Product Development of Adviser from September 2020 to March 2021; Director – Strategic Investment Group of the Adviser from July 2019 to August 2020; Vice President – Strategic Investment Group of the Adviser from June 2018 to June 2019; previously served in various roles at Tradebot Systems, Inc. from July 2009 to June 2018, including most recently as Senior Equity Trader and Director at Tradebot Ventures.		
Shobana Gopal (Born 1962)	Vice President since February 2018.	Managing Director – Tax of Tortoise since July 2021; Director – Tax of Tortoise from January 2013 to July 2021; Tax Analyst of Tortoise from September 2006 through December 2012; Vice President of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.	N/A	N/A
Diane Bono (Born 1958)	Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary since February 2018.	Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser since June 2006; Chief Compliance Officer of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.	N/A	N/A

**Please retain this supplement for future reference.**



# **Statement of Additional Information**

January 25, 2024

## **Ecofin**

Tax-Exempt Private Credit Fund, Inc.

Institutional Class Shares – TSIFX



**ECOFIN TAX-EXEMPT PRIVATE CREDIT FUND, INC.**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Ecofin Tax-Exempt Private Credit Fund, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the “Fund,” “we,” “us,” or “our”), is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company that continuously offers Institutional Class I Common Shares (the “Common Shares” or “Class I Shares”) and is operated as an “interval fund.”

This statement of additional information relates to an offering of our common stock and does not constitute a prospectus, but should be read in conjunction with our prospectus relating thereto dated January 25, 2024. This statement of additional information does not include all information that a prospective investor should consider before purchasing any of our common stock. You should obtain and read our prospectus prior to purchasing any of our common stock. A copy of our prospectus may be obtained without charge from us by calling toll-free at (866) 362-9331. You also may obtain a copy of our prospectus on the SEC’s web site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). Capitalized terms used but not defined in this statement of additional information have the meanings ascribed to them in the prospectus.

**This statement of additional information is dated January 25, 2024.**

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## INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS

This section supplements the disclosure in the prospectus and provides additional information on our investment limitations. Investment limitations identified as fundamental may be changed only with the approval of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities.

Investment limitations stated as a maximum percentage of our assets are applied only immediately after, and because of, an investment or a transaction by us to which the limitation is applicable (other than the limitations on borrowing). Accordingly, any later increase or decrease resulting from a change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered in determining whether the investment complies with our investment limitations. All limitations are based on a percentage of our total assets (including assets obtained through leverage).

### Fundamental Investment Limitations

The following are our fundamental investment limitations set forth in their entirety. We may not:

- (1) issue senior securities or borrow money to purchase additional securities, except as permitted by the 1940 Act and the rules and interpretive positions of the SEC thereunder;
- (2) borrow money, except as permitted by the 1940 Act and the rules and interpretive positions of the SEC thereunder;
- (3) make loans, except by the purchase of debt obligations, by entering into repurchase agreements or through the lending of portfolio securities and as otherwise permitted by the 1940 Act and the rules and interpretive positions of the SEC thereunder;
- (4) concentrate (invest 25% or more of our total assets) our investments in any particular industry or group of industries (securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities and tax-exempt securities of governments or their political subdivisions will not be considered to represent an industry), except that the Fund will concentrate in securities of issuers in the education industry and will also concentrate in securities of issuers in the healthcare industry;
- (5) underwrite securities issued by others, except to the extent that we may be considered an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), in the disposition of restricted securities held in our portfolio;
- (6) purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, except that we may invest in securities or other instruments backed by real estate or securities of companies that invest in real estate or interests therein (including real estate investment trusts); and
- (7) purchase or sell physical commodities unless acquired as a result of the ownership of securities or other instruments, except that we may purchase or sell options and futures contracts or invest in securities or other instruments backed by physical commodities.

With respect to the limitation regarding the issuance of senior securities set forth in subparagraph (1) above, "senior securities" are defined as any bond, debenture, note, or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness, and any stock of a class having priority over any other class as to distribution of assets or payment of distributions.

The ability of a closed-end fund to issue senior securities is severely circumscribed by complex regulatory constraints under the 1940 Act that restrict, for instance, the amount, timing and form of senior securities that may be issued. Certain portfolio management techniques, such as credit default swaps, the purchase of securities on margin, short sales or the writing of puts on portfolio securities, may be considered senior securities unless appropriate steps are taken to segregate the Fund's assets or otherwise cover its obligations. To the extent the

Fund covers its commitment under these transactions, including by the segregation of liquid assets, equal in value to the amount of the Fund's commitment, such instrument will not be considered a "senior security" by the Fund and therefore will not be subject to the 300% asset coverage requirement otherwise applicable to borrowings by the Fund.

Under the 1940 Act, a "senior security" does not include any promissory note or evidence of indebtedness where such loan is for temporary purposes only and in an amount not exceeding 5% of the value of the total assets of the issuer at the time the loan is made. A loan is presumed to be for temporary purposes if it is repaid within sixty days and is not extended or renewed.

Section 18(a) of the 1940 Act requires certain actions by the Fund if its asset coverage falls below certain levels. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund is not permitted to issue preferred stock unless immediately after such issuance the value of the Fund's total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness of the Fund other than senior securities, is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding preferred stock (i.e., the liquidation value may not exceed 50% of the Fund's total assets less all liabilities and indebtedness of the Fund other than senior securities). In addition, the Fund is not permitted to declare any cash distributions or other distribution on its Common Shares unless, at the time of such declaration, the value of the Fund's total assets is at least 200% of the liquidation value of its outstanding preferred stock plus its outstanding liabilities and indebtedness. If preferred stock is issued, the Fund intends, to the extent possible, to purchase or redeem preferred stock from time to time to the extent necessary in order to maintain coverage of any preferred stock of at least 200%.

The 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain at all times an asset coverage of at least 300% of the amount of its borrowings. For the purpose of borrowing money, "asset coverage" means the ratio that the value of the Fund's total assets, minus liabilities other than borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all borrowings. Certain trading practices and investments may be considered to be borrowings and thus subject to the 1940 Act restrictions. On the other hand, certain practices and investments may involve leverage but are not considered to be borrowings under the 1940 Act.

With respect to the limitation regarding making loans to other persons set forth in subparagraph (3) above, the 1940 Act does not prohibit a fund from making loans; however, SEC staff interpretations currently prohibit funds from lending more than one third of their total assets, except through the purchase of debt obligations or the use of repurchase agreements. A repurchase agreement is an agreement to purchase a security, coupled with an agreement to sell that security back to the original seller on an agreed-upon date at a price that reflects current interest rates. The SEC frequently treats repurchase agreements as loans.

With respect to the limitation regarding concentration in subparagraph (4) above, the education industry is comprised of securities issued for the construction, improvement, maintenance or acquisition of PreK-12 (including traditional district public schools, charter public schools, private schools, religiously affiliated schools, early education schools, special needs schools, and student housing), post-secondary (public colleges and universities, job training institutions, vocational and technical schools), community/junior colleges, small private colleges and universities, and/or student housing associated with any PreK-12 or post-secondary. The healthcare industry is comprised of securities issued for the construction, improvement, maintenance or acquisition of senior care and housing, hospitals/medical care providers (including rehab, psychiatric, substance-abuse, and behavioral healthcare) and long-term care facilities (including the entire continuum from independent living to assisted living to skilled nursing, palliative care and hospice).

With respect to the limitation regarding underwriting the securities of other issuers set forth in subparagraph (5) above, a technical provision of the Securities Act deems certain persons to be "underwriters" if they purchase a security from an issuer and later sell it to the public. Although it is not believed that the application of this Securities Act provision would cause a fund to be engaged in the business of underwriting, the policy set forth in subparagraph (5) will be interpreted not to prevent the Fund from engaging in transactions involving the acquisition or disposition of portfolio securities, regardless of whether the Fund may be considered to be an

underwriter under the Securities Act. Under the Securities Act, an underwriter may be liable for material omissions or misstatements in an issuer's registration statement or prospectus.

When used with respect to particular shares of the Fund, "majority of the outstanding" means (i) 67% or more of the shares present at a meeting of shareholders, if the holders of more than 50% of the shares are present or represented by proxy or (ii) more than 50% of the shares, whichever is less. Except for the fundamental policies disclosed above and the Fund's fundamental policy regarding its repurchase offers below, all other policies of the Fund disclosed herein and in the Fund's prospectus are non-fundamental policies which may be changed by the board of directors of the Fund without shareholder approval.

All other investment policies, except with respect to the Fund's repurchase offers described below, are considered non-fundamental and may be changed by our Board of Directors (the "Board of Directors" or the "Board") without prior approval of our outstanding voting securities.

### **REPURCHASE OFFER FUNDAMENTAL POLICY**

In addition, the Fund has adopted the following fundamental policies with respect to repurchase offers that may be changed only with approval of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities:

- (1) The Fund will make quarterly repurchase offers pursuant to Rule 23c-3 under the 1940 Act, as it may be amended from time to time.
- (2) The Fund will repurchase shares that are tendered by a specific date (the "Repurchase Request Deadline"), which will be established by the Board in accordance with Rule 23c-3, as amended from time to time. Rule 23c-3 requires the Repurchase Request Deadline to be no less than 21 and no more than 42 days after the Fund sends notification to shareholders of the repurchase offer.
- (3) There will be a maximum fourteen (14) calendar day period (or the next business day if the 14th calendar day is not a business day) between the Repurchase Request Deadline and the date on which the Fund's net asset value ("NAV") applicable to the repurchase offer is determined.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The prospectus presents our investment objective and principal investment strategies and risks. This section supplements the disclosure in our prospectus and provides additional information on our investment policies, strategies and risks. Restrictions or policies stated as a maximum percentage of our assets are applied only immediately after a portfolio investment to which the policy or restriction is applicable (other than the limitations on borrowing). Accordingly, any later increase or decrease resulting from a change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered in determining whether the investment complies with our restrictions and policies.

On November 16, 2022, the Fund announced that the Board of Directors had approved a change to the Fund's name. Effective January 16, 2023, the Fund's name was changed from Ecofin Tax-Advantaged Social Impact Fund, Inc. to Ecofin Tax-Exempt Private Credit Fund, Inc.

The Fund's investment objective is to seek to generate attractive total return with an emphasis on tax-exempt income. To meet its investment objective, the Fund has adopted a fundamental policy to invest, under normal circumstances or as otherwise permitted by applicable rules under the 1940 Act, its assets so that at least 80% of the income that it distributes will be exempt, as applicable, from federal income tax or from both federal and state income tax. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. Our Board of Directors may not change our investment objective without stockholder approval.

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal circumstances or as otherwise permitted by applicable rules under the 1940 Act, at least 80% of its total assets (net assets plus borrowings for investment purposes) in private credit investments (loans, bonds and other credit instruments that are issued in private offerings or issued by non-publicly listed entities (including but not limited to municipal corporations and other government-owned private companies)).

These private credit investments include assets and services that accommodate essential services related to education, healthcare, housing and waste transition. Such assets and services may include, but are not limited to, primary, secondary and post-secondary education facilities; hospitals and other healthcare facilities; seniors and other housing facilities; industrial/infrastructure, utility, waste-to-energy and waste-to-value projects; and nonprofit and civic facilities. Under normal market conditions, it is anticipated that the Fund will typically invest over the long term in directly originated securities. The Fund may also purchase securities in the secondary market.

The Fund's investments may take the form of loans, debt securities or, to a lesser extent, equity securities, including preferred securities.

The Fund may also invest up to 20% of its total assets in each of the following: (i) securities guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored entities, (ii) equity investments in other companies, including exchange-traded funds and (iii) non-private credit investments.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund may invest in debt securities of any maturity and credit quality but expects to typically invest over the long term in "high yield" or unrated equivalent securities. High yield securities, also commonly referred to as "junk" bonds, are securities rated at the time of investment either BB+, Ba1 or below (or an equivalent rating) by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("NRSRO") or, if unrated, determined by the Adviser to be of comparable credit quality. As the Fund will be opportunistic in its approach to investing, under normal market conditions, the Fund expects that a majority of its income will consist of tax-exempt interest for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition to debt, under normal market conditions, the Fund may invest in preferred securities and other equity securities.

The Fund may, directly or indirectly, use various derivative instruments including, but not limited to, options contracts, futures contracts, forward contracts, options on futures contracts, indexed securities, credit default swaps, interest rate swaps and other swap agreements primarily for hedging and risk management purposes.

## **Municipal-Related Securities**

Municipal-related securities are either general obligation or revenue bonds and typically are issued to finance public projects (such as roads or public buildings), to pay general operating expenses or to refinance outstanding debt.

Municipal-related securities may also be issued for private activities, such as housing, medical and educational facility construction, or for privately owned industrial development and pollution control projects. General obligation bonds are backed by the full faith and credit, or taxing authority, of the issuer and may be repaid from any revenue source; revenue bonds are backed by the revenues of a project or facility, or from the proceeds of a specific revenue source and may be repaid only from the revenues of a specific facility or source. The Fund may also purchase municipal-related securities that represent lease obligations, municipal notes, pre-refunded municipal bonds, private activity bonds, tender option bonds and other forms of municipal bonds and securities.

The municipal-related securities in which the Fund will invest are generally issued by states, cities and local authorities and certain possessions and territories of the U.S. (such as Puerto Rico and Guam), and pay interest that, in the opinion of bond counsel to the issuer (or on the basis of other authority believed by the Adviser to be reliable), is currently exempt from regular U.S. federal income tax, although the interest may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax.

The interest on our investments in municipal-related securities may bear a fixed rate or be payable at a variable or floating rate. The yields on municipal-related securities depend on a variety of factors, including prevailing interest rates and the condition of the general money market and the municipal bond market, the size of a particular offering, the maturity of the obligation and the rating of the issue. The market value of municipal-related securities will vary with changes in interest rate levels and as a result of changing evaluations of the ability of their issuers to meet interest and principal payments.

The municipal-related securities in which we invest will generally be directly originated municipal securities. Directly originated securities represent obligations structured directly by a single purchaser, or a limited number of institutional purchasers, and the issuer, and are typically not rated by credit rating agencies. We expect that the directly originated securities in which we invest generally will be deemed by our Adviser to be of comparable quality to securities rated below investment grade and that such securities will belong to relatively small issues.

Private issuers of municipal-related securities in the education sector include charter schools, student housing and other education subsectors, including, for example, private schools, parochial schools and vocational and technical schools. Private issuers of municipal-related securities in the healthcare sector include issuers in the senior care and housing, hospitals and providers and other healthcare subsectors, including, for example, assisted living, independent living, and memory care facilities. We also may invest in municipal-related securities of private issuers in the industrial and infrastructure sectors as well as in municipal-related securities of general nonprofit organizations, human services providers and issuers in the non-student and non-senior housing subsectors. In addition, we may invest in municipal-related securities issued by or on behalf of public authorities to finance or refinance privately owned or operated facilities, including in respect of electric energy or gas, sewage, solid waste disposal and other specialized facilities. Other private activity securities, the proceeds of which may be used for, as an example, the construction, equipment or improvement of privately operated industrial or commercial facilities, may constitute municipal-related securities, but current federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of such issues.

*Municipal Leases and Certificates of Participation.* The Fund also may purchase municipal-related securities that represent lease obligations and certificates of participation in such leases. These carry special risks because the issuer of the securities may not be obligated to appropriate money annually to make payments under the lease. A

municipal lease is an obligation in the form of a lease or installment purchase which is issued by a state or local government to acquire equipment and facilities. Income from such obligations is generally exempt from U.S. federal income tax, as well as from state and local taxes in the state of issuance. Leases and installment purchase or conditional sale contracts (which normally provide for title to the leased asset to pass eventually to the governmental issuer) have evolved as a means for governmental issuers to acquire property and equipment without meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements for the issuance of debt. The debt issuance limitations are deemed to be inapplicable because of the inclusion in many leases or contracts of “non-appropriation” clauses that relieve the governmental issuer of any obligation to make future payments under the lease or contract unless money is appropriated for such purpose by the appropriate legislative body on a yearly or other periodic basis. In addition, such leases or contracts may be subject to the temporary abatement of payments in the event the issuer is prevented from maintaining occupancy of the leased premises or utilizing the leased equipment or facilities. Although the obligations may be secured by the leased equipment or facilities, the disposition of the property in the event of non-appropriation or foreclosure might prove difficult, time consuming and costly, and result in a delay in recovering, or the failure to recover fully, the Fund’s original investment. To the extent that the Fund invests in unrated municipal leases or participates in such leases, the credit quality rating and risk of cancellation of such unrated leases will be monitored on an ongoing basis. In order to reduce this risk, the Fund will only purchase municipal-related securities representing lease obligations where the Adviser believes the issuer has a strong incentive to continue making appropriations until maturity.

A certificate of participation represents an undivided interest in an unmanaged pool of municipal leases, an installment purchase agreement or other instruments. The certificates are typically issued by a municipal agency, a trust or other entity that has received an assignment of the payments to be made by the state or political subdivision under such leases or installment purchase agreements. Such certificates provide the Fund with the right to a pro rata undivided interest in the underlying municipal-related securities. In addition, such participations generally provide the Fund with the right to demand payment, on not more than seven days’ notice, of all or any part of the Fund’s participation interest in the underlying municipal securities, plus accrued interest.

*Municipal Notes.* Municipal-related securities in the form of notes generally are used to provide for short-term capital needs, in anticipation of an issuer’s receipt of other revenues or financing, and typically have maturities of up to three years. Such instruments may include tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, bond anticipation notes, tax and revenue anticipation notes and construction loan notes. Tax anticipation notes are issued to finance the working capital needs of governments. Generally, they are issued in anticipation of various tax revenues, such as income, sales, property, use and business taxes, and are payable from these specific future taxes. Revenue anticipation notes are issued in expectation of receipt of other kinds of revenue, such as federal revenues available under federal revenue sharing programs. Bond anticipation notes are issued to provide interim financing until long-term bond financing can be arranged. In most cases, the long-term bonds then provide the funds needed for repayment of the bond anticipation notes. Tax and revenue anticipation notes combine the funding sources of both tax anticipation notes and revenue anticipation notes. Construction loan notes are sold to provide construction financing. Mortgage notes insured by the Federal Housing Administration secure these notes; however, the proceeds from the insurance may be less than the economic equivalent of the payment of principal and interest on the mortgage note if there has been a default. The anticipated revenues from taxes, grants or bond financing generally secure the obligations of an issuer of municipal notes. An investment in such instruments, however, presents a risk that the anticipated revenues will not be received or that such revenues will be insufficient to satisfy the issuer’s payment obligations under the notes or that refinancing will be otherwise unavailable.

