

# Dreyfus Municipal Bond Fund

Seeks high current income by investing in  
bonds that pay income exempt from federal income tax

**PROSPECTUS** January 1, 2005



YOU, YOUR ADVISOR AND

**Dreyfus**

A MELLON FINANCIAL COMPANY™

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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*Back cover*

# The Fund



## GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks to maximize current income exempt from federal income tax, to the extent consistent with the preservation of capital. To pursue this goal, the fund normally invests substantially all of its assets in municipal bonds that provide income exempt from federal personal income tax.

The fund will invest at least 75% of its assets in municipal bonds rated A or better or the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus. The fund may invest up to 25% of its assets in municipal bonds rated below A or the unrated equivalent as determined by Dreyfus, including bonds of below investment grade credit quality (“high yield” or “junk” bonds). The dollar-weighted average maturity of the fund’s portfolio is not restricted, but normally exceeds ten years.

The portfolio manager may buy and sell bonds based on credit quality, market outlook and yield potential. In selecting municipal bonds for investment, the portfolio manager may assess the current interest rate environment and the municipal bond’s potential volatility in different rate environments. The portfolio manager focuses on bonds with the potential to offer attractive current income, typically looking for bonds that can provide consistently attractive current yields or that are trading at competitive market prices. A portion of the fund’s assets may be allocated to “discount” bonds, which are bonds that sell at a price below their face value, or to “premium” bonds, which are bonds that sell at a price above their face value. The fund’s allocation to either discount bonds or to premium bonds will change along with the portfolio manager’s changing views of the current interest rate and market environment. The portfolio manager also may look to select bonds that are most likely to obtain attractive prices when sold.

Although the fund seeks to provide income exempt from federal income tax, interest from some of its holdings may be subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. In addition, the fund temporarily may invest in taxable bonds.

The fund may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as futures and options, as a substitute for taking a position in an underlying asset, to increase returns, to manage interest rate risk, or as part of a hedging strategy.

## Concepts to understand

**Municipal bonds:** debt securities that provide income free from federal income tax and state income tax if you live in the issuing state. Municipal bonds are typically of two types:

- **general obligation bonds**, which are secured by the full faith and credit of the issuer and its taxing power
- **revenue bonds**, which are payable from the revenues derived from a specific revenue source, such as charges for water and sewer service or highway tolls

**Dollar-weighted average maturity:** an average of the stated maturities of the securities held by the fund, based on their dollar-weighted proportions in the fund.



## MAIN RISKS

The fund's principal risks are discussed below. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, which means you could lose money.

- *Interest rate risk.* Prices of municipal bonds tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in rates will adversely affect bond prices and, accordingly, the fund's share price. The longer the fund's maturity and duration, the more its share price is likely to react to interest rates.
- *Credit risk.* Failure of an issuer to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or perception of a decline in the credit quality of a municipal bond, can cause the bond's price to fall, potentially lowering the fund's share price. Although the fund invests primarily in bonds rated A or better, it may invest to a limited extent in high yield ("junk") bonds, which involve greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than investment grade bonds and are considered speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments. The prices of high yield bonds can fall dramatically in response to bad news about the issuer or its industry, or the economy in general.
- *Call risk.* Some bonds give the issuer the option to call, or redeem, the bonds before their maturity date. If an issuer "calls" its bond during a time of declining interest rates, the fund might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield, and therefore might not benefit from any increase in value as a result of declining interest rates.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to buy or sell the securities at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically.

- *Derivatives risk.* The fund may invest in derivative instruments, such as options, futures, options on futures (including those relating to securities, indexes and interest rates), swaps and inverse floaters. Certain derivatives may cause taxable income. A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the fund's other investments.

### Other potential risks

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective.

The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral.



## PAST PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table shown illustrate the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows the changes in the fund's performance from year to year. The table compares the fund's average annual total returns to those of the Lehman Brothers Municipal Bond Index, an unmanaged municipal bond benchmark for total return performance. All returns assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions. Of course, past performance is no guarantee of future results.

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates, and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on the investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown, and the after-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.



The fund's year-to-date total return as of 9/30/04 was 2.96%.