*Private Activity Bonds.* Private activity bonds, formerly referred to as industrial development bonds, are issued by or on behalf of public authorities to obtain funds to provide privately operated housing facilities, airport, mass transit or port facilities, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal or hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities and certain local facilities for water supply, gas or electricity. Other types of private activity bonds, the proceeds of which are used for the construction, equipment, repair or improvement of privately operated industrial or commercial facilities, may constitute municipal-related securities, although the current

federal tax laws place substantial limitations on the size of such issues. Under current law, a significant portion of the private activity bond market is comprised of bonds, the interest on which is subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. The Fund's distributions of its interest income from private activity bonds may subject certain investors to the federal alternative minimum tax. See "Taxes."

*Pre-Refunded Municipal Securities.* The principal of, and interest on, pre-refunded municipal securities are no longer paid from the original revenue source for the securities. Instead, the source of such payments is typically an escrow fund consisting of U.S. government securities. The assets in the escrow fund are derived from the proceeds of refunding bonds issued by the same issuer as the pre-refunded municipal securities. Issuers of municipal-related securities use this advance refunding technique to obtain more favorable terms with respect to securities that are not yet subject to call or redemption by the issuer. For example, advance refunding enables an issuer to refinance debt at lower market interest rates, restructure debt to improve cash flow or eliminate restrictive covenants in the indenture or other governing instrument for the pre-refunded municipal securities. However, except for a change in the revenue source from which principal and interest payments are made, the pre-refunded municipal securities remain outstanding on their original terms until they mature or are redeemed by the issuer.

*Inverse Floating Rate Securities.* The Fund may invest in inverse floating rate securities. Inverse floating rate securities are securities whose interest rates bear an inverse relationship to the interest rate on another security or the value of an index. Generally, inverse floating rate securities represent beneficial interests in a special purpose trust, commonly referred to as a "tender option bond trust" ("TOB trust"), that holds municipal bonds. The TOB trust typically sells two classes of beneficial interests or securities: floating rate securities (sometimes referred to as short-term floaters or tender option bonds ("TOBs")), and inverse floating rate securities (sometimes referred to as inverse floaters). Both classes of beneficial interests are represented by certificates or receipts. The floating rate securities have first priority on the cash flow from the municipal bonds held by the TOB trust. In this structure, the floating rate security holders have the option, at periodic short-term intervals, to tender their securities to the trust for purchase and to receive the face value thereof plus accrued interest. The obligation of the trust to repurchase tendered securities is supported by a remarketing agent and by a liquidity provider. As consideration for providing this support, the remarketing agent and the liquidity provider receive periodic fees. The holder of the short-term floater effectively holds a demand obligation that bears interest at the prevailing short-term, tax-exempt rate. However, the trust is not obligated to purchase tendered short-term floaters in the event of certain defaults with respect to the underlying municipal bonds or a significant downgrade in the credit rating assigned to the bond issuer.

As the holder of an inverse floating rate investment, the Fund receives the residual cash flow from the TOB trust. Because the holder of the short-term floater is generally assured liquidity at the face value of the security plus accrued interest, the holder of the inverse floater assumes the interest rate cash flow risk and the market value risk associated with the municipal bond deposited into the TOB trust. The volatility of the interest cash flow and the residual market value will vary with the degree to which the trust is leveraged. This is expressed in the ratio of the total face value of the short-term floaters to the value of the inverse floaters that are issued by the TOB trust, and can exceed three times for more "highly leveraged" trusts. All voting rights and decisions to be made with respect to any other rights relating to the municipal bonds held in the TOB trust are passed through, pro rata, to the holders of the short-term floaters and to the Fund as the holder of the associated inverse floaters.

Because any increases in the interest rate on the short-term floaters issued by a TOB trust would reduce the residual interest paid on the associated inverse floaters, and because fluctuations in the value of the municipal bond deposited in the TOB trust would only affect the value of the inverse floater and not the value of the short-term floater issued by the trust so long as the value of the municipal bond held by the trust exceeded the face amount of short-term floaters outstanding, the value of inverse floaters is generally more volatile than that of an otherwise comparable municipal bond held on an unleveraged basis outside a TOB trust. Inverse floaters generally will underperform the market of fixed-rate bonds in a rising interest rate environment (i.e., when bond values are falling), but will tend to outperform the market of fixed-rate bonds when interest rates decline or remain relatively stable. Although volatile in value and return, inverse floaters typically offer the potential for

yields higher than those available on fixed-rate bonds with comparable credit quality, coupon, call provisions and maturity. Inverse floaters have varying degrees of liquidity or illiquidity based primarily upon the inverse floater holder's ability to sell the underlying bonds deposited in the TOB trust at an attractive price.

The Fund may invest in inverse floating rate securities issued by TOB trusts in which the liquidity providers have recourse to the Fund pursuant to a separate shortfall and forbearance agreement. Such an agreement would require the Fund to reimburse the liquidity provider, among other circumstances, upon termination of the TOB trust for the difference between the liquidation value of the bonds held in the trust and the principal amount and accrued interest due to the holders of floating rate securities issued by the trust. The Fund will enter into such a recourse agreement (1) when the liquidity provider requires such a recourse agreement because the level of leverage in the TOB trust exceeds the level that the liquidity provider is willing to support absent such an agreement; and/or (2) to seek to prevent the liquidity provider from collapsing the trust in the event the municipal bond held in the trust has declined in value to the point where it may cease to exceed the face amount of outstanding short-term floaters. In an instance where the Fund has entered such a recourse agreement, the Fund may suffer a loss that exceeds the amount of its original investment in the inverse floating rate securities; such loss could be as great as that original investment amount plus the face amount of the floating rate securities issued by the trust plus accrued interest thereon.

The Fund will segregate or earmark liquid assets with its custodian in accordance with the 1940 Act to cover its obligations with respect to its investments in TOB trusts.

The Fund may invest in both inverse floating rate securities and floating rate securities (as discussed below) issued by the same TOB trust.

*Floating Rate Securities.* The Fund may also invest in short-term floating rate securities, as described above, issued by TOB trusts. Generally, the interest rate earned will be based upon the market rates for municipal-related securities with maturities or remarketing provisions that are comparable in duration to the periodic interval of the tender option, which may vary from weekly, to monthly, to other periods of up to one year. Since the tender option feature provides a shorter term than the final maturity or first call date of the underlying municipal bond deposited in the trust, the Fund, as the holder of the floating rate securities, relies upon the terms of the remarketing and liquidity agreements with the financial institution that acts as remarketing agent and/or liquidity provider as well as the credit strength of that institution. As further assurance of liquidity, the terms of the TOB trust provide for a liquidation of the municipal bond deposited in the trust and the application of the proceeds to pay off the floating rate securities. The TOB trusts that are organized to issue both short-term floating rate securities and inverse floaters generally include liquidation triggers to protect the investor in the floating rate securities.

*Special Taxing Districts.* Special taxing districts are organized to plan and finance infrastructure developments to induce residential, commercial and industrial growth and redevelopment. The bond financing methods such as tax increment finance, tax assessment, special services district and Mello-Roos bonds, are generally payable solely from taxes or other revenues attributable to the specific projects financed by the bonds without recourse to the credit or taxing power of related or overlapping municipalities. They often are exposed to real estate development-related risks and can have more taxpayer concentration risk than general tax-supported bonds, such as general obligation bonds. Further, the fees, special taxes, or tax allocations and other revenues that are established to secure such financings are generally limited as to the rate or amount that may be levied or assessed and are not subject to increase pursuant to rate covenants or municipal or corporate guarantees. The bonds could default if development failed to progress as anticipated or if larger taxpayers failed to pay the assessments, fees and taxes as provided in the financing plans of the districts.

*Tobacco Settlement Bonds.* Included in the general category of municipal-related securities described in the Prospectus are "tobacco settlement bonds." The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in tobacco settlement bonds, which are municipal-related securities that are backed solely by expected revenues to be

derived from lawsuits involving tobacco related deaths and illnesses which were settled between certain states and American tobacco companies. Tobacco settlement bonds are secured by an issuing state's proportionate share in the Master Settlement Agreement ("MSA"). The MSA is an agreement, reached out of court in November 1998 between 46 states and nearly all of the U.S. tobacco manufacturers. The MSA provides for annual payments in perpetuity by the manufacturers to the states in exchange for releasing all claims against the manufacturers and a pledge of no further litigation. Tobacco manufacturers pay into a master escrow trust based on their market share, and each state receives a fixed percentage of the payment as set forth in the MSA. A number of states have securitized the future flow of those payments by selling bonds pursuant to indentures or through distinct governmental entities created for such purpose. The principal and interest payments on the bonds are backed by the future revenue flow related to the MSA. Annual payments on the bonds, and thus risk to the Fund, are highly dependent on the receipt of future settlement payments to the state or its governmental entity.

The actual amount of future settlement payments is further dependent on many factors, including, but not limited to, annual domestic cigarette shipments, reduced cigarette consumption, increased taxes on cigarettes, inflation, financial capability of tobacco companies, continuing litigation and the possibility of tobacco manufacturer bankruptcy. The initial and annual payments made by the tobacco companies will be adjusted based on a number of factors, the most important of which is domestic cigarette consumption. If the volume of cigarettes shipped in the U.S. by manufacturers participating in the settlement decreases significantly, payments due from them will also decrease. Demand for cigarettes in the U.S. could continue to decline due to price increases needed to recoup the cost of payments by tobacco companies. Demand could also be affected by: anti-smoking campaigns, tax increases, reduced advertising, enforcement of laws prohibiting sales to minors; elimination of certain sales venues such as vending machines; and the spread of local ordinances restricting smoking in public places. As a result, payments made by tobacco manufacturers could be negatively impacted if the decrease in tobacco consumption is significantly greater than the forecasted decline. A market share loss by the MSA companies to non-MSA participating tobacco manufacturers would cause a downward adjustment in the payment amounts. A participating manufacturer filing for bankruptcy also could cause delays or reductions in bond payments. The MSA itself has been subject to legal challenges and has, to date, withstood those challenges.

*Build America Bonds.* If the Fund holds Build America Bonds, the Fund may be eligible to receive a U.S. federal income tax credit; however, the issuer of a Build America Bond may instead elect to receive a cash payment directly from the federal government in lieu of holders such as the Fund receiving a tax credit. The interest on Build America Bonds is taxable for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Fund does receive tax credits from Build America Bonds or other tax credit bonds on one or more specified dates during the Fund's taxable year, the Fund may elect for U.S. federal income tax purposes to pass through to investors tax credits otherwise allowable to the Fund for that year with respect to such bonds. A tax credit bond is defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), as a "qualified tax credit bond" (which includes a qualified forestry conservation bond, a new clean renewable energy bond, a qualified energy conservation bond, a qualified zone academy bond, or a qualified school construction bond, each of which must meet certain requirements specified in the Code), a "Build America Bond" (which includes certain qualified bonds issued before January 1, 2011) or certain other specified bonds. If the Fund were to so elect, an investor in the Fund would be required to include in income and would be entitled to claim as a tax credit an amount equal to a proportionate share of such credits. Certain limitations may apply on the extent to which the credit may be claimed.

## **Debt Securities**

Debt securities represent an interest in a borrower's indebtedness. Different types of debt securities provide different terms for the payment of principal and interest and priority in the event of an issuer's default or bankruptcy. Prices of debt securities fluctuate for several reasons, including in response to changes in market interest rates and changes, or perceived changes, in the creditworthiness of the borrower.

*Corporate Bonds and Notes.* Our investments in corporate debt securities may include corporate bonds and notes. Corporate bonds and notes are debt securities issued by U.S. and non-U.S. businesses to borrow money

from investors for a variety of reasons, including to finance operations, provide working capital, refinance existing debt, engage in acquisitions, pay distributions or finance stock buy-backs or recapitalize. The issuer of a bond or note pays the investors a fixed, variable or floating rate of interest and normally must repay the amount borrowed on or before a stated maturity date. Certain bonds and notes in which we may invest may be convertible into equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates. We may invest in corporate bonds and notes of any credit quality. The corporate bonds and notes in which we invest will typically be unsecured but may be secured by a lien on specified assets of the issuer and/or its affiliates. Any such lien may be subordinated to liens securing the issuer's senior debt. The corporate bonds or notes in which we invest may pay interest in cash or in kind. With respect to payment-in-kind securities, the issuer pays interest in the form of additional securities rather than cash.

The investment return of a corporate bond or note reflects the interest payments received and changes in the market price of the bond or note during the holding period. The market price of a corporate bond or note may be expected to rise and fall inversely with market interest rates generally and in response to actual or perceived changes in the creditworthiness of the issuer. Because of the wide range of types and maturities of corporate bonds and notes, as well as the range of creditworthiness of their issuers, the risk-return profiles of corporate bonds and notes vary widely. For example, notes issued by a large established corporation that is rated investment grade may offer a modest return but carry relatively limited risk. On the other hand, a long-term bond issued by a smaller, less established corporation that is rated below investment grade may have the potential for relatively large returns but carries a relatively high degree of risk.

*Bank Loans and Loan Participations.* Our investments in corporate debt securities may include investments in senior and subordinated bank loans to U.S. and non-U.S. businesses. Companies may borrow money from banks for a variety of reasons, including those set forth above under "Corporate Bonds and Notes." The borrower under a bank loan typically pays interest at rates that are determined periodically on the basis of a floating base lending rate, commonly the London Interbank Offered Rate, plus a spread, during the term of the loan. The amount borrowed under a bank loan is typically repaid during the term of the loan in accordance with an agreed amortization schedule, but certain bank loans may permit interest-only payments during all or a portion of the loan term.

The bank loans in which we invest will generally be secured by a lien on specified assets of the borrower and/or its affiliates. Senior loans occupy the highest position in the borrower's capital structure and entitle the lender to a first-priority lien on the collateral securing the loan. The lien securing a subordinated loan is contractually subordinated to the rights of the borrower's senior lenders. The terms governing bank loans typically impose restrictive covenants on the borrower intended to protect the economic interest of the lender.

We may invest in bank loans through assignments, whereby we assume the position of the lender to the borrower, or loan participations, whereby we purchase all or a portion of the economic interest in a loan. The purchaser of a loan participation typically has a contractual relationship with the lender selling the participation but not with the borrower and will generally have rights that are more limited than the rights of a lender or of a person who acquires a loan by assignment.

The investment return of a bank loan or loan participation reflects the interest payments received and changes in the market price of the loan or participation during the holding period. Similar to corporate bonds and notes, the market price of a bank loan or loan participation may be expected to rise and fall inversely with market interest rates generally and in response to actual or perceived changes in the creditworthiness of the issuer. However, the floating-rate feature of many bank loans serves to lower the loans' effective duration and prevent significant price fluctuations in response to changes in market interest rates.

*High Yield and Unrated Securities.* The debt securities in which we invest generally will be high yield or unrated equivalent debt securities, which are commonly referred to as "junk" bonds and are considered predominately speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments.

These securities will be rated below investment grade at the time of investment by at least one NRSRO or deemed to be of comparable quality by our Adviser. The directly originated municipal securities in which we invest generally will be unrated debt securities. In addition, certain of the corporate debt securities in which we invest may be unrated. Because of the size and perceived demand for the issue, among other factors, certain issuers may decide not to pay the cost of getting a rating for their debt securities. The creditworthiness of the issuer, as well as any financial institution or other party responsible for payments on the security, will be analyzed by our Adviser to determine whether to purchase, hold or sell unrated debt securities.

*Variable-and Floating-Rate Securities.* Variable-and floating-rate securities provide for a periodic adjustment in the interest rate paid on the obligations. The terms of such obligations must provide that interest rates are adjusted periodically based upon an interest rate adjustment index as provided in the respective obligations. The adjustment intervals may be regular and range from daily up to annually, or may be event based, such as based on a change in the prime rate. We may invest in floating-rate debt instruments (“floaters”) and engage in credit spread trades. The interest rate on a floater is a variable rate that is tied to another interest rate, such as a money-market index or U.S. Treasury (“Treasury”) bill rate. The interest rate on a floater resets periodically, typically every three to six months. A credit spread trade is an investment position relating to a difference in the prices or interest rates of two securities or currencies, where the market value of the investment position is determined by movements in the difference between the prices or interest rates, as the case may be, of the respective securities or currencies. We also may invest in inverse floating-rate debt instruments (“inverse floaters”). The interest rate on an inverse floater resets in the opposite direction from the market rate of interest to which the inverse floater is indexed.

*When-Issued and Delayed-Delivery Securities.* We may purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis. The purchase price and the interest rate payable, if any, on the securities are fixed on the purchase Commitment Date or at the time the Settlement Date is fixed. The prices of these securities are subject to market fluctuations. For debt securities, no interest accrues to us until a settlement takes place. At the time we make a commitment to purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, we will record the transaction and reflect the market prices of the securities when determining our net asset value. At the time of settlement, a when-issued or delayed-delivery security may be valued below the amount of its purchase price.

In connection with these transactions, we will earmark or maintain a segregated account with our custodian containing liquid assets in an amount which is at least equal to the commitments. On the delivery dates of the transactions, we will meet our obligations from maturities or sales of the securities held in the segregated account and/or from cash flow. When-issued and delayed-delivery transactions may allow us to hedge against changes in interest rates.

*Zero-Coupon Securities.* Zero-coupon securities make no periodic interest payments but are sold at a discount from their face value. The purchaser recognizes a rate of return determined by the gradual appreciation of the security, which is redeemed at face value on a specified maturity date. The discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity, as well as on market interest rates, the liquidity of the security and the issuer’s actual or perceived creditworthiness. Because zero-coupon securities bear no interest, their prices typically fluctuate more than the prices of other types of debt securities.

*U.S. Government Obligations.* We may invest in U.S. government obligations. U.S. government obligations include securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities. Treasury bills, the most frequently issued marketable government securities, have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis. U.S. government obligations include securities issued or guaranteed by government-sponsored enterprises.

Payment of principal and interest on U.S. government obligations may be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States or may be backed solely by the issuing or guaranteeing agency or instrumentality itself. In the latter case, the investor must look principally to the agency or instrumentality issuing or guaranteeing the obligation for ultimate repayment, which agency or instrumentality may be privately owned.

*Agency Obligations.* We may invest in agency obligations, such as obligations of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Tennessee Valley Authority, Resolution Funding Corporation, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, Federal Farm Credit Banks, Federal Land Banks, Federal Housing Administration, Government National Mortgage Association, commonly known as “Ginnie Mae,” Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”), commonly known as “Fannie Mae,” Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”), commonly known as “Freddie Mac,” and the Student Loan Marketing Association (“SLMA”), commonly known as “Sallie Mae.” Some of these obligations, such as those of the Export-Import Bank of United States, are supported only by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; others, such as those of the FNMA and FHLMC, are supported only by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency’s obligations; still others, such as those of the SLMA, are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality.

### **Restricted Securities, Including Securities of Private Companies**

Restricted securities, including Rule 144A securities and securities of private companies, are subject to statutory and/or contractual restrictions on resale. However, such securities may be sold in private transactions with a limited number of purchasers or in public offerings registered under the Securities Act. Restricted securities include (1) registered securities of public companies subject to a lock-up period, (2) unregistered securities of public companies with registration rights, (3) unregistered securities of public companies that become freely tradable with the passage of time, and (4) unregistered securities of private companies. A registered security subject to such a lock-up period will no longer be considered a restricted security upon expiration of the lock-up period, an unregistered security of a public company with registration rights will no longer be considered a restricted security when such securities become registered, and an unregistered security of a public company that becomes freely tradable with the passage of time will no longer be considered a restricted security upon the elapse of the requisite time period.

We will typically make our private investments in directly structured transactions. An issuer may be willing to offer the purchaser more attractive features with respect to securities issued in direct investments because it has avoided the expense and delay involved in a public offering of securities. Adverse conditions in the public securities markets also may preclude a public offering of securities. These securities may not be listed for trading on any securities exchange and may not be eligible for resale under Rule 144A. In many cases, we will likely be able to sell our private investments only in private transactions with another investor or group of investors.

### **Derivatives**

*General Limitations on Futures and Options Transactions.* The Fund has filed a notice of eligibility for exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” with the U.S. Commodities Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) and the National Futures Association, which regulate trading in the futures markets. Pursuant to Rule 4.5 of the regulations under the Commodity Exchange Act (the “CEA”), the Fund is not subject to regulation as a commodity pool under the CEA. A call option on a security is a contract that gives the holder of such option the right to buy the security underlying the option from the writer of such option at a specified price (the exercise price) at any time during the term of the option. At the time the call option is written, the writer of the call option receives a premium from the buyer.

Various exchanges and regulatory authorities have undertaken reviews of options and futures trading in light of market volatility. Among the possible actions that have been presented are proposals to adopt new or more stringent daily price fluctuation limits for futures and options transactions and proposals to increase the margin requirements for various types of futures transactions.

*Asset Coverage for Futures and Options Positions.* The Fund will comply with the regulatory requirements of the SEC and the CFTC with respect to coverage of options and futures positions by registered investment companies and, if the guidelines so require, will segregate cash, U.S. government securities, high-grade liquid

debt securities and/or other liquid assets permitted by the SEC and CFTC on the Fund's records in the amount prescribed. Securities segregated on the Fund's records cannot be sold while the futures or options position is outstanding, unless replaced with other permissible assets, and will be marked-to-market daily.

*Options.* The Fund may purchase put and call options on currencies or securities. A put option embodies the right of its purchaser to compel the writer of the option to purchase from the option holder an underlying currency or security or its equivalent at a specified price. In contrast, a call option gives the purchaser the right to buy the underlying currency or security covered by the option or its equivalent from the writer of the option at the stated exercise price.

As a holder of a put option, the Fund will have the right to sell the securities underlying the option and as the holder of a call option, the Fund will have the right to purchase the currencies or securities underlying the option, in each case at their exercise price. An American style put or call option may be exercised at any time during the option exercise period while a European style put or call option may be exercised only upon expiration. A Bermudan style put or call option may be exercised at any time on fixed dates occurring during the term of the option. The Fund may seek to terminate its option positions prior to their expiration by entering into closing transactions. The ability of the Fund to enter into a closing sale transaction depends on the existence of a liquid secondary market. There can be no assurance that a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when the Fund so desires.

*Certain Considerations Regarding Options.* The hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets. The purchase of options is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The purchase of options involves the risk that the premium and transaction costs paid by the Fund in purchasing an option will be lost as a result of unanticipated movements in prices of the securities on which the option is based. Imperfect correlation between the options and securities markets may detract from the effectiveness of attempted hedging. Options transactions may result in significantly higher transaction costs and portfolio turnover for the Fund.

Some, but not all, of the derivative instruments may be traded and listed on an exchange. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an options exchange will exist for any particular option at any particular time, and for some options, no secondary market on an exchange or elsewhere may exist. If the Fund is unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities that it has purchased, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

*Futures Contracts.* The Fund may enter into securities-related futures contracts, including security futures contracts as an anticipatory hedge. The Fund may sell futures as an offset against the effect of expected declines in securities prices and purchase futures as an offset against the effect of expected increases in securities prices. The Fund will not enter into futures contracts which are prohibited under the CEA and will, to the extent required by regulatory authorities, enter only into futures contracts that are traded on exchanges and are standardized as to maturity date and underlying financial instrument. A security futures contract is a legally binding agreement between two parties to purchase or sell in the future a specific quantity of a security or of the component securities of a narrow-based security index, at a certain price. A person who buys a security futures contract enters into a contract to purchase an underlying security and is said to be "long" under the contract. A person who sells a security futures contract enters into a contract to sell the underlying security and is said to be "short" under the contract. The price at which the contract trades (the "contract price") is determined by relative buying and selling interest on a regulated exchange.

Transaction costs are incurred when a futures contract is bought or sold and margin deposits must be maintained. In order to enter into a security futures contract, the Fund must deposit funds with its custodian in the

name of the futures commodities merchant equal to a specified percentage of the current market value of the contract as a performance bond. Moreover, all security futures contracts are marked-to-market at least daily, usually after the close of trading. At that time, the account of each buyer and seller reflects the amount of any gain or loss on the security futures contract based on the contract price established at the end of the day for settlement purposes.

An open position, either a long or short position, is closed or liquidated by entering into an offsetting transaction (i.e., an equal and opposite transaction to the one that opened the position) prior to the contract expiration. Traditionally, most futures contracts are liquidated prior to expiration through an offsetting transaction and, thus, holders do not incur a settlement obligation. If the offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, a gain will be realized. Conversely, if the offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, a gain will be realized; if it is less, a loss will be realized. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Fund will be able to enter into an offsetting transaction with respect to a particular futures contract at a particular time. If the Fund is not able to enter into an offsetting transaction, the Fund will continue to be required to maintain the margin deposits on the futures contract and the Fund may not be able to realize a gain in the value of its future position or prevent losses from mounting. This inability to liquidate could occur, for example, if trading is halted due to unusual trading activity in either the security futures contract or the underlying security; if trading is halted due to recent news events involving the issuer of the underlying security; if systems failures occur on an exchange or at the firm carrying the position; or, if the position is on an illiquid market. Even if the Fund can liquidate its position, it may be forced to do so at a price that involves a large loss.

Under certain market conditions, it may also be difficult or impossible to manage the risk from open security futures positions by entering into an equivalent but opposite position in another contract month, on another market, or in the underlying security. This inability to take positions to limit the risk could occur, for example, if trading is halted across markets due to unusual trading activity in the security futures contract or the underlying security or due to recent news events involving the issuer of the underlying security.

There can be no assurance that a liquid market will exist at a time when the Fund seeks to close out a futures contract position. The Fund would continue to be required to meet margin requirements until the position is closed, possibly resulting in a decline in the Fund's NAV. In addition, many of the contracts discussed above are relatively new instruments without a significant trading history. As a result, there can be no assurance that an active secondary market will develop or continue to exist.

Security futures contracts that are not liquidated prior to expiration must be settled in accordance with the terms of the contract. Some security futures contracts are settled by physical delivery of the underlying security. At the expiration of a security futures contract that is settled through physical delivery, a person who is "long" under the contract must pay the final settlement price set by the regulated exchange or the clearing organization and take delivery of the underlying securities. Conversely, a person who is "short" under the contract must make delivery of the underlying securities in exchange for the final settlement price. Settlement with physical delivery may involve additional costs.

Other security futures contracts are settled through cash settlement. In this case, the underlying securities are not delivered. Instead, any positions in such security futures contracts that are open at the end of the last trading day are settled through a final cash payment based on a final settlement price determined by the exchange or clearing organization. Once this payment is made, neither party has any further obligations on the contract.

As noted above, margin is the amount of funds that must be deposited by the Fund in order to initiate futures trading and to maintain the Fund's open positions in futures contracts. A margin deposit is intended to ensure the Fund's performance of the futures contract. The margin required for a particular futures contract is set by the exchange on which the futures contract is traded and may be significantly modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the futures contract.

If the price of an open futures contract changes (by increase in the case of a sale or by decrease in the case of a purchase) so that the loss on the futures contract reaches a point at which the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, the broker will require an increase in the margin. However, if the value of a position increases because of favorable price changes in the futures contract so that the margin deposit exceeds the required margin, the broker will pay the excess to the Fund. In computing daily NAV, the Fund will mark to market the current value of its open futures contracts. The Fund expects to earn interest income on its margin deposits.

Because of the low margin deposits required, futures contracts trading involves an extremely high degree of leverage. As a result, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in an immediate and substantial loss or gain to the investor. For example, if at the time of purchase 10% of the value of the futures contract is deposited as margin, a subsequent 10% decrease in the value of the futures contract would result in a total loss of the margin deposit, before any deduction for the transaction costs, if the account were then closed out. A 15% decrease would result in a loss equal to 150% of the original margin deposit, before any deduction for the transaction costs, if the futures contracts were closed out. Thus, a purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in losses in excess of the amount initially invested in the futures contract. However, the Fund would presumably have sustained comparable losses if, instead of the futures contract, it had invested in the underlying financial instrument and sold it after the decline.

In addition to the foregoing, imperfect correlation between the futures contracts and the underlying securities may prevent the Fund from achieving the intended hedge or expose the Fund to risk of loss. Under certain market conditions, the prices of security futures contracts may not maintain their customary or anticipated relationships to the prices of the underlying security or index. These pricing disparities could occur, for example, when the market for the security futures contract is illiquid, when the primary market for the underlying security is closed, or when the reporting of transactions in the underlying security has been delayed.

In addition, the value of a position in security futures contracts could be affected if trading is halted in either the security futures contract or the underlying security. In certain circumstances, regulated exchanges are required by law to halt trading in security futures contracts. For example, trading on a particular security futures contract must be halted if trading is halted on the listed market for the underlying security as a result of pending news, regulatory concerns, or market volatility. Similarly, trading of a security futures contract on a narrow-based security index must be halted under circumstances where trading is halted on securities accounting for at least 50% of the market capitalization of the index. In addition, regulated exchanges are required to halt trading in all security futures contracts for a specified period of time when the Dow Jones Industrial Average experiences one-day declines of 10%, 20% and 30%. The regulated exchanges may also have discretion under their rules to halt trading in other circumstances, such as when the exchange determines that the halt would be advisable in maintaining a fair and orderly market.

A trading halt, either by a regulated exchange that trades security futures or an exchange trading the underlying security or instrument, could prevent the Fund from liquidating a position in security futures contracts in a timely manner, which could expose the Fund to a loss.

Each regulated exchange trading a security futures contract may also open and close for trading at different times than other regulated exchanges trading security futures contracts or markets trading the underlying security or securities. Trading in security futures contracts prior to the opening or after the close of the primary market for the underlying security may be less liquid than trading during regular market hours.

*Swap Agreements.* The Fund may enter into swap agreements. A swap is a financial instrument that typically involves the exchange of cash flows between two parties on specified dates, where the cash flows are based on agreed-upon prices, rates, indices, etc. The nominal amount on which the cash flows are calculated is called the notional amount. Swaps are individually negotiated and may be structured to include exposure to a variety of different types of investments or market factors, such as interest rates, commodity prices, non-U.S. currency rates, mortgage securities, corporate borrowing rates, security prices, indexes or inflation rates.

Swap agreements may increase or decrease the overall volatility of the investments of the Fund and its share price. The performance of swap agreements may be affected by a change in the specific interest rate, currency, or other factors that determine the amounts of payments due to and from the Fund. If a swap agreement calls for payments by the Fund, the Fund must be prepared to make such payments when due. In addition, if the counterparty's creditworthiness declines, the value of a swap agreement would likely decline, potentially resulting in losses.

Generally, swap agreements have fixed maturity dates that are agreed upon by the parties to the swap. The agreement can be terminated before the maturity date only under limited circumstances, such as default by or insolvency of one of the parties and can be transferred by a party only with the prior written consent of the other party unless otherwise agreed by the parties. The Fund may be able to eliminate its exposure under a swap agreement either by assignment or other disposition, or by entering into an offsetting swap agreement with the same party or a similarly creditworthy party. If the counterparty is unable to meet its obligations under the contract, declares bankruptcy, defaults or becomes insolvent, the Fund may not be able to recover the money it expected to receive under the contract.

A swap agreement can be a form of leverage, which can magnify the Fund's gains or losses. In order to reduce the risk associated with leveraging, the Fund will cover its current obligations under swap agreements according to guidelines established by the SEC. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on a net basis, it will be required to segregate assets on the Fund's records with a daily value at least equal to the excess, if any, of the Fund's accrued obligations under the swap agreement over the accrued amount the Fund is entitled to receive under the agreement. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on other than a net basis, it will be required to segregate assets on the Fund's records with a value equal to the full amount of the Fund's accrued obligations under the agreement.

The Fund will monitor any swaps with a view towards ensuring that the Fund remains in compliance with all applicable regulatory investment and tax requirements.

*Equity Swaps.* In a typical equity swap, one party agrees to pay another party the return on a security, security index or basket of securities in return for a specified interest rate. By entering into an equity index swap, the index receiver can gain exposure to securities making up the index of securities without actually purchasing those securities. Equity index swaps involve not only the risk associated with investment in the securities represented in the index, but also the risk that the performance of such securities, including distributions, will not exceed the interest that the Fund will be committed to pay under the swap.

### **Derivatives Legislation and Regulatory Risk**

The enforceability of agreements governing hedging transactions may depend on compliance with applicable statutory and other regulatory requirements and, depending on the identity of the counterparty, applicable international requirements. New or amended regulations may be imposed by the CFTC, the SEC, the Federal Reserve, the European Union or other financial regulators, other governmental or intergovernmental regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations that supervise the financial markets, and could adversely affect the Fund. In particular, the CFTC and the SEC are empowered to promulgate a variety of new rules pursuant to recently enacted financial reform legislation in the U.S. The Fund also may be adversely affected by changes in the enforcement or interpretation of statutes and rules by these regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations.

In addition, the securities and futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes and regulations. For instance, the Dodd-Frank Act could have an adverse effect on the Fund's ability to use derivative instruments. The Dodd-Frank Act is designed to impose stringent regulation on the over-the-counter derivatives market in an attempt to increase transparency and accountability and provides for, among other things, new clearing, execution, margin, reporting, recordkeeping, business conduct, documentation, disclosure, position limit,

minimum net capital and registration requirements. Although the CFTC has released final rules relating to clearing, execution, reporting, risk management, compliance, position limit, anti-fraud, consumer protection, portfolio reconciliation, documentation, recordkeeping, business conduct, margin requirements and registration requirements under the Dodd-Frank Act, many of the provisions are subject to further final rulemaking and clarifications, and thus the Dodd-Frank Act's ultimate impact remains unclear. New regulations could, among other things, restrict the Fund's ability to engage in derivatives transactions (for example, by making certain types of derivatives transactions no longer available to the Fund), increase the costs of using certain instruments (for example, by increasing margin, capital or reporting requirements) and/or make them less effective. In particular, new margin requirements and capital charges, even when not directly applicable to the Fund, may increase the pricing of derivatives transacted by the Fund. New exchange trading and trade reporting requirements and position limits may lead to changes in the liquidity of derivative transactions, or higher pricing or reduced liquidity in the derivatives markets, or the reduction of arbitrage opportunities for the Fund. Limits or restrictions applicable to the counterparties with which the Fund's engages in derivative transactions could also limit the ability of the Fund from using these instruments, affect the pricing or other factors relating to these instruments or may change the availability of certain investments. As a result, these changes could make it difficult for the Fund to execute its investment strategy.

In December 2012, the CFTC issued a final rule requiring certain credit default swaps and interest rate swaps to be centrally cleared, which is applicable to all swap counterparties not eligible for certain narrowly-defined exemption or exceptions. Where the Fund enters into certain swaps subject to mandatory clearing, it may be required to execute such swaps on a registered designated contract market or swap execution facility. Such clearing requirements may affect the Fund's ability to negotiate individualized terms and/or may increase the costs of entering into such derivative transactions (for example, by increasing margin or capital requirements). Clearing mandates with respect to other types of derivative instruments have not yet been issued by the applicable regulators, but could have additional impact on the Fund's ability to use such instruments as part of its investment strategy. In addition, certain foreign jurisdictions may also impose clearing requirements or expand existing clearing requirements that could apply to the Fund's transactions with non-U.S. entities.

Furthermore, on December 15, 2015, the CFTC approved a final rule, which became effective in April 2016, but with later implementation dates as specified below, governing margin requirements for uncleared swaps entered into by registered swap dealers and major swap participants who are not supervised by the prudential regulators, referred to as "covered swap entities." The final rule generally requires covered swap entities, subject to certain thresholds and exemptions, to collect and post margin in respect of uncleared swap transactions with other covered swap entities and financial end-users. In particular, the final rule requires covered swap entities and financial end-users having "material swaps exposure," defined as an average aggregate daily notional amount of uncleared swaps exceeding a certain specified amount, to collect and/or post (as applicable) a minimum amount of "initial margin" in respect of uncleared swaps, subject to a phase-in schedule until September 1, 2021, when the average aggregate daily notional amount will thenceforth be \$8 billion as calculated from June, July and August of the previous calendar year. In addition, the final rule requires covered swap entities entering into uncleared swaps with other covered swap entities or financial-end-users, regardless of swaps exposure, to post and/or collect (as applicable) "variation margin" in reflection of changes in the mark-to-market value of an uncleared swap since the swap was executed or the last time such margin was exchanged. Such regulations could increase the cost of and limit the implementation of the Fund's use of derivatives, which could have an adverse impact on the Fund.

In addition to U.S. laws and regulations relating to derivatives, certain non U.S. regulatory authorities, such as those in the European Union, have passed or proposed, or may propose in the future, legislation similar to that imposed by the Dodd-Frank Act. The regulatory changes in the European Union will impact a broad range of counterparties, both outside and within the European Union, and are expected to potentially increase the cost of transacting derivatives the Fund (particularly with banks and other dealers directly subject to such regulations).