### Average annual total returns as of 12/31/03

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Fund</b> <i>returns before taxes</i>	<b>4.61%</b>	<b>3.93%</b>	<b>4.45%</b>
<b>Fund</b> <i>returns after taxes on distributions</i>	<b>4.61%</b>	<b>3.93%</b>	<b>4.35%</b>
<b>Fund</b> <i>returns after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares</i>	<b>4.51%</b>	<b>4.06%</b>	<b>4.48%</b>
<b>Lehman Brothers Municipal Bond Index</b> <i>reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes</i>	<b>5.31%</b>	<b>5.83%</b>	<b>6.03%</b>

### What this fund is – and isn't

This fund is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives you the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goal, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in this fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. You could lose money in this fund, but you also have the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

As an investor, you pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described in the table below. Shareholder transaction fees are paid from your account. Annual fund operating expenses are paid out of fund assets, so their effect is included in the share price. The fund has no sales charge (load) or Rule 12b-1 distribution fees.

### Fee table

#### Shareholder transaction fees

% of transaction amount

Maximum redemption fee **0.10%**

*charged only when selling shares you have owned for less than 30 days*

#### Annual fund operating expenses

% of average daily net assets

Management fees 0.60%

Shareholder services fee 0.05%

Other expenses 0.07%

**Total 0.72%**

### Expense example

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
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<b>\$74</b>	<b>\$230</b>	<b>\$401</b>	<b>\$894</b>
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This example shows what you could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. The figures shown would be the same whether you sold your shares at the end of a period or kept them. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.

## Concepts to understand

**Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the fund's portfolio and assisting in all aspects of the fund's operations. For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, Dreyfus waived a portion of its fee so that the effective management fee paid by the fund was 0.56%, reducing total expenses from 0.72% to 0.68%. This waiver was voluntary.

**Shareholder services fee:** a fee of up to 0.25% used to reimburse the fund's distributor for shareholder account service and maintenance.

**Other expenses:** fees paid by the fund for miscellaneous items such as shareholder service, transfer agency, custody, professional and registration fees. The fund also makes payments to certain financial intermediaries, including affiliates, who provide sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services to beneficial owners of the fund.



## MANAGEMENT

### Investment adviser

The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$161 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.56% of the fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of Mellon Financial Corporation (Mellon Financial), a global financial services company with approximately \$3.7 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$670 billion under management. Mellon Financial provides financial services for institutions, corporations and individuals, offering institutional asset management, mutual funds, private wealth management, asset servicing, human resources services and treasury services. Mellon Financial is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Paul Disdier has been the primary portfolio manager of the fund since July 2001. He has been a portfolio manager at Dreyfus since 1988 and currently oversees all municipal bond fund investing at Dreyfus.

Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial, Mellon Bank, N.A., Dreyfus, Founders Asset Management LLC, and the directors of certain Dreyfus funds, on behalf of a purported class and derivatively on behalf of said funds, alleging violations of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and the common law. The complaints alleged, among other things, (i) that 12b-1 fees and directed brokerage were improperly used to pay brokers to recommend Dreyfus funds over other funds, (ii) that such payments were not disclosed to investors, (iii) that economies of scale and soft-dollar benefits were not passed on to investors, and (iv) that 12b-1 fees charged to certain funds that were closed to new investors were also improper. The complaints sought compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the advisory contracts and an accounting and restitution of any unlawful fees, as well as an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. On April 22, 2004, the actions were consolidated under the caption *In re Dreyfus Mutual Funds Fee Litigation*, and a consolidated amended complaint was filed on September 13, 2004. While adding new parties and claims under state and federal law, the allegations in the consolidated amended complaint essentially track the allegations in the prior complaints pertaining to 12b-1 fees, directed brokerage, soft dollars and revenue sharing. Dreyfus and the funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and intend to defend the action vigorously.

Additional lawsuits arising out of these circumstances and presenting similar allegations and requests for relief may be filed against the defendants in the future. Neither Dreyfus nor the Dreyfus funds believe that any of the pending actions will have a material adverse effect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.