## **When-Issued and Forward Commitment Securities**

The Fund may purchase securities on a “when-issued” basis and may purchase or sell securities on a “forward commitment” basis in order to acquire the security or to hedge against anticipated changes in interest rates and prices. When such transactions are negotiated, the price, which is generally expressed in yield terms, is fixed at the time the commitment is made, but delivery and payment for the securities take place at a later date. When-issued securities and forward commitments may be sold prior to the Settlement Date, but the Fund will enter into when-issued and forward commitments only with the intention of actually receiving or delivering the securities, as the case may be. If the Fund disposes of the right to acquire a when-issued security prior to its acquisition or disposes of its right to deliver or receive against a forward commitment, it might incur a gain or loss. At the time the Fund enters into a transaction on a when-issued or forward commitment basis, it will designate on its books and records cash or liquid credit securities equal to at least the value of the when-issued or forward commitment securities. The value of these assets will be monitored daily to ensure that their marked to market value will at all times equal or exceed the corresponding obligations of the Fund. There is always a risk that the securities may not be delivered and that the Fund may incur a loss. Settlements in the ordinary course, which may take substantially more than five business days, are not treated by the Fund as when-issued or forward commitment transactions and accordingly are not subject to the foregoing restrictions.

Securities purchased on a forward commitment or when-issued basis are subject to changes in value (generally changing in the same way, i.e., appreciating when interest rates decline and depreciating when interest rates rise) based upon the public’s perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and changes, actual or anticipated, in the level of interest rates. Securities purchased with a forward commitment or when-issued basis may expose the Fund to risks because they may experience such fluctuations prior to their actual delivery. Purchasing securities on a when-issued basis can involve the additional risks that the yield available in the market when the delivery takes place actually may be higher than that obtained in the transaction itself. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment or when-issued basis when the Fund is fully invested may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the Fund’s net assets and its net asset value per share.

The risks and effect of settlements in the ordinary course on the Fund’s net asset value are not the same as the risks and effect of when- issued and forward commitment securities.

The purchase price of when-issued and forward commitment securities are expressed in yield terms, which reference a floating rate of interest, and is therefore subject to fluctuations of the security’s value in the market from the date of the Fund’s commitment (the “Commitment Date”) to the date of the actual delivery and payment for such securities (the “Settlement Date”). There is a risk that, on the Settlement Date, the Fund’s payment of the final purchase price, which is calculated on the yield negotiated on the Commitment Date, will be higher than the market’s valuation of the security on the Settlement Date. This same risk is also borne if the Fund disposes of its right to acquire a when-issued security, or its right to deliver or receive, a forward commitment security, and there is a downward market movement in the value of the security from the Commitment Date to the Settlement Date. No income accrues to the Fund during the period from the Commitment Date to the Settlement Date. On the other hand, the Fund may incur a gain if the Fund invests in when-issued and forward commitment securities and correctly anticipates the rise in interest rates and prices in the market.

## **Temporary Investments and Defensive Investments**

We may invest offering proceeds in money market mutual funds, cash, cash equivalents, securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its instrumentalities or agencies, high quality, short-term money market instruments, short-term debt securities, certificates of deposit, bankers’ acceptances and other bank obligations, commercial paper or other liquid debt securities. In addition, we may invest in such instruments on a temporary basis to meet working capital needs, including, but not limited to, for collateral in connection with certain investment techniques, to hold a reserve pending payment of distributions and to facilitate the payment of expenses and settlement of trades.

Under adverse market or economic conditions, we may invest up to 100% of our total assets in these securities. The yield on these securities may be lower than the returns on equity securities or yields on lower rated debt securities. In addition, we may invest a portion of our assets, which may be significant, in these securities. To the extent we invest in these securities for defensive purposes, we may not achieve our investment objective.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

### Directors and Officers

Our business and affairs are managed under the direction of our Board of Directors. Accordingly, our Board of Directors provides broad supervision over our affairs, including supervision of the duties performed by our Adviser. The names, ages and addresses of each of our directors and officers, together with their principal occupations and other affiliations during the past five years, are set forth below. Each director and officer will hold office until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified, or until he resigns or is removed in the manner provided by law. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each director and officer is 6363 College Boulevard, Suite 100A, Overland Park, Kansas 66211.

<u>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</u>	<u>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</u>
<b>Independent Directors</b>				
Conrad S. Ciccotello (Born 1960)	Director since February 2018.	Professor and Director, Reiman School of Finance, University of Denver (faculty member since 2017); Senior Consultant to the finance practice of Charles River Associates, which provides economic, financial, and management consulting services (since May 2020); Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Risk Management and Insurance, Robinson College of Business, Georgia State University and Director of Asset and Wealth Management Programs (faculty member 1999-2017); Investment Consultant to the University System of Georgia for its defined contribution retirement plan (2008-2017).	7	CorEnergy Infrastructure Trust, Inc.; Peachtree Alternative Strategies Fund.
Allen R. Strain (Born 1952)	Director since February 2018.	Teaching Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City Bloch School of Business, from 2014 to August 2015 and 2009 to 2010; Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (January 2012 – April 2014) and Director (2010 – 2011), Ewing Marion Kauffman	1	None

<u>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</u>	<u>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</u>
		Foundation ; Managing Director (2004 – 2008) and Senior Vice President (2000 – 2008), State Street—Kansas City (securities processing/custody).		
John G. Woolway (Born 1962) . . . . .	Director since February 2018.	President and Chief Investment Officer, Vantage Investment Partners (2003 – Present).	1	None
<b>Interested Director<sup>(2)</sup></b>				
Gary Henson (Born 1966) . . . . .	Director and Chairman of the Board since February 2018.	President, TortoiseEcofin Investments, LLC (“TortoiseEcofin”) (October 2016 – Present); President and Chief Investment Officer, Montage Investments, LLC (January 2010 – October 2016); President, Mariner Holdings, LLC (August 2007 – October 2016).	1	None
<b>Executive Officers<sup>(4)</sup></b>				
P. Bradley Adams (Born 1960) . . . . .	Chief Executive Officer since February 2018; Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer from February 2018 to May 2021.	Joined the Adviser in 2005; Managing Director overseeing the Adviser’s financial operations since January 2013; Director of Financial Operations of the Adviser from 2005 to January 2013; Chief Executive Officer of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.	N/A	N/A
Courtney Gengler (Born 1986) . . . . .	Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer since May 2021.	Managing Director – Financial Operations of the Adviser since July 2021; Director – Financial Operations of the Adviser from January 2020 to July 2021; Vice President, Accounting and Financial Reporting of the Adviser from 2017 to 2020; previously served in various roles at Adknowledge, Inc. (digital advertising technology company)	N/A	N/A

<u>Name, Address<sup>(5)</sup>, and Age</u>	<u>Position(s) Held With the Fund, Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation During Past Five Years</u>	<u>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Overseen by Director</u>	<u>Other Public Company Directorships Held by Director</u>
Kate Moore (Born 1987)	President since April 2021.	from May 2015 to March 2017 including most recently as Manager of Accounting and Financial Reporting; Principal Financial Officer and Treasurer of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.  Managing Director of TortoiseEcofin since March 1, 2021; Chief Operations Officer of TortoiseEcofin since March 1, 2023; Chief Development Officer of TortoiseEcofin from March 2021 to March 2023; Director – Head of Product Development of Adviser from September 2020 to March 2021; Director – Strategic Investment Group of the Adviser from July 2019 to August 2020; Vice President – Strategic Investment Group of the Adviser from June 2018 to June 2019; previously served in various roles at Tradebot Systems, Inc. from July 2009 to June 2018, including most recently as Senior Equity Trader and Director at Tradebot Ventures.	N/A	N/A
Shobana Gopal (Born 1962)	Vice President since February 2018.	Managing Director – Tax of Tortoise since July 2021; Director – Tax of Tortoise from January 2013 to July 2021; Tax Analyst of Tortoise from September 2006 through December 2012; Vice President of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.	N/A	N/A
Diane Bono (Born 1958)	Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary since February 2018.	Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser since June 2006; Chief Compliance Officer of the closed-end funds managed by the Adviser.	N/A	N/A

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- (1) The Fund Complex includes the Fund, Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corporation (TYG), Tortoise Power and Energy Infrastructure Fund, Inc. (TPZ), Tortoise Midstream Energy Fund, Inc. (NTG), Tortoise Pipeline & Energy Fund, Inc. (TTP), Tortoise Energy Independence Fund, Inc. (NDP), and Ecofin Sustainable and Social Impact Term Fund (TEAF) (with TYG, TPZ, NTG, TTP and NDP, the “Adviser closed-end funds”) and is defined as two or more registered investment companies that (a) hold themselves out to investors as related companies for purposes of investment and investor services; or (b) have a common investment adviser or have an investment adviser that is an affiliated person of any of the other registered investment companies.
  - (2) As a result of his position held with our Adviser or its affiliates, this individual is considered an “interested person” of ours within the meaning of the 1940 Act.
  - (3) Officers are elected annually.
  - (4) The Fund’s executive officers are considered “interested persons” within the meaning of the 1940 Act as a result of their respective positions with the Adviser or its affiliates.
  - (5) The address of each Director and Officer, unless otherwise noted, is 6363 College Boulevard, Suite 100A, Overland Park, Kansas 66211.

The Directors were selected to join the Board of Directors based upon the following as to each Director: his character and integrity; his service as a member of other boards; his willingness to serve and willingness and ability to commit the time necessary to perform the duties of a Director; as to each Director other than Mr. Henson, his status as not being an “interested person” as defined in the 1940 Act; and, as to Mr. Henson, his experience and role with TortoiseEcofin. No factor, by itself, was controlling. In addition to the information provided in the table included below, each Director possesses the following attributes: Mr. Ciccotello, experience as a college professor, a Ph.D. in finance and knowledge of closed-end investment companies; Mr. Strain, experience in the financial services and investment industries and service as a board member of other registered management investment companies; Mr. Woolway, experience in investments and as a CFA charterholder; and Mr. Henson, experience as an executive and leadership roles with TortoiseEcofin. References to the qualifications, attributes and skills of the Directors are pursuant to requirements of the SEC, do not constitute holding out the Board of Directors or any Directors as having any special expertise or experience, and shall not impose any greater responsibility or liability on any such person or on the Board of Directors by reason thereof.

Mr. Henson serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund. Mr. Henson is an “interested person” of the Fund within the meaning of the 1940 Act. The appointment of Mr. Henson as Chairman reflects the Board of Director’s belief that his experience, familiarity with the Fund’s day-to-day operations and access to individuals with responsibility for the Fund’s management and operations provides the Board of Directors with insight into the Fund’s business and activities and, with his access to appropriate administrative support, facilitates the efficient development of meeting agendas that address the Fund’s business, legal and other needs and the orderly conduct of meetings of the Board of Directors. The directors who are not “interested persons” of ours within the meaning of the 1940 Act (“Independent Directors”) will regularly meet outside the presence of management and are advised by independent legal counsel. The Board of Directors also has determined that its leadership structure, as described above, is appropriate in light of the Fund’s size and complexity, the number of Independent Directors and the Board of Directors’ general oversight responsibility. The Board of Directors also believes that its leadership structure not only facilitates the orderly and efficient flow of information to the Independent Directors from management, but also enhances the independent and orderly exercise of its responsibilities.

The Board of Directors currently has four standing committees: (i) the Executive Committee; (ii) the Audit and Valuation Committee; (iii) the Nominating and Governance Committee; and (iv) the Compliance Committee. Currently, all of the non-interested directors, Messrs. Ciccotello, Strain and Woolway, are the only members of each of these committees, except for the Executive Committee.

We have an executive committee (the “Executive Committee”) consisting of one Independent Director and one “interested person” of the Fund within the meaning of the 1940 Act. The Executive Committee has authority

to exercise the powers of the Board (i) to address emergency matters where assembling the full Board in a timely manner is impracticable, or (ii) to address matters of an administrative or ministerial nature. The Executive Committee currently consists of Messrs. Ciccotello and Henson. Mr. Henson is an “interested person” of the Fund as defined by Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act. In the absence of either member of the Executive Committee, the remaining member is authorized to act alone. The Executive Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

We have an audit and valuation committee (the “Audit Committee”) consisting of the three Independent Directors. The Audit Committee: (i) approves and recommends to the Board the selection, retention or termination of the independent registered public accounting firm (“auditors”); (ii) approves services to be rendered by the auditors and monitors the auditors’ performance; (iii) reviews the results of the Fund’s audit; (iv) determines whether to recommend to the Board that our audited financial statements be included in the Fund’s Annual Report; and (v) responds to other matters as outlined in the Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee members are Messrs. Ciccotello, Strain and Woolway. Mr. Ciccotello serves as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Ciccotello is an “audit committee financial expert.” In addition to his experience overseeing or assessing the performance of companies or public accountants with respect to the preparation, auditing or evaluation of financial statements, Mr. Ciccotello has a Ph.D. in finance. The Audit Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

We have a nominating and governance committee (the “Nominating Committee”) that consists exclusively of the three Independent Directors. Our Nominating Committee operates under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board. The Nominating Committee: (i) identifies individuals qualified to become Board members and recommends to the Board the director nominees for the next annual meeting of stockholders and to fill any vacancies; (ii) monitors the structure and membership of Board committees and recommends to the Board director nominees for each committee; (iii) reviews issues and developments related to corporate governance issues and develops and recommends to the Board corporate governance guidelines and procedures, to the extent necessary or desirable; (iv) has the sole authority to retain and terminate any search firm used to identify director candidates and to approve the search firm’s fees and other retention terms, though it has yet to exercise such authority; and (v) may not delegate its authority. The Nominating Committee will consider stockholder recommendations for nominees for membership to the Board so long as such recommendations are made in accordance with our bylaws, amended from time to time (“Bylaws”). Nominees recommended by stockholders in compliance with our Bylaws will be evaluated on the same basis as other nominees considered by the Nominating Committee. Our Bylaws require all nominees for directors, at the time of nomination, (1) to be at least 21 and less than 75 years of age and have substantial expertise, experience or relationships relevant to the business of the Fund, or (2) to be a current director of the Fund that has not reached 75 years of age. The Nominating Committee has the sole discretion to determine if an individual satisfies the foregoing qualifications. The Nominating Committee also considers the broad background of each individual nominee for director, including how such individual would impact the diversity of the Board, but does not have a formal policy regarding consideration of diversity in identifying nominees for director. The Nominating Committee members are Messrs. Ciccotello, Strain and Woolway. Mr. Woolway serves as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee met one time during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

We also have a compliance committee (the “Compliance Committee”) that consists exclusively of the three Independent Directors. Our Compliance Committee operates under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board. The Compliance Committee reviews and assesses management’s compliance with applicable securities laws, rules and regulations; monitors compliance with our Code of Ethics; and handles other matters as the Board or committee chair deems appropriate. The Compliance Committee members are Messrs. Ciccotello, Strain and Woolway. Mr. Strain serves as the Chairman of the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee met one time during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023.

The Board of Directors’ role in our risk oversight reflects its responsibility under applicable state law to oversee generally, rather than to manage, our operations. In line with this oversight responsibility, the Board of

Directors will receive reports and makes inquiry at its regular meetings and as needed regarding the nature and extent of significant risks (including investment, compliance and valuation risks) that potentially could have a materially adverse impact on our business operations, investment performance or reputation, but relies upon our management to assist it in identifying and understanding the nature and extent of such risks and determining whether, and to what extent, such risks may be eliminated or mitigated. In addition to reports and other information received from our management regarding our investment program and activities, the Board of Directors as part of its risk oversight efforts will meet at its regular meetings and as needed with our Adviser's Chief Compliance Officer to discuss, among other things, risk issues and issues regarding our policies, procedures and controls. The Board of Directors may be assisted in performing aspects of its role in risk oversight by the Audit Committee and such other standing or special committees as may be established from time to time. For example, the Audit Committee regularly meets with our independent public accounting firm to review, among other things, reports on our internal controls for financial reporting.

The Board of Directors believes that not all risks that may affect us can be identified, that it may not be practical or cost-effective to eliminate or mitigate certain risks, that it may be necessary to bear certain risks (such as investment-related risks) to achieve our goals and objectives, and that the processes, procedures and controls employed to address certain risks may be limited in their effectiveness. Moreover, reports received by the directors as to risk management matters are typically summaries of relevant information and may be inaccurate or incomplete. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, the risk management oversight of the Board of Directors is subject to substantial limitations.

Directors and officers who are interested persons of ours will receive no salary or fees from us. For the 2024 fiscal year, each Independent Director will receive from us an annual retainer in the amount of \$34,000. No director or officer is entitled to receive pension or retirement benefits from us.

The fees and expenses of the Independent Directors of the Fund are paid by the Fund. The Interested Director receives no compensation from the Fund. The Fund's officers do not receive compensation from the Fund. The following table sets forth compensation received by the Independent Directors for the fiscal period ended September 30, 2023.

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</u>	<u>Total Compensation from the Fund and Fund Complex Paid to Board Members</u>
<b>Independent Directors</b>		
Conrad S. Ciccotello . . . . .	\$34,000	\$156,000
Allen R. Strain . . . . .	\$34,000	\$ 34,000
John G. Woolway . . . . .	\$34,000	\$ 34,000
<b>Interested Directors</b>		
Gary Henson . . . . .	\$ 0	\$ 0

The following table sets forth the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each director in all funds overseen by the director as of December 31, 2023.

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Fund Securities Beneficially Owned By Director<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Director in Family of Investment Companies<sup>(1)</sup></u>
<b>Independent Directors</b>		
Conrad S. Ciccotello . . . . .	None	Over \$100,000
Allen R. Strain . . . . .	None	None
John G. Woolway . . . . .	None	None

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Fund Securities Beneficially Owned By Director<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in all Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Director in Family of Investment Companies<sup>(1)</sup></u>
<b>Interested Directors</b>		
Gary Henson .....	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000

(1) Dollar ranges are as follows: none; \$1–\$10,000; \$10,001–\$50,000; \$50,001–\$100,000; or over \$100,000.

As of December 31, 2023, the officers and directors of the Fund, as a group, owned less than 1% of any class of the Fund’s outstanding shares of stock.

**Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty that is established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. The Registrant’s charter contains such a provision that limits present and former directors’ and officers’ liability to the Registrant and its stockholders for money damages to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, subject to the 1940 Act.

Our charter (the “Charter”) authorizes, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and the 1940 Act, us to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director or officer of ours and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee, from and against any claim or liability to which that person may become subject or which that person may incur by reason of his or her status as a present or former director or officer of ours or as a present or former director, officer, partner or trustee of another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, and to pay or reimburse his or her reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding. Our Bylaws obligate us, to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law to indemnify any present or former director or officer or any individual who, while a director of ours and at our request, serves or has served another corporation, real estate investment trust, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee and who is made, or threatened to be made, a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity from and against any claim or liability to which that person may become subject or which that person may incur by reason of his or her status as a present or former director or officer of ours and to pay or reimburse his or her reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding. Our obligation to indemnify any director, officer or other individual, however, is limited by the 1940 Act which prohibits us from indemnifying any director, officer or other individual from any liability resulting from the willful misconduct, bad faith, gross negligence in the performance of duties or reckless disregard of applicable obligations and duties of the directors, officers or other individuals. To the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law and the 1940 Act, our Charter and Bylaws also permit us to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of ours in any of the capacities described above and any employee or agent of ours or a predecessor of ours.

Maryland law requires a corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which the Registrant’s charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. Maryland law permits a corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made, or threatened to be made, a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that (a) the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the

matter giving rise to the proceeding and (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty, (b) the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services or (c) in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful. However, under Maryland law, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In addition, Maryland law permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer upon the corporation's receipt of (a) a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation and (b) a written undertaking by him or her or on his or her behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the standard of conduct was not met.

### **Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser**

We have entered into an investment advisory agreement with Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. (the "Adviser"), a registered investment adviser, pursuant to which it will serve as our investment adviser (the "Advisory Agreement"). The initial advisory agreement was approved by our Board of Directors on February 12, 2018 and effective March 16, 2018. The basis for the Board of Directors' initial approval of the initial advisory agreement was provided in our initial semi-annual report to common stockholders. On January 1, 2020, Tortoise Credit Strategies, LLC ("TCS"), the former investment adviser of the Fund, was internally restructured and TCS's private sustainable infrastructure team became part of the Adviser, an entity under common control with TCS. In connection with this restructuring, the Adviser replaced TCS as the investment adviser of the Fund and as a party to the investment advisory agreement with the Fund. The Adviser currently serves as the registered investment adviser to other registered closed-end funds. Effective September 4, 2020, Ecofin Advisors, LLC (the "Sub-Adviser" or "Ecofin") became our sub-adviser. The Adviser has delegated certain responsibilities for managing our investments to the Sub-Adviser, including managing the assets of the Fund in accordance with the Fund's investment objectives, policies, and restrictions, subject to the oversight of the Board and supervision of the Adviser. The appointment of the Sub-Adviser was approved by the Board of Directors on September 4, 2020. The Adviser and Sub-Adviser entered into a sub-advisory agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement") dated September 4, 2020. The addition of the Sub-Adviser does not impact the management and personnel providing investment advisory services to the Fund or the overall investment advisory services provided to the Fund.

The initial Advisory Agreement was renewed by our Board of Directors. Unless terminated earlier as described below, the Advisory Agreement between the Fund and the Adviser, and the Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, will continue in effect through December 31, 2024 and will remain in effect from year to year thereafter if approved annually by our Board of Directors or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding voting securities, and in either case, upon approval by a majority of our directors who are not interested persons or parties to the Advisory Agreement or the Sub-Advisory Agreement. The basis for subsequent continuations of the Advisory Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement will be provided in annual or semi-annual reports to stockholders for the periods during which such continuations occur.

The principal business address of our Adviser is 6363 College Boulevard, Suite 100A, Overland Park, Kansas 66211. Our Adviser specializes in essential assets. Our Adviser was formed in 2002.

Our Adviser and Sub-Adviser are indirectly controlled by Lovell Minnick Partners LLC ("Lovell Minnick") and wholly-owned by TortoiseEcofin. A vehicle formed by Lovell Minnick and owned by certain private funds sponsored by Lovell Minnick and a group of institutional co-investors owns a controlling interest in TortoiseEcofin.

The Adviser had \$6.9 billion, and the Sub-Adviser had \$600.4 million, assets under management as of December 31, 2023, respectively.

In addition to portfolio management services, our Adviser is obligated to supply our Board and officers with certain statistical information and reports, to oversee the maintenance of various books and records and to arrange for the preservation of records in accordance with applicable federal law and regulations. Under the Advisory Agreement, we pay the Adviser quarterly, as compensation for the services rendered by it, a fee equal on an annual basis to 1.25% of our daily Managed Assets. "Managed Assets" means total assets (including any assets attributable to any leverage that may be outstanding) minus the sum of accrued liabilities (other than debt representing financial leverage and the aggregate liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred stock). The Adviser will pay the Sub-Adviser a fee on an annual basis of 1.05% of the daily Managed Assets allocated to the Sub-Adviser. We will not pay any direct fee to the Sub-Adviser. The fees are payable for each calendar quarter within five days after the end of that quarter.

Because the management fees paid to our Adviser are based upon a percentage of our Managed Assets, fees paid to our Adviser are higher when we are leveraged; thus, our Adviser will have an incentive to leverage us. Our Adviser intends to leverage us only when it believes it will serve the best interests of our stockholders. The fees are payable for each calendar quarter within five days after the end of that quarter.

The Advisory Agreement provides that we will pay all expenses other than those expressly stated to be payable by our Adviser, which expenses payable by us will include, without implied limitation: (1) expenses of maintaining and continuing our existence and related overhead, including, to the extent services are provided by personnel of our Adviser or its affiliates, office space and facilities, training and benefits, (2) commissions, spreads, fees and other expenses connected with the acquisition, holding and disposition of securities and other investments, including placement and similar fees in connection with direct placements entered into on our behalf, (3) auditing, accounting, tax and legal service expenses, (4) taxes and interest, (5) governmental fees, (6) expenses of listing our shares with a stock exchange, and expenses of issue, sale, repurchase and redemption (if any) of our shares, (7) expenses of registering and qualifying us and our shares under federal and state securities laws and of preparing and filing registration statements and amendments for such purposes, (8) expenses of communicating with stockholders, including website expenses and the expenses of preparing, printing and mailing press releases, reports and other notices to stockholders and of meetings of stockholders and proxy solicitations therefor, (9) expenses of reports to governmental officers and commissions, (10) insurance expenses, (11) association membership dues, (12) fees, expenses and disbursements of custodians and subcustodians for all services to us (including without limitation safekeeping of funds, securities and other investments, keeping of books, accounts and records, and determination of net asset value), (13) fees, expenses and disbursements of transfer agents, distributions and interest paying agents, stockholder servicing agents, registrars and administrator for all services to us, (14) compensation and expenses of our directors who are not members of our Adviser's organization, (15) pricing, valuation, and other consulting or analytical services employed in considering and valuing our actual or prospective investments, (16) all expenses incurred in connection with leveraging of our assets through a line of credit or other indebtedness or issuing and maintaining notes or preferred stock, (17) all expenses incurred in connection with offerings of our common and preferred stock and debt securities including, without limitation, common shares and preferred and debt securities, (18) fees and expenses incurred in connection with our share repurchases pursuant to Rule 23c-3 under the 1940 Act, (19) such non-recurring items as may arise, including expenses incurred in connection with litigation, proceedings and claims and our obligation to indemnify our directors, officers and stockholders with respect thereto, and (20) any management fee.

The Advisory Agreement provides that our Adviser will not be liable in any way for any default, failure or defect in any of the securities comprising the portfolio if it has satisfied the duties and the standard of care, diligence and skill set forth in the Advisory Agreement. However, our Adviser will be liable to us for any loss, damage, claim, cost, charge, expense or liability resulting from our Adviser's willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence or disregard by our Adviser of our Adviser's duties or standard of care, diligence and skill set forth in the Advisory Agreement or a material breach or default of our Adviser's obligations under the Advisory Agreement.

The Advisory Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement each provides that it may be terminated by us at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by our Board of Directors or by the vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund on 60 days written notice to the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, respectively. The Sub-Advisory Agreement also provides that it may be terminated by the Adviser on 60 days written notice to the Sub-Adviser. The Sub-Advisory Agreement provides that it will terminate automatically in the event of the termination of the Advisory Agreement. The Advisory Agreement provides that it may be terminated by the Adviser, at any time, without the payment of any penalty, upon 60 days written notice to the Fund. The Sub-Advisory Agreement provides that it may be terminated by the Sub-Adviser, at any time, without the payment of any penalty, upon 60 days written notice. Each of the Advisory Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement also provides that it will automatically terminate in the event of an “assignment” (as defined in the 1940 Act).

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, for the period ended September 30, 2023, the Fund paid the Adviser \$1,838,182, for the period ended September 30, 2022, the Fund paid the Adviser \$2,553,970, for the period ended September 30, 2021, the Fund paid the Adviser \$2,712,866, and for the period ended September 30, 2020, the Fund paid the Adviser \$2,783,071.

### **Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Arrangement**

Pursuant to an Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement, through February 28, 2023, the Adviser has agreed to reimburse expenses of the Fund so that certain of the Fund’s expenses (“Specified Expenses”) will not exceed 0.25% of daily Managed Assets (annualized). The Fund has agreed to repay these amounts, when and if requested by the Adviser, but only if and to the extent that Specified Expenses are less than 0.25% of daily Managed Assets (annualized) (or, if a lower expense limit is then in effect, such lower limit) within the three-year period after the Adviser bears the expense; provided, however, that the Adviser may recapture a Specified Expense in the same year it is incurred. “Specified Expenses” is defined to include all expenses incurred in the business of the Fund, including organizational and certain offering costs, with the exception of (i) any management fee, (ii) any distribution fee, (iii) brokerage costs, (iv) dividend/interest payments (including any dividend payments, interest expenses, commitment fees, or other expenses related to any leverage incurred by the Fund), (v) taxes, and (vi) extraordinary expenses (as determined in the sole discretion of the Adviser).

### **Private Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Committee**

The Private Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Committee (the “PSIIC”) oversees the construction and investment of all private sustainable infrastructure portfolios as well as evaluates the private sustainable infrastructure market environment for the purpose of making recommendations pertaining to portfolio strategies, themes and risk characteristics. As such, the PSIIC reviews the overall investment process, procedures and practices necessary to ensure the portfolios are in compliance with portfolio investment guidelines and company investment outlooks.

The PSIIC will also be responsible for reviewing and monitoring the investment activities and determining allocations (pursuant to the Adviser’s and the Sub-Adviser’s allocation policy) of all private sustainable infrastructure securities. The members of the PSIIC have the following years of experience: Brent Newcomb–20 years, David Sifford–24 years, Gary P. Henson–33 years and P. Bradley Adams–39 years.

In addition, the Private Sustainable Infrastructure Credit Committee, a related committee of the PSIIC, reviews, evaluates, approves and monitors directly originated private sustainable infrastructure investments. The Private Sustainable Infrastructure Credit Committee is composed of David Sifford, Edward Russell, Maneesh Jhunjhunwala, Matthew Sallee and Stephen Pang.

Subject to the oversight of our Board of Directors and pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the PSIIC is responsible for the day to day operations of the Fund, including executing investment decisions as well as managing and monitoring investments.

The following table provides information about the number of and total assets in other accounts managed on a day-to-day basis by each member of the PSIIC as of September 30, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

<u>Name of Manager</u>	<u>Number of Accounts</u>	<u>Total Assets of Accounts</u>	<u>Number of Accounts Paying a Performance Fee</u>	<u>Total Assets of Accounts Paying a Performance Fee</u>
<b>Brent Newcomb</b>				
Registered Investment Companies . . . .	0	\$ 0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles . . . .	5	\$216,950,060	0	\$0
Other Accounts . . . . .	4	\$107,794,748	0	\$0
<b>Gary P. Henson</b>				
Registered Investment Companies . . . .	0	\$ 0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles . . . .	5	\$216,950,060	0	\$0
Other Accounts . . . . .	4	\$107,794,748	0	\$0
<b>David Sifford</b>				
Registered Investment Companies . . . .	1	\$ 53,317,608	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles . . . .	5	\$216,950,060	0	\$0
Other Accounts . . . . .	4	\$107,794,748	0	\$0
<b>P. Bradley Adams</b>				
Registered Investment Companies . . . .	0	\$ 0	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles . . . .	5	\$216,950,060	0	\$0
Other Accounts . . . . .	4	\$107,794,748	0	\$0

The members of the PSIIC do not receive any direct compensation from the Fund or any other of the managed accounts reflected in the table above. The compensation strategy is to offer competitive earnings for like positions in the investment adviser industry. Each of Messrs. Newcomb, Henson, Sifford and Adams receives a base salary for the services he provides and is also eligible for an annual bonus. The annual bonus is discretionary. A portion of the bonus amount may be deferred for certain key employees and may increase over a defined vesting period based on a measured rate of return tied to the applicable entity's performance. Additional benefits received by Messrs. Sifford, Newcomb, Henson, and Adams are normal and customary employee benefits generally available to all full-time employees. Each of Messrs. Newcomb, Henson, Sifford and Adams owns an equity interest in TortoiseEcofin, which indirectly wholly owns the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, and each thus benefits from increases in the net income of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser.

The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities owned by the members of the PSIIC in the Fund as of September 30, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

<u>Name of Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Brent Newcomb . . . . .	None
Gary P. Henson . . . . .	\$100,001–\$500,000
David Sifford . . . . .	None
P. Bradley Adams . . . . .	\$50,001–\$100,000

(1) Dollar ranges are as follows: none; \$1–\$10,000; \$10,001–\$50,000; \$50,001–\$100,000; \$100,001–\$500,000; \$500,001–\$1,000,000; or over \$1,000,000.

### Conflicts of Interest

Common Shareholders should be aware that there will be occasions when the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may encounter potential conflicts of interest in connection with the Fund. If any matter arises that the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser determines in its good faith judgment constitutes an actual conflict of interest, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may take such actions as it determines may be necessary or appropriate, within the context of the Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and the Registrant, or the sub-advisory agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser relating to the Fund, to ameliorate the conflict. There can be no assurance that the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser will identify or resolve all conflicts of interest in a manner that is favorable to the Fund. The

following discussion enumerates certain potential conflicts of interest, which should be carefully evaluated before making an investment in the Fund.

*Other Fees.* The Adviser and its affiliates, including the Sub-Adviser, may be entitled to receive cash and non-cash commitment, break-up, monitoring, directors', organizational, set-up, advisory, investment banking, underwriting, syndication and other similar fees in connection with the purchase, monitoring or disposition of investments or from un consummated transactions, including warrants, options, derivatives and other rights in respect of securities owned by the Fund. The Common Shareholders will not receive any benefit from fees that are (i) paid to the Adviser or any of its affiliates, including the Sub-Adviser, from an issuer in which the Fund or another investment fund has an interest and (ii) applied in whole or in part to offset management fees payable by holders in such other investment fund, and such fees will not offset any management fees payable by Common Shareholders.

Moreover, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser and their personnel may receive certain intangible and/or other benefits and/or perquisites arising or resulting from their activities on behalf of the Fund which will also not be subject to any offset against the management fee or otherwise shared with the Fund, its Common Shareholders and/or the issuers. For example, airline travel or hotel stays incurred as Fund expenses typically result in "miles" or "points" or credit in loyalty/status programs, and such benefits and/or amounts will, whether or not de minimis or difficult to value, inure exclusively to the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser and/or such personnel (and not the Fund, its Common Shareholders and/or the issuers) even though the cost of the underlying service is borne by the Fund and/or the issuers.

*Other Activities of Management.* Adviser and Sub-Adviser personnel (including investment team members of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser and members of the PSIIC) will devote such time as shall be reasonably necessary to conduct the business affairs of the Fund in an appropriate manner. Adviser and Sub-Adviser personnel will work on the business and operation of the Adviser and Sub-Adviser, respectively, and other projects, including other investment funds, managed accounts and other vehicles, and, therefore, conflicts exist in the allocation of resources in connection with such other activities, including due to internal policies such as policies with regards to information barriers and compliance with applicable law and regulation. The Fund will have no interest in other investments, funds, vehicles, accounts or other matters and it is possible that the investments held by such funds, vehicles and accounts may be in competition with those of the Fund. In this regard, for example, portfolio managers and members of the PSIIC devote a substantial amount of their business time to the affairs of the Adviser's other funds and operations.

*Allocation of Investment Opportunities with Other Vehicles; Conflicting Fiduciary Duties to Other Collective Investment Vehicles.* As a general matter, there can be no assurances that all investment opportunities identified by the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser will be made available to the Fund. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser are able to make certain private investments outside the Fund. Consistent with the foregoing, the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser expect, from time to time, to be presented with investment opportunities that fall within the investment objective of the Fund and other Adviser or the Sub-Adviser-sponsored investment funds, vehicles and accounts, joint ventures and similar partnerships or arrangements including, without limitation, co-invest funds, any successor fund to the Fund and registered investment companies, in each case, whether now existing or established in the future (collectively, "Other Accounts"), and in such circumstances, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser will allocate such opportunities (including any related co-investment opportunities) to the Fund and Other Accounts (including, without limitation, an allocation of 100% of such an opportunity to such Other Accounts) on a basis that the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser determines in its sole discretion to be fair and reasonable in accordance with the Adviser's or the Sub-Adviser's allocation policy and procedures. In this regard, the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser currently serve as investment adviser for Other Accounts with investment objectives that overlap with the Fund's investment objective, and the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may establish additional Other Accounts with investment objectives, mandates and policies that are substantially similar to those of the Fund. The Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may allocate investment opportunities to such Other Accounts, and such Other Accounts may compete with the Fund for specific transactions. The Adviser or the

Sub-Adviser may consider the tax consequences of an investment in the Fund and in Other Accounts, and may determine to allocate all or a larger portion of an investment opportunity than it otherwise would to the Fund or Other Account if it determines that the tax character of the investment is better suited for the Fund or Other Account, as applicable.

The Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may give advice and recommend securities to, or buy or sell securities for, the Fund, which advice or securities may differ from advice given to, or securities recommended or bought or sold for, Other Accounts, even though their investment objectives may be the same as, or similar to, the Fund's objectives. There may be times when an investment is suitable for the Fund, but the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser allocates the opportunity to Other Accounts because the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser determines the investment opportunity is more appropriate for such Other Account's mandate.

From time to time, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may seed proprietary accounts for the purpose of evaluating a new investment strategy that eventually may be available to Common Shareholders through one or more product structures. Such accounts may also serve the purpose of establishing a performance record for the strategy. The Adviser's or the Sub-Adviser's management of accounts with proprietary interests and non-proprietary client accounts may create an incentive to favor the proprietary accounts in the allocation of investment opportunities, and the timing and aggregation of investments. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser have adopted various policies to mitigate these conflicts, including policies that require the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser to avoid favoring any account. The Adviser's and the Sub-Adviser's policies also require transactions in proprietary accounts to be placed after client transactions.

*Co-Investment Opportunities.* As a registered investment company under the 1940 Act, the Fund is subject to certain limitations relating to co-investments and joint transactions with affiliates, which likely will in certain circumstances limit the Fund's ability to make investments or enter into other transactions alongside the Other Accounts. There can be no assurance that such regulatory restrictions will not adversely affect the Fund's ability to capitalize on attractive investment opportunities. However, subject to the 1940 Act, the Fund may co-invest with Other Accounts (including co-investment or other vehicles in which the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or their personnel invest and that co-invest with such Other Accounts) in investments that are suitable for the Fund one or more of such Other Accounts. Even if the Fund and any such Other Accounts and/or co-investment or other vehicles invest in the same securities, conflicts of interest may still arise.

The Fund has received an exemptive order from the SEC that permits it, among other things, to co-invest with certain Other Accounts, subject to terms and conditions. Such order may restrict the Fund's ability to enter into follow-on investments or other transactions. Pursuant to such order, the Fund may co-invest in a negotiated deal with certain affiliates of the Adviser or Other Accounts, subject to terms and conditions. The Fund may also receive an allocation in such a deal alongside affiliates pursuant to other mechanisms to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act.

*Investments in Which Another Fund Has a Different Principal Investment.* Subject to the limitation of the 1940 Act, the Fund may make investments in issuers in which affiliated investment funds, vehicles or separately managed accounts have or are concurrently making a different principal investment at the time of the Fund's investment, and investment funds that have been or may be formed by TortoiseEcofin may invest in issuers in which the Fund has made an investment. In such situations, the Fund and such other affiliated investment funds may have conflicting interests (e.g., over the terms of their respective investments). If the issuer in which the Fund holds a debt investment and in which an affiliate has a different principal investment becomes distressed or defaults on its obligations under such investment, the Fund will be limited in what actions it can take. In that regard, actions may be taken for the other entities that are adverse to the Fund. In addition, conflicts may arise in determining the amount of an investment, if any, to be allocated among the potential Common Shareholders and the respective terms thereof. There can be no assurance that the return on the Fund's investments will be equivalent to or better than the returns obtained by the other affiliates participating in the transaction. It is possible that in a bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceeding the Fund's interest may be subordinated or otherwise adversely affected by virtue of the involvement and actions of an affiliate relating to its investment.

*Personnel.* The Adviser and its affiliates, including the Sub-Adviser, from time to time hire short-term or long-term personnel (or interns) who may be relatives of or are otherwise associated with an investor, issuer or a service provider. Although reasonable efforts are made to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest with respect to each particular situation, there is no guarantee that the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser can control for all such potential conflicts of interest, and there may continue to be an ongoing appearance of a conflict of interest.

*Policies and Procedures.* Policies and procedures implemented by the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser from time to time (including as may be implemented in the future) to mitigate potential conflicts of interest and address certain regulatory requirements and contractual restrictions may reduce the synergies across TortoiseEcofin's areas of operation or expertise that the Fund expects to draw on for purposes of pursuing attractive investment opportunities. The information, which could be of benefit to the Fund, might become restricted to certain business units within TortoiseEcofin and otherwise be unavailable to the Fund. The Adviser and Sub-Adviser may implement certain policies and procedures that may reduce the positive synergies that TortoiseEcofin seeks to cultivate across its businesses. Additionally, the terms of confidentiality or other agreements with or related to companies in which the Adviser or Sub-Adviser has made or has considered making an investment or which is otherwise an advisory client may restrict or otherwise limit the ability of the Fund and/or its issuers and their affiliates to make investments in or otherwise engage in businesses or activities competitive with such issuers. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser may enter into one or more strategic relationships in certain regions or with respect to certain types of investments that, although may be intended to provide greater opportunities for the Fund, may require the Fund to share such opportunities or otherwise limit the amount of an opportunity the Fund can otherwise take.

*Valuation Matters.* The fair value of all investments, of property received in exchange for any Investments, assets and liabilities will be determined by the Adviser in accordance with the Fund's Fair Valuation Policy and Procedures. Accordingly, the carrying value of an investment may not reflect the price at which such investment could be sold in the market, and the difference between carrying value and the ultimate sales price could be material. Valuations are subject to determinations, judgments and opinions and other third parties or Common Shareholders may disagree with such valuations. The valuation of investments will affect the amount of management fees payable to the Adviser.

*Additional Potential Conflicts.* The officers, directors, members, managers and employees of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser may trade in securities for their own accounts, subject to restrictions and reporting requirements as may be required by law or otherwise determined from time to time by the Adviser. For the avoidance of doubt, the Fund may sell investments to any third party, including Common Shareholders in the Fund and other Common Shareholders in investment vehicles managed or sponsored by the Adviser or Sub-Adviser.

*Service Providers.* Certain service providers, or their affiliates (including accountants, administrators, lenders, bankers, brokers, attorneys, consultants, investment or commercial banking firms and certain other advisors and agents) to the Fund, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or their issuers provide goods or services to or have business, personal, political, financial or other relationships with the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser. Such service providers may be Common Shareholders in the Fund, affiliates of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, sources of investment opportunities or co-Common Shareholders or counterparties therewith. These relationships may influence the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser in deciding whether to select or recommend such a service provider to perform services for the Fund or an issuer (the cost of which will generally be borne directly or indirectly by the Fund or such issuer, as applicable).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, investment transactions for the Fund that require the use of a service provider will generally be allocated to service providers on the basis of the Adviser's or the Sub-Adviser's judgment as to best execution, the evaluation of which includes, among other considerations, such service provider's provision of certain investment-related services that the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser believes to be of benefit to the Fund. In certain circumstances, advisors and service providers, or their affiliates, may charge

different rates or have different arrangements for services provided to TortoiseEcofin, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or their affiliates as compared to services provided to the Fund and its issuers, which may result in more favorable rates or arrangements than those payable by the Fund or such issuers.

### **Code of Ethics**

We, our Adviser and the Sub-Adviser have each adopted a Code of Ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act (collectively, the “Codes of Ethics”), which is applicable to officers, directors and designated employees of ours, our Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, and subject to certain limitations, the Codes of Ethics permit those officers, directors and designated employees (“Covered Persons”) to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by us. The Codes of Ethics contain provisions and requirements designed to identify and address certain conflicts of interest between personal investment activities of Covered Persons and the interests of investment advisory clients such as ours. Among other things, the Codes of Ethics prohibit certain types of transactions absent prior approval, imposes time periods during which personal transactions may not be made in certain securities, and requires submission of duplicate broker confirmations and statements and quarterly reporting of securities transactions. Exceptions to these and other provisions of the Codes of Ethics may be granted in particular circumstances after review by appropriate personnel.

The Codes of Ethics are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC’s Internet site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), and, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov). The Codes of Ethics are also available on our website at [www.tortoiseecofin.com](http://www.tortoiseecofin.com).

## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

### Execution of Portfolio Transactions

Our Adviser is responsible for decisions to buy and sell securities for us, broker-dealer selection, negotiation of brokerage commission rates and management of our covered call strategy. Our Adviser's primary consideration in effecting a security transaction will be to obtain the best execution. In selecting a broker-dealer to execute each particular transaction, our Adviser will initially consider its ability to execute transactions at the most favorable prices and lowest overall execution costs, while also taking into consideration other relevant factors, such as the reliability, integrity and financial condition of the broker-dealer, the size of and difficulty in executing the order and the quality of execution and custodial services. The determinative factor is not necessarily the lowest possible transaction cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution for us. Our Adviser periodically evaluates the execution performance of brokers executing its transactions. Our Adviser does not adhere to any rigid formulas in making the selection of the applicable broker-dealer, but weighs a combination of the criteria discussed above.

Our Adviser receives research from some of the brokers with which our Adviser places trades on the Fund's behalf. Research or other services paid for through broker commissions may or may not be useful in servicing our account. To this effect, broker-dealer trade volumes are periodically reviewed to verify such activity is not excessive or materially impactful to us.

We may, from time to time, enter into arrangements with placement agents in connection with direct placement transactions. In evaluating placement agent proposals, our Adviser will consider each broker's access to issuers of essential asset company securities and experience in essential asset markets, particularly the direct placement market. In addition to these factors, our Adviser will consider whether the proposed services are customary, whether the proposed fee schedules are within the range of customary rates, whether any proposal would obligate us to enter into transactions involving a minimum fee, dollar amount or volume of securities, or into any transaction whatsoever, and other terms such as indemnification provisions.

Subject to such policies as the Board may from time to time determine, our Adviser will not be deemed to have acted unlawfully or to have breached any duty solely by reason of its having caused us to pay a broker or dealer that provides brokerage and research services to our Adviser an amount of commission for effecting an investment transaction in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for effecting that transaction, if our Adviser determines in good faith that such amount of commission was reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided by such broker or dealer, viewed in terms of either that particular transaction or the overall responsibilities of our Adviser with respect to us and to other clients of our Adviser as to which our Adviser exercises investment discretion. Our Adviser is further authorized to allocate the orders placed by it on our behalf to such brokers and dealers who also provide research or statistical material or other services to us or our Adviser. Such allocation will be in such amounts and proportions as our Adviser will determine and our Adviser will report on said allocations regularly to our Board of Directors indicating the brokers to whom such allocations have been made and the basis therefor.

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Fund did not pay any brokerage commissions. During the same period, the Fund did not pay any brokerage commissions to any broker that is an affiliated person of the Fund, is an affiliated person of an affiliated person of the Fund, or has an affiliated person that is an affiliated person of the Fund, the Adviser or Quasar Distributors, LLC, the principal underwriter and distributor of the Fund's Common Shares. During the same period, the Fund did not acquire securities of its regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act) or their parent companies.

### Portfolio Turnover

Our annual portfolio turnover rate may vary greatly from year to year. We may, but under normal conditions, do not intend to, engage in frequent and active trading of portfolio securities.

Although we cannot accurately predict our portfolio turnover rate, we expect to maintain relatively low turnover of our core investment portfolio following our initial investment period of approximately one year. As such, on an overall basis, our annual turnover rate may exceed 50%. A high turnover rate involves greater trading costs to us and may result in greater realization of taxable capital gains.

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 24%.

### CONTROL PERSONS

A control person is a person who owns, either directly or indirectly, beneficially more than 25% of the voting securities of a company. Such person may be able to determine or significantly influence the outcome of matters submitted to a vote of the Fund’s shareholders. As of December 31, 2023, the Fund did not know of any person or entity who “controlled” the Fund.

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or is known by the Fund to own of record or beneficially 5% or more of any class of Common Shares. Except as noted below in the table, to the Fund’s knowledge, no persons own of record 5% or more of any class of the Fund’s shares, and no person is reflected on the books and records of the Fund as owning beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of any class of the Fund as of December 31, 2023 based on Common Shares outstanding.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Number of Fund Common Shares</u>	<u>Percent of Class</u>
<b>Charles Schwab &amp; Co., Inc.</b> Special Custody A/C FBO Customers Attn: Mutual Funds 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1905 .....	7,760,413.58	53.67%
<b>National Financial Services LLC</b> 499 Washington Blvd, 4th FL Jersey City, NJ 07310-1995 .....	6,476,497.64	44.79%

As of December 31, 2023, the directors and officers of the Fund as a group owned less than 1% of the Fund’s Common Shares.

## DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

The price of the Fund's Common Shares is based on the NAV. The NAV of the Common Shares is calculated by dividing the total assets of the class, less the liabilities of the class, by the number of shares outstanding of the class. The Fund's NAV is calculated at the close of regular trading of the NYSE, which is generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time. The NAV will not be calculated nor may investors purchase or redeem Fund shares on days that the NYSE is closed for trading, even though certain Fund securities (i.e., foreign or debt securities) may trade on days the NYSE is closed, and such trading may materially affect the NAV of the Fund's Common Shares.

The Fund's assets are generally valued at their market price using valuations provided by independent pricing services. When market quotations are not readily available, a security or other asset is valued at its fair value. In accordance with Rule 2a-5, which permits a fund's board to delegate fair value determinations to the fund's adviser, the Board has designated the Adviser as the valuation designee to perform fair value determinations related to the Fund's investments, subject to the Board's oversight and periodic reporting requirements. Any investments and other assets for which such current market quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value ("Fair Valued Assets") as determined in good faith by the Adviser under procedures established by, and under the general supervision and responsibility of, the Board. The pricing of all Fair Valued Assets and determinations thereof shall be reported by the Adviser as valuation designee to the Board at each regularly scheduled quarterly meeting.

When fair value pricing is employed, security prices that the Fund uses to calculate its NAV may differ from quoted or published prices for the same securities. Due to the subjective and variable nature of fair value pricing, it is possible that the fair value determined for a particular security may be materially different (higher or lower) than the price of the security quoted or published by others, the value when trading resumes, and/or the value realized upon the security's sale. Therefore, if a shareholder purchases or redeems Fund shares when the Fund holds securities priced at a fair value, the number of shares purchased or redeemed may be higher or lower than it would be if the Fund were using market value pricing.

Certain foreign securities may be valued at intraday market values in such foreign markets. Additionally, in the case of foreign securities, the occurrence of certain events (such as a significant surge or decline in the U.S. or other markets) after the close of foreign markets, but prior to the time the Fund's NAV is calculated will often result in an adjustment to the trading prices of foreign securities when foreign markets open on the following business day. If such events occur, the Fund will value foreign securities at fair value, taking into account such events, in calculating the NAV. In such cases, use of fair value pricing can reduce an investor's ability to profit by estimating each affected Fund's NAV in advance of the time the NAV is calculated. The Fund's investments in smaller or medium capitalization companies and certain debt securities are more likely to require a fair value determination because they may be more thinly traded and less liquid than securities of larger companies. It is anticipated that the Fund's portfolio holdings will be fair valued only if market quotations for those holdings are unavailable or considered unreliable.

## TAXES

Set forth below is a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations affecting the Fund and the purchase, ownership and disposition of Common Shares. This discussion does not purport to be complete or to deal with all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to shareholders in light of their particular circumstances. Unless otherwise noted, this discussion applies only to U.S. shareholders that hold Common Shares as capital assets. For these purposes, a U.S. shareholder is an individual who is a citizen or resident of the U.S., a U.S. domestic corporation, or any other person that is subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of an investment in Common Shares. This discussion is based upon provisions of the Code, and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof. Those authorities may

be changed, perhaps retroactively, so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those summarized below. This discussion does not represent a detailed description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including, without limitation, if you are a dealer in securities or currencies, a financial institution, an insurance company, a partnership or other pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a real estate investment trust, a tax-exempt organization, a U.S. shareholder whose “functional currency” is not the U.S. dollar, a trader in securities that has elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities, a person liable for alternative minimum tax, a non-U.S. shareholder, or a person holding Common Shares as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction, constructive sale or a straddle. In addition, this discussion does not address the Medicare tax on net investment income or the effects of any state, local or non-U.S. tax laws. If you are considering the purchase of Common Shares, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences to you of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Common Shares, as well as the consequences to you arising under other U.S. federal tax laws and the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

### **Taxation of the Fund**

The Fund has elected to be treated, and intends to qualify each taxable year, as a regulated investment company (a “RIC”) under Subchapter M of the Code, and intends to satisfy conditions which will enable interest income from municipal securities, which is exempt from federal income tax in the hands of the Fund, to qualify as exempt-interest dividends when distributed to Common Shareholders.

To qualify under Subchapter M for the favorable tax treatment accorded to RICs, the Fund must, among other things: (1) distribute to its shareholders in each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its investment company taxable income (generally, its ordinary income and the excess of any net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and its tax-exempt income (reduced by certain disallowed expenses); (2) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from: (a) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including but not limited to gain from options, futures and forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or foreign currencies; and (b) net income derived from interests in certain publicly traded partnerships that are treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes and that derive less than 90% of their gross income from the items described in (a) above (each a “Qualified Publicly Traded Partnership”); and (3) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each taxable year of the Fund (a) at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. government securities and securities of other RICs, and other securities, with these other securities limited, with respect to any one issuer, to an amount not greater in value than 5% of the value of the Fund’s total assets, and to not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other RICs) of (I) any one issuer, (II) any two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses or (III) any one or more Qualified Publicly Traded Partnerships.

As a RIC, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its investment company taxable income and net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), if any, that it distributes in each taxable year to its shareholders. The Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders substantially all of its investment company taxable income and net capital gain.

A RIC that fails to distribute, by the close of each calendar year, an amount at least equal to the sum of 98% of its ordinary taxable income (not taking into account any capital gain or loss) for such calendar year and 98.2% of its capital gain net income (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one-year period generally ending on October 31 of such calendar year, plus any shortfalls from any prior year’s required distribution, is liable for a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the portion of the undistributed amounts of such income that are less than the

required percentages of such distributions. For these purposes, the Fund will be deemed to have distributed any income on which it paid federal income tax.

If the Fund failed to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded to RICs in any taxable year, the Fund would be subject to U.S. federal income tax at regular corporate rates on its taxable income, even if such income were distributed to its shareholders, and all distributions out of earnings and profits (including distributions of tax-exempt income) would be taxed to shareholders as ordinary dividend income. Such distributions generally would be eligible (i) to be treated as “qualified dividend income” in the case of individual and other non-corporate shareholders and (ii) for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders. In addition, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay taxes and make distributions (which could be subject to interest charges) before requalifying for taxation as a RIC.

## **Distributions**

The Fund intends to qualify to pay “exempt-interest dividends,” as defined under the Code, to its Common Shareholders. If, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of its total assets consists of state or local obligations described in Section 103(a) of the Code, the Fund will qualify to pay exempt-interest dividends to its Common Shareholders. An exempt-interest dividend is any dividend or part thereof (other than a capital gain dividend) paid by the Fund that is attributable to tax-exempt interest on municipal securities and that is so reported by the Fund to its shareholders. The Fund may make investments that generate income that is subject to federal income tax, including derivative instruments whose value relates to municipal securities. The Fund will not be eligible to pay exempt-interest dividends with respect to income it derives from such investments. Exempt-interest dividends will be exempt from federal income tax, subject to the possible application of the federal alternative minimum tax, as discussed below.

Distributions to Common Shareholders by the Fund of ordinary income other than tax-exempt interest, and of net short-term capital gains, if any, realized by the Fund, will be taxable to Common Shareholders as ordinary income to the extent that such distributions are paid out of the Fund’s current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes). Distributions, if any, of net capital gains (including gains realized by the Fund on the sale of municipal securities) that are properly reported by the Fund as “capital gain dividends” will be taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of the length of time the Common Shareholder has owned Common Shares of the Fund. A distribution of an amount in excess of the Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits will be treated by a Common Shareholder as a return of capital which is applied against and reduces the Common Shareholder’s basis in his or her Common Shares. To the extent that the amount of any such distribution exceeds the Common Shareholder’s basis in his or her shares, the excess will be treated by the Common Shareholder as gain from a sale or exchange of the Common Shares. Distributions paid by the Fund generally will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations or for the reduced rates applicable to certain qualified dividend income received by individuals and other non-corporate shareholders.

Distributions will be treated in the manner described above regardless of whether such distributions are paid in cash or invested in additional Common Shares of the Fund pursuant to the Plan. Common Shareholders receiving distributions in the form of additional Common Shares of the Fund will generally be treated as receiving a distribution in the amount of cash that they would have received if they had elected to receive the distribution in cash. Although dividends generally will be treated as distributed when paid, dividends declared in October, November or December, payable to Common Shareholders of record on a specified date in one of those months, and paid during the following January, will be treated as having been distributed by the Fund (and received by Common Shareholders) on December 31 of the year in which declared.

A portion of the Fund’s expenditures that would otherwise be deductible may not be allowed as deductions by reason of the Fund’s investment in municipal securities. Such disallowed portion will generally be the same percentage of the Fund’s aggregate expenses as the percentage of the Fund’s aggregate income (other than capital

gain income) that constitutes exempt-interest income from municipal securities. A similar disallowance rule also applies to interest expense paid or incurred by the Fund, if any. Such disallowed deductions, if any, will reduce the amount that the Fund can report as exempt-interest dividends by the disallowed amount. As a result, income distributions by the Fund in excess of the amount of the Fund's exempt-interest dividends may be taxable as ordinary income.

The Fund may elect to retain its net capital gain or a portion thereof for investment and be taxed at corporate rates on the amount retained. In such case, it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders, who will be treated as if each received a distribution of its pro rata share of such gain, with the result that each shareholder will (i) be required to report its pro rata share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain, (ii) receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata share of tax paid by the Fund on the gain and (iii) increase the tax basis for its shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

The Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") currently requires that a RIC that has two or more classes of stock allocate to each such class proportionate amounts of each type of its income (such as tax-exempt income, ordinary income and capital gains) based upon the percentage of total dividends paid to each class for the tax year. Accordingly, if the Fund issues preferred stock, the Fund intends to allocate exempt-interest dividends and capital gain dividends, if any, between its Common Shares and preferred stock in proportion to the total dividends paid to each class with respect to such tax year.

Shareholders will be notified annually as to the U.S. federal tax status of distributions.

Federal law imposes an alternative minimum tax with respect to individuals. Interest on certain municipal securities, such as bonds issued to make certain loans for housing purposes or to private entities (but not to certain tax-exempt organizations such as universities and non-profit hospitals) is included as an item of tax preference in determining the amount of an individual taxpayer's alternative minimum taxable income. To the extent that the Fund receives income from municipal securities subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, a portion of the dividends paid by the Fund, although otherwise exempt from federal income tax, will be taxable to Common Shareholders to the extent that their tax liability will be determined under the alternative minimum tax. The Fund will annually supply Common Shareholders with a report indicating the percentage of the Fund's income attributable to municipal securities subject to the federal alternative minimum tax.

Because the Fund may invest in private activity bonds, the interest on which is not exempt from U.S. federal income tax for investors who are "substantial users" of the facilities financed by such bonds or "related persons" of such "substantial users," the Fund may not be an appropriate investment for Common Shareholders who are considered either a "substantial user" or a "related person" within the meaning of the Code. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors on whether they would constitute "substantial users" or "related persons" before investing in the Fund.

Tax-exempt income, including exempt-interest dividends paid by the Fund, is taken into account in calculating the amount of social security and railroad retirement benefits that may be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

The Code provides that interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry assets such as Common Shares of the Fund is not deductible. Under rules used for determining when borrowed funds are considered used for the purpose of purchasing or carrying particular assets, the purchase of Common Shares may be considered to have been made with borrowed funds even though such funds are not directly traceable to the purchase of Common Shares.

The Code provides that every Common Shareholder required to file a tax return must include for information purposes on such tax return the amount of exempt-interest dividends received from the Fund during the taxable year.

## **Sale or Exchange of Common Shares**

Upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of Common Shares (except pursuant to a repurchase by the Fund, as described below), a shareholder will generally realize a capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the Common Shares. Such gain or loss will be long-term or short-term, depending upon the shareholder's holding period for the Common Shares. Generally, a shareholder's gain or loss will be a long-term gain or loss if the Common Shares have been held for more than one year. For non-corporate taxpayers, long-term capital gains are currently eligible for reduced rates of taxation.

Losses realized by a Common Shareholder on the sale, exchange or other disposition of Common Shares held for six months or less are disallowed to the extent of any distribution of exempt-interest dividends received with respect to such Common Shares and, if not disallowed, such losses are treated as long-term capital losses to the extent of any distribution of long-term capital gain received (or amounts designated as undistributed capital gains) with respect to such Common Shares. In addition, no loss will be allowed on the sale, exchange or other disposition of Common Shares if the owner acquires (including pursuant to the Plan) or enters into a contract or option to acquire securities that are substantially identical to such Common Shares within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the securities acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

The Fund intends to make quarterly offers to repurchase its outstanding Common Shares. Shareholders who tender all Common Shares held, or considered to be held, by them will be treated as having sold their shares and generally will realize a capital gain or loss. If a shareholder tenders fewer than all of its Common Shares or fewer than all Common Shares tendered are repurchased, such shareholder may be treated as having received a taxable dividend upon the tender of its Common Shares. In such a case, there is a risk that non-tendering shareholders, and shareholders who tender some but not all of their Common Shares or fewer than all of whose Common Shares are repurchased, in each case whose percentage interests in the Fund increase as a result of such tender, will be treated as having received a taxable distribution from the Fund.

Under U.S. Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to Common Shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on IRS Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a RIC are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to shareholders of most or all RICs. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

## **Nature of Fund's Investments**

Certain of the Fund's hedging and derivatives transactions are subject to special and complex U.S. federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert lower-taxed long-term capital gain into higher-taxed short-term capital gain or ordinary income, (iii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss (the deductibility of which is more limited), (iv) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (v) adversely affect the time as to when a purchase or sale of securities is deemed to occur, (vi) adversely alter the intended characterization of certain complex financial transactions and (vii) produce income that will not be treated as qualifying income for purposes of the 90% gross income test described above.

These rules could therefore affect the character, amount and timing of distributions to shareholders and the Fund's status as a RIC. The Fund will monitor its transactions and may make certain tax elections in order to mitigate the effect of these provisions.

## **Below Investment Grade Instruments**

The Fund invests in below investment grade (high yield or unrated equivalent) instruments, commonly known as “high yield” or “junk” instruments. Investments in these types of instruments may present special tax issues for the Fund. U.S. federal income tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as when the Fund may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount or market discount, when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts or worthless instruments, how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and income and whether exchanges of debt obligations in a bankruptcy or workout context are taxable. These and other issues will be addressed by the Fund, to the extent necessary, to preserve its status as a RIC and to distribute sufficient income to not become subject to U.S. federal income tax.

## **Original Issue Discount and Market Discount**

Investments by the Fund in zero coupon or other discount securities that are not tax-exempt obligations will result in income to the Fund equal to a portion of the excess of the face value of the securities over their issue price (the “original issue discount”) each year during which the Fund holds the securities, even if the Fund receives no cash interest payments. In addition, the Fund will be treated as having acquired a security with market discount if its stated redemption price at maturity (or, in the case of a security issued with original issue discount, its revised issue price) exceeds the Fund’s initial tax basis in the security by more than a statutory de minimis amount. The Fund has elected to include any market discount in its taxable income on a current basis as it accrues, instead of upon disposition of the relevant debt instrument. Original issue discount and market discount accrued on a current basis are included in determining the amount of income which the Fund must distribute to maintain its qualification for the favorable U.S. federal income tax treatment generally accorded to RICs and to avoid the payment of U.S. federal income tax and the nondeductible 4% excise tax. Because such income may not be matched by a corresponding cash distribution to the Fund, the Fund may be required to borrow money or dispose of other securities to be able to make distributions to its shareholders.

## **Currency Fluctuations**

Under Section 988 of the Code, gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the time the Fund accrues income or receivables or expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time the Fund actually collects such income or receivables or pays such liabilities are generally treated as ordinary income or loss. Similarly, gains or losses on foreign currency, foreign currency forward contracts, certain foreign currency options or futures contracts and the disposition of debt securities denominated in foreign currency, to the extent attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the acquisition and disposition dates, are also treated as ordinary income or loss.

## **Foreign Taxes**

An investment by the Fund in non-U.S. securities may be subject to non-U.S. withholding taxes. In that case, the Fund’s yield on those securities would be decreased. Shareholders will generally not be entitled to claim a credit or deduction with respect to foreign taxes paid by the Fund.

## **Preferred Stock or Borrowings**

If the Fund utilizes leverage through the issuance of preferred stock or borrowings, it may be restricted by certain covenants with respect to the declaration of, and payment of, distributions on Common Shares in certain circumstances. Limits on the Fund’s payments of distributions on Common Shares may prevent the Fund from meeting the distribution requirements described above, and may, therefore, jeopardize the Fund’s qualification for taxation as a RIC and possibly subject the Fund to the nondeductible 4% excise tax. The Fund will endeavor to avoid restrictions on its ability to make distributions.

## **Backup Withholding**

The Fund may be required to withhold from all distributions and redemption proceeds payable to U.S. shareholders who fail to provide the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification numbers or to make required certifications, or who have been notified by the IRS that they are subject to backup withholding. Certain shareholders specified in the Code generally are exempt from such backup withholding. This backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be refunded or credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES**

The Board of Directors has approved proxy voting policies and procedures ("Proxy Policies") wherein the Fund has delegated to the Adviser the responsibility for voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund as part of the Adviser's investment advisory services, subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board. The Adviser may delegate its responsibilities to a third party, including the Sub-Adviser, provided that no such delegation shall relieve the Adviser of its responsibilities and the Adviser shall retain final authority and fiduciary responsibility for such proxy voting. Notwithstanding this delegation of responsibilities, however, the Fund retains the right to vote proxies relating to its portfolio securities.

The fundamental purpose of the Proxy Policies is to ensure that each vote will be in a manner that reflects the best interest of the Fund and its stockholders, taking into account the value of the Fund's investments.

The Fund utilizes the proxy advisory services company Glass, Lewis & Co. ("Glass Lewis") to provide independent research on corporate governance, proxy and corporate responsibility issues. Accordingly, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser reviews these voting recommendations and proxies are generally voted in accordance with such recommendations. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser have adopted Glass Lewis' standard proxy voting guidelines, which are applied to all their proxy votes at the time proxy votes are submitted. The Adviser or Sub-Adviser will consider additional information that may become available regarding a particular proposal. This additional information may include an issuer's or a shareholder proponent's subsequently filed additional definitive proxy materials. Proxies are generally voted in accordance with the Adviser's or the Sub-Adviser's proxy voting guidelines; however, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may opt to override the guidelines if it is decided to be in the best interest of its clients, including the Fund and its shareholders.

The Investment Committee of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, or the Designated Individual (as defined in the Adviser's or the Sub-Adviser's policy), is responsible for monitoring the Adviser's and the Sub-Adviser's voting actions and ensuring that proxies are voted in a timely manner. Neither the Adviser nor the Sub-Adviser is responsible for voting proxies it does not receive, but will make reasonable efforts to obtain missing proxies.

The Investment Committee of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, shall implement procedures to identify and monitor potential conflicts of interest that could affect the proxy voting process, including (i) significant client relationships of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser; (ii) other potential material business relationships of the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or the Fund; and (iii) material personal and family relationships.

In absence of contrary instructions received from the applicable Investment Committee of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, or an individual designated by the applicable Investment Committee, all proxies will be voted in accordance with the Adviser's or the Sub-Adviser's guidelines.

The Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may determine not to vote a particular proxy, if the costs and burdens exceed the benefits of voting (e.g., when securities are subject to loan or to share blocking restrictions).

In certain limited circumstances, particularly in the area of structured finance, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may enter into voting agreements or other contractual obligations that govern the voting of shares or

other interests and, in such cases, will vote any shares or other interests by proxy in accordance with such agreement or obligation. In addition, where the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser determines that there are unusual costs and/or difficulties associated with voting a particular security, which more typically might be the case with respect to securities of non-U.S. issuers, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser reserves the right not to vote a security by proxy unless the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser determines that the potential benefits of voting the security exceed the expected cost. Other factors that may influence the determination not to vote a debt or equity security include if: (i) the effect on the applicable client's economic interests or the value of the account's holding is insignificant in relation to the client's account as a whole; (ii) the cost of voting the security outweighs the possible benefit to the applicable client, including, without limitation, situations where a jurisdiction imposes share blocking restrictions which may affect the ability of the account managers to effect trades in the related security; or (iii) the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser otherwise determines that it is consistent with their fiduciary obligations not to vote the security.

The Adviser or the Sub-Adviser shall use commercially reasonable efforts to determine whether a potential conflict may exist, and a potential conflict shall be deemed to exist only if one or more of the members of the applicable Investment Committee of the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser actually knew or should have known of the conflict. If a material conflict is identified, the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may (i) disclose the potential conflict to the Board of Directors and obtain consent; (ii) establish an ethical wall or other informational barrier between the persons involved in the conflict and the persons making the voting decisions; (iii) abstain from voting the proxies; or (iv) use an independent third party recommendation.

All proxies will be voted in accordance with any applicable investment restrictions of the Fund and, to the extent applicable, any resolutions or other instructions approved by the Board.

Information regarding how we vote proxies will be available to stockholders (i) without charge by calling us at (866) 362-9331 and on or through the Adviser's website at [www.tortoiseecofin.com](http://www.tortoiseecofin.com); and (ii) on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

#### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Ernst & Young LLP, 700 Nicollet Mall, Suite 500, Minneapolis, MN 55402, serves as our independent registered public accounting firm. Ernst & Young LLP provides audit and audit-related services, and tax return preparation assistance to us.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR, CUSTODIAN AND FUND ACCOUNTANT**

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("USBGFS"), 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202, serves as our administrator and provides certain back-office support such as oversight and supervision of the payment of expenses and preparation of financial statements and related schedules. USBGFS receives a fee based on the daily net assets of the Fund, subject to an annual minimum.

U.S. Bank National Association, 1555 North Rivercenter Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212, serves as our custodian.

USBGFS serves as our fund accountant.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A Registration Statement on Form N-2, including amendments thereto, relating to the shares offered hereby, has been filed by us with the SEC. The prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information do not contain

all of the information set forth in the Registration Statement, such as the exhibits and schedules thereto. For further information with respect to the Fund and the shares offered hereby, reference is made to the Registration Statement. Statements contained in the prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference. A copy of the Registration Statement may be inspected without charge at the SEC's principal office in Washington, D.C., and copies of all or any part thereof may be obtained from the SEC upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the SEC.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements and related report of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, are herein incorporated by reference from the Fund's annual report for the year ended September 30, 2023 (the "Annual Report"). The Annual Report is available upon request, without charge, by calling the Fund toll free at (866) 362-9331.

## **ECOFIN TAX-EXEMPT PRIVATE CREDIT FUND, INC.**

### **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**January 25, 2024**

## APPENDIX A – RATING OF INVESTMENTS

### DESCRIPTION OF S&P, MOODY’S AND FITCH RATINGS

**S&P Global Ratings**—A brief description of the applicable S&P Global Ratings and its affiliates (collectively, “S&P”) rating symbols and their meanings (as published by S&P) follows:

#### ISSUE CREDIT RATING DEFINITIONS

An S&P Global Ratings issue credit rating is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations, or a specific financial program (including ratings on medium-term note programs and commercial paper programs). It takes into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation and takes into account the currency in which the obligation is denominated. The opinion reflects S&P Global Ratings’ view of the obligor’s capacity and willingness to meet its financial commitments as they come due, and this opinion may assess terms, such as collateral security and subordination, which could affect ultimate payment in the event of default.

Issue credit ratings can be either long-term or short-term. Short-term issue credit ratings are generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market, typically with an original maturity of no more than 365 days. Short-term issue credit ratings are also used to indicate the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to put features on long-term obligations. We would typically assign a long-term issue credit rating to an obligation with an original maturity of greater than 365 days. However, the ratings we assign to certain instruments may diverge from these guidelines based on market practices. Medium-term notes are assigned long-term ratings.

#### Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings<sup>1</sup>

Issue credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on S&P Global Ratings’ analysis of the following considerations:

- The likelihood of payment—the capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitments on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation;
- The nature and provisions of the financial obligation, and the promise we impute; and
- The protection afforded by, and relative position of, the financial obligation in the event of a bankruptcy, reorganization, or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors’ rights.

An issue rating is an assessment of default risk, but may incorporate an assessment of relative seniority or ultimate recovery in the event of default. Junior obligations are typically rated lower than senior obligations, to reflect lower priority in bankruptcy, as noted above. (Such differentiation may apply when an entity has both senior and subordinated obligations, secured and unsecured obligations, or operating company and holding company obligations.)

<sup>1</sup> The ratings indicated herein are believed to be the most recent ratings available at the date of this Statement of Additional Information for the securities listed. Ratings are generally given to securities at the time of issuance. While the rating agencies may from time to time revise such ratings, they undertake no obligation to do so, and the ratings indicated do not necessarily represent ratings which would be given to these securities on the date of the Fund’s fiscal year end.

“AAA”	An obligation rated “AAA” has the highest rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is extremely strong.
“AA”	An obligation rated “AA” differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is very strong.
“A”	An obligation rated “A” is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is still strong.
“BBB”	An obligation rated “BBB” exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
“BB,” “B,” “CCC,” “CC,” and “C”	Obligations rated “BB,” “B,” “CCC,” “CC,” and “C” are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. “BB” indicates the least degree of speculation and “C” the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposure to adverse conditions.
“BB”	An obligation rated “BB” is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions that could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
“B”	An obligation rated “B” is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated “BB”, but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor’s capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
“CCC”	An obligation rated “CCC” is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitments on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.
“CC”	An obligation rated “CC” is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The “CC” rating is used when a default has not yet occurred, but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.
“C”	An obligation rated “C” is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment and the obligation is expected to have lower relative seniority or lower ultimate recovery compared with obligations that are rated higher.
“D”	An obligation rated “D” is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the “D” rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within five

business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The “D” rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to “D” if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring.

\*PLUS (+) OR MINUS (-)

Ratings from “AA” to “CCC” may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.

“NR”

NR indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

### **Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

“A-1”

A short-term obligation rated “A-1” is rated in the highest category by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on these obligations is extremely strong.

“A-2”

A short-term obligation rated “A-2” is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is satisfactory.

“A-3”

A short-term obligation rated “A-3” exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken an obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

“B”

A short-term obligation rated “B” is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties that could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.

“C”

A short-term obligation rated “C” is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

“D”

A short-term obligation rated “D” is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the “D” rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within any stated grace period.

However, any stated grace period longer than five business days will be treated as five business days. The “D” rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to “D” if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring.

## Active Qualifiers (Currently applied and/or outstanding)

S&P Global Ratings uses the following qualifiers that limit the scope of a rating. The structure of the transaction can require the use of a qualifier such as a “p” qualifier, which indicates the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only. A qualifier appears as a suffix and is part of the rating.

Federal deposit insurance limit: “L” qualifier	Ratings qualified with “L” apply only to amounts invested up to federal deposit insurance limits.
Principal: “p” qualifier	This suffix is used for issues in which the credit factors, the terms, or both, that determine the likelihood of receipt of payment of principal are different from the credit factors, terms or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of interest on the obligation. The “p” suffix indicates that the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only and that the interest is not rated.
Preliminary ratings: “prelim” qualifier	<p>Preliminary ratings, with the “prelim” suffix, may be assigned to obligors or obligations, including financial programs, in the circumstances described below. Assignment of a final rating is conditional on the receipt by S&amp;P Global Ratings of appropriate documentation. S&amp;P Global Ratings reserves the right not to issue a final rating. Moreover, if a final rating is issued, it may differ from the preliminary rating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations, most commonly structured and project finance issues, pending receipt of final documentation and legal opinions.</li><li>• Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations that will likely be issued upon the obligor’s emergence from bankruptcy or similar reorganization, based on late-stage reorganization plans, documentation and discussions with the obligor. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligors. These ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the reorganized or post-bankruptcy issuer as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s).</li><li>• Preliminary ratings may be assigned to entities that are being formed or that are in the process of being independently established when, in S&amp;P Global Ratings’ opinion, documentation is close to final. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligations of these entities.</li><li>• Preliminary ratings may be assigned when a previously unrated entity is undergoing a well-formulated restructuring, recapitalization, significant financing or other transformative event, generally at the point that investor or lender commitments are invited. The preliminary rating may be assigned to the entity and to its proposed obligation(s). These preliminary ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the obligor, as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s), assuming successful completion of the transformative event. Should the transformative event not occur, S&amp;P Global Ratings would likely withdraw these preliminary ratings.</li></ul>

- A preliminary recovery rating may be assigned to an obligation that has a preliminary issue credit rating.

Termination structures:  
“t” qualifier

This symbol indicates termination structures that are designed to honor their contracts to full maturity or, should certain events occur, to terminate and cash settle all their contracts before their final maturity date.

Counterparty instrument Rating:  
“cir” qualifier

This symbol indicates a counterparty instrument rating (CIR), which is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an issuer in a securitization structure with respect to a specific financial obligation to a counterparty (including interest rate swaps, currency swaps, and liquidity facilities). The CIR is determined on an ultimate payment basis; these opinions do not take into account timeliness of payment.

**Inactive qualifiers are no longer applied or outstanding.**

Contingent upon final documentation: “\*” inactive qualifier

This symbol indicated that the rating was contingent upon S&P Global Ratings’ receipt of an executed copy of the escrow agreement or closing documentation confirming investments and cash flows. Discontinued use in August 1998.

Termination of obligation to tender: “c” inactive qualifier

This qualifier was used to provide additional information to investors that the bank may terminate its obligation to purchase tendered bonds if the long-term credit rating of the issuer was lowered to below an investment-grade level and/or the issuer’s bonds were deemed taxable. Discontinued use in January 2001.

U.S. direct government securities:  
“G” inactive qualifier

The letter “G” followed the rating symbol when a fund’s portfolio consisted primarily of direct U.S. government securities.

Public information ratings:  
“pi” inactive qualifier

This qualifier was used to indicate ratings that were based on an analysis of an issuer’s published financial information, as well as additional information in the public domain. Such ratings did not, however, reflect in-depth meetings with an issuer’s management and therefore could have been based on less comprehensive information than ratings without a “pi” suffix. Discontinued use as of December 2014 and as of August 2015 for Lloyd’s Syndicate Assessments.

Provisional ratings:  
“pr” inactive qualifier

The letters “pr” indicate that the rating was provisional. A provisional rating assumed the successful completion of a project financed by the debt being rated and indicates that payment of debt service requirements was largely or entirely dependent upon the successful, timely completion of the project. This rating, however, while addressing credit quality subsequent to completion of the project, made no comment on the likelihood of or the risk of default upon failure of such completion.

Quantitative analysis of public information:  
“q” inactive qualifier

A “q” subscript indicates that the rating is based solely on quantitative analysis of publicly available information. Discontinued use in April 2001.

Extraordinary risks:  
“r” inactive qualifier

The “r” modifier was assigned to securities containing extraordinary risks, particularly market risks, that are not covered in the credit rating. The absence of an “r” modifier should not be taken as an indication that an obligation would not exhibit extraordinary non-credit related risks. S&P Global Ratings discontinued the use of the “r” modifier for most

obligations in June 2000 and for the balance of obligations (mainly structured finance transactions) in November 2002.

**Moody's Investors Service, Inc.**—A brief description of the applicable Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") rating symbols and their meanings (as published by Moody's) follows:

### LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS RATINGS

Ratings assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Moody's defines credit risk as the risk that an entity may not meet its contractual financial obligations as they come due and any estimated financial loss in the event of default or impairment. The contractual financial obligations<sup>2</sup> addressed by Moody's ratings are those that call for, without regard to enforceability, the payment of an ascertainable amount, which may vary based upon standard sources of variation (e.g., floating interest rates), by an ascertainable date. Moody's rating addresses the issuer's ability to obtain cash sufficient to service the obligation, and its willingness to pay.<sup>3</sup> Moody's ratings do not address non-standard sources of variation in the amount of the principal obligation (e.g., equity indexed), absent an express statement to the contrary in a press release accompanying an initial rating. Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of one year or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default.<sup>4 5</sup>

Moody's differentiates structured finance ratings from fundamental ratings (i.e., ratings on nonfinancial corporate, financial institution, and public sector entities) on the global long-term scale by adding (sf) to all structured finance ratings.<sup>6</sup> The addition of (sf) to structured finance ratings should eliminate any presumption that such ratings and fundamental ratings at the same letter grade level will behave the same. The (sf) indicator for structured finance security ratings indicates that otherwise similarly rated structured finance and fundamental securities may have different risk characteristics. Through its current methodologies, however, Moody's aspires to achieve broad expected equivalence in structured finance and fundamental rating performance when measured over a long period of time.

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<sup>2</sup> In the case of impairments, there can be a financial loss even when contractual obligations are met.

<sup>3</sup> In some cases the relevant credit risk relates to a third party, in addition to, or instead of the issuer. Examples include credit-linked notes and guaranteed obligations.

<sup>4</sup> For certain structured finance, preferred stock and hybrid securities in which payment default events are either not defined or do not match investors' expectations for timely payment, long-term and short-term ratings reflect the likelihood of impairment and financial loss in the event of impairment.

<sup>5</sup> Supranational institutions and central banks that hold sovereign debt or extend sovereign loans, such as the IMF or the European Central Bank, may not always be treated similarly to other investors and lenders with similar credit exposures. Long-term and short-term ratings assigned to obligations held by both supranational institutions and central banks, as well as other investors, reflect only the credit risks faced by other investors unless specifically noted otherwise.

<sup>6</sup> Like other global scale ratings, (sf) ratings reflect both the likelihood of a default and the expected loss suffered in the event of default. Ratings are assigned based on a rating committee's assessment of a security's expected loss rate (default probability multiplied by expected loss severity), and may be subject to the constraint that the final expected loss rating assigned would not be more than a certain number of notches, typically three to five notches, above the rating that would be assigned based on an assessment of default probability alone. The magnitude of this constraint may vary with the level of the rating, the seasoning of the transaction, and the uncertainty around the assessments of expected loss and probability of default.

### **Global Long-Term Rating Scale:**

“Aaa”	Obligations rated “Aaa” are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.
“Aa”	Obligations rated “Aa” are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
“A”	Obligations rated “A” are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.
“Baa”	Obligations rated “Baa” are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.
“Ba”	Obligations rated “Ba” are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.
“B”	Obligations rated “B” are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.
“Caa”	Obligations rated “Caa” are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.
“Ca”	Obligations rated “Ca” are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.
“C”	Obligations rated “C” are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

*Note:* Moody’s appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a “(hyb)” indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies, and securities firms.\*

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\* By their terms, hybrid securities allow for the omission of scheduled dividends, interest, or principal payments, which can potentially result in impairment if such an omission occurs. Hybrid securities may also be subject to contractually allowable write-downs of principal that could result in impairment. Together with the hybrid indicator, the long-term obligation rating assigned to a hybrid security is an expression of the relative credit risk associated with that security.

### **MEDIUM-TERM NOTE PROGRAM RATINGS**

Moody’s assigns provisional ratings to medium-term note (MTN) programs and definitive ratings to the individual debt securities issued from them (referred to as drawdowns or notes).

MTN program ratings are intended to reflect the ratings likely to be assigned to drawdowns issued from the program with the specified priority of claim (e.g. senior or subordinated). To capture the contingent nature of a program rating, Moody’s assigns provisional ratings to MTN programs. A provisional rating is denoted by a (P) in front of the rating.

The rating assigned to a drawdown from a rated MTN or bank/deposit note program is definitive in nature, and may differ from the program rating if the drawdown is exposed to additional credit risks besides the issuer’s default, such as links to the defaults of other issuers, or has other structural features that warrant a different rating. In some circumstances, no rating may be assigned to a drawdown.

Moody's encourages market participants to contact Moody's Ratings Desks or visit moodys.com directly if they have questions regarding ratings for specific notes issued under a medium-term note program. Unrated notes issued under an MTN program may be assigned an NR (not rated) symbol.

### **Short-Term Rating Definitions:**

Short-term ratings are assigned for obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.

Moody's employs the following designations to indicate the relative repayment ability of rated issuers:

"P-1"	Ratings of Prime-1 reflect a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
"P-2"	Ratings of Prime-2 reflect a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
"P-3"	Ratings of Prime-3 reflect an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.
"NP"	Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

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- 7 For certain preferred stock and hybrid securities in which payment default events are either not defined or do not match investors' expectations for timely payment, long-term and short-term ratings reflect the likelihood of impairment and financial loss in the event of impairment.
- 8 Supranational institutions and central banks that hold sovereign debt or extend sovereign loans, such as the IMF or the European Central Bank, may not always be treated similarly to other investors and lenders with similar credit exposures. Long-term and short-term ratings assigned to obligations held by both supranational institutions and central banks, as well as other investors, reflect only the credit risks faced by other investors unless specifically noted otherwise.

**Fitch IBCA, Inc.**—A brief description of the applicable Fitch IBCA, Inc. ("Fitch") ratings symbols and meanings (as published by Fitch) follows:

### **INTERNATIONAL ISSUER AND CREDIT RATING SCALES**

The Primary Credit Rating Scales (those featuring the symbols "AAA"- "D" and "Fi"- "D") are used for debt and financial strength ratings. The below section describes their use for issuers and obligations in corporate, public, structured and infrastructure and project finance debt markets.

#### **Long-Term Ratings Scales—Issuer Credit Ratings Scales**

Rated entities in a number of sectors, including financial and non-financial corporations, sovereigns, insurance companies and certain sectors within public finance, are generally assigned Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs). IDRs are also assigned to certain entities or enterprises in global infrastructure, project finance and public finance. IDRs opine on an entity's relative vulnerability to default (including by way of a distressed debt exchange) on financial obligations. The threshold default risk addressed by the IDR is generally that of the financial obligations whose non-payment would best reflect the uncured failure of that entity. As such, IDRs also address relative vulnerability to bankruptcy, administrative receivership or similar concepts.

In aggregate, IDRs provide an ordinal ranking of issuers based on the agency’s view of their relative vulnerability to default, rather than a prediction of a specific percentage likelihood of default.

“AAA”	<b>Highest credit quality.</b> “AAA” ratings denote the lowest expectation of default risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
“AA”	<b>Very high credit quality.</b> “AA” ratings denote expectations of very low default risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
“A”	<b>High credit quality.</b> “A” ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
“BBB”	<b>Good credit quality.</b> “BBB” ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
“BB”	<b>Speculative.</b> “BB” ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial flexibility exists that supports the servicing of financial commitments.
“B”	<b>Highly speculative.</b> “B” ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.
“CCC”	<b>Substantial credit risk.</b> Default is a real possibility.
“CC”	<b>Very high levels of credit risk.</b> Default of some kind appears probable.
“C”	<b>Near default.</b> A default or default-like process has begun, or the issuer is in standstill, or for a closed funding vehicle, payment capacity is irrevocably impaired. Conditions that are indicative of a “C” category rating for an issuer include: a. the issuer has entered into a grace or cure period following non-payment of a material financial obligation; b. the issuer has entered into a temporary negotiated waiver or standstill agreement following a payment default on a material financial obligation; c. the formal announcement by the issuer or their agent of a distressed debt exchange; d. a closed financing vehicle where payment capacity is irrevocably impaired such that it is not expected to pay interest and/or principal in full during the life of the transaction, but where no payment default is imminent.
“RD”	<b>Restricted default.</b> “RD” ratings indicate an issuer that in Fitch’s opinion has experienced: a. an uncured payment default or distressed debt exchange on a bond, loan or other material financial obligation, but b. has not entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, and c. has not otherwise ceased operating. This would include: i. the selective payment

default on a specific class or currency of debt; ii. the uncured expiry of any applicable grace period, cure period or default forbearance period following a payment default on a bank loan, capital markets security or other material financial obligation; iii. the extension of multiple waivers or forbearance periods upon a payment default on one or more material financial obligations, either in series or in parallel; ordinary execution of a distressed debt exchange on one or more material financial obligations.

“D”

**Default.** “D” ratings indicate an issuer that in Fitch’s opinion has entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, or that has otherwise ceased business.

Default ratings are not assigned prospectively to entities or their obligations; within this context, non-payment on an instrument that contains a deferral feature or grace period will generally not be considered a default until after the expiration of the deferral or grace period, unless a default is otherwise driven by bankruptcy or other similar circumstance, or by a distressed debt exchange.

In all cases, the assignment of a default rating reflects the agency’s opinion as to the most appropriate rating category consistent with the rest of its universe of ratings, and may differ from the definition of default under the terms of an issuer’s financial obligations or local commercial practice.

**Note:** The modifiers “+” or “-” may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the ‘AAA’ Long-Term IDR category, or to Long-Term IDR categories below “B”.

*Limitations of the Issuer Credit Rating Scale:*

Specific limitations relevant to the issuer credit rating scale include:

- The ratings do not predict a specific percentage of default likelihood or failure likelihood over any given time period.
- The ratings do not opine on the market value of any issuer’s securities or stock, or the likelihood that this value may change.
- The ratings do not opine on the liquidity of the issuer’s securities or stock.
- The ratings do not opine on the possible loss severity on an obligation should an issuer (or an obligation with respect to structured finance transactions) default, except in the following cases:
- Ratings assigned to individual obligations of issuers in corporate finance, banks, non-bank financial institutions, insurance and covered bonds.
- In limited circumstances for U.S. public finance obligations where Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code provides reliably superior prospects for ultimate recovery to local government obligations that benefit from a statutory lien on revenues or during the pendency of a bankruptcy proceeding under the Code if there is sufficient visibility on potential recovery prospects.
- The ratings do not opine on the suitability of an issuer as a counterparty to trade credit.
- The ratings do not opine on any quality related to an issuer’s business, operational or financial profile other than the agency’s opinion on its relative vulnerability to default or in the case of bank Viability

Ratings on its relative vulnerability to failure. For the avoidance of doubt, not all defaults will be considered a default for rating purposes. Typically, a default relates to a liability payable to an unaffiliated, outside investor.

Ratings assigned by Fitch articulate an opinion on discrete and specific areas of risk. The above list is not exhaustive, and is provided for the reader's convenience.

### **Short-Term Ratings—Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Issuers and Obligations**

A short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term deposit ratings may be adjusted for loss severity. Short-Term Ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as “short term” based on market convention. Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations, and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets.

“F1”	<b>Highest Short-Term Credit Quality.</b> Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added “+” to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
“F2”	<b>Good Short-Term Credit Quality.</b> Good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.
“F3”	<b>Fair Short-Term Credit Quality.</b> The intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.
“B”	<b>Speculative Short-Term Credit Quality.</b> Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.
“C”	<b>High Short-Term Default Risk.</b> Default is a real possibility.
“RD”	<b>Restricted Default.</b> Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only.
“D”	<b>Default.</b> Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.

#### *Limitations of the Short-Term Ratings Scale:*

Specific limitations relevant to the Short-Term Ratings scale include:

- The ratings do not predict a specific percentage of default likelihood or failure likelihood over any given time period.
- The ratings do not opine on the market value of any issuer's securities or stock, or the likelihood that this value may change.
- The ratings do not opine on the liquidity of the issuer's securities or stock.
- The ratings do not opine on the possible loss severity on an obligation should an issuer (or an obligation with respect to structured finance transactions) default, except in the following cases:
  - Ratings assigned to individual obligations of issuers in corporate finance, banks, non-bank financial institutions, insurance and covered bonds.

- In limited circumstances for U.S. public finance obligations where Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code provides reliably superior prospects for ultimate recovery to local government obligations that benefit from a statutory lien on revenues or during the pendency of a bankruptcy proceeding under the Code if there is sufficient visibility on potential recovery prospects.
- The ratings do not opine on any quality related to an issuer or transaction's profile other than the agency's opinion on the relative loss severity of the rated obligation should the obligation default.

Ratings assigned by Fitch Ratings articulate an opinion on discrete and specific areas of risk. The above list is not exhaustive, and is provided for the reader's convenience.