### Distributor

The fund's distributor is Dreyfus Service Corporation (DSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dreyfus. Dreyfus or DSC may provide additional cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of the fund or provide other services. Such payments are in addition to any shareholder services fees or other expenses paid by the fund. These additional payments may be made to intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, record-keeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid to intermediaries for inclusion of the fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." In some cases, these payments may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell shares of the fund to you. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

From time to time, Dreyfus or DSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorship; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations, as periodically amended.

### Code of ethics

The fund, Dreyfus and DSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. The Dreyfus code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of its employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of the code is to ensure that personal trading by Dreyfus employees does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund.





## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

This table describes the fund's performance for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distribu-

tions. These figures have been independently audited by Ernst & Young LLP, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request.

	2004	Year Ended August 31,			
		2003	2002 <sup>1</sup>	2001	2000
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	11.51	11.82	12.32	11.68	11.70
Investment operations:					
Investment income – net	.48 <sup>2</sup>	.54 <sup>2</sup>	.61 <sup>2</sup>	.61	.60
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.34	(.31)	(.50)	.64	(.02)
Total from investment operations	.82	.23	.11	1.25	.58
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income – net	(.49)	(.54)	(.61)	(.61)	(.60)
Net asset value, end of period	11.84	11.51	11.82	12.32	11.68
Total Return (%)	7.20	1.91	.99	11.00	5.28
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.72	.72	.71	.72	.77
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.68	.72	.71	.72	.76
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	4.12	4.56	5.14	5.11	5.32
Portfolio turnover rate	47.77	61.20	49.25	42.71	40.51
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	2,143,305	2,312,997	2,497,199	2,670,674	2,599,644

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective September 1, 2001, the fund has adopted the provisions of the AICPA Audit and Accounting Guide for Investment Companies and began amortizing discount or premium on a scientific basis for debt securities on a daily basis. The effect of this change for the period ended August 31, 2002 was to increase net investment income per share and decrease net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by less than \$.01 and increase the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 5.13% to 5.14%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to September 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect this change in presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

# Your Investment



## ACCOUNT POLICIES

### Buying shares

You pay no sales charges to invest in this fund. Your price for fund shares is the fund's net asset value per share (NAV), which is generally calculated as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the exchange is open for regular business.

Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. Because the fund seeks tax-exempt income, it is not recommended for purchase in IRAs or other qualified retirement plans.

When calculating its NAV, the fund's investments generally are valued by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board.

If valuations for investments (received from the pricing service or otherwise) are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be done by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent price and from prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values.

### Minimum investments

	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$100</b> <i>\$500 for Dreyfus TeleTransfer investments</i>
<b>Dreyfus automatic investment plans</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$100</b>

All investments must be in U.S. dollars. Third-party checks cannot be accepted. You may be charged a fee for any check that does not clear. Maximum Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase is \$150,000 per day.

### Concepts to understand

**Net asset value (NAV):** a mutual fund's share price on a given day. A fund's NAV is calculated by dividing the value of its net assets by the number of existing shares.

## Selling shares

You may sell (redeem) shares at any time. Your shares will be sold at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. Any certificates representing fund shares being sold must be returned with your redemption request. Your order will be processed promptly and you will generally receive the proceeds within a week.

Before selling or writing a check against shares recently purchased by check, Dreyfus TeleTransfer or Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder<sup>®</sup>, please note that:

- if you send a written request to sell such shares, the fund may delay sending the proceeds for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares
- the fund will not honor redemption checks, or process wire, telephone, online or Dreyfus TeleTransfer redemption requests, for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares

If you are selling or exchanging shares you have owned for less than 30 days, the fund may deduct a 0.10% redemption fee (not charged on shares sold through the Checkwriting Privilege, Automatic Withdrawal Plan or Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, or on shares acquired through dividend reinvestment).

### Limitations on selling shares by phone or online through Dreyfus.com

Proceeds sent by	Minimum phone/online	Maximum phone/online
<b>Check*</b>	<b>no minimum</b>	<b>\$250,000</b> per day
<b>Wire</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b> for joint accounts every 30 days / <b>\$20,000</b> per day
<b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500,000</b> for joint accounts every 30 days / <b>\$20,000</b> per day

\* Not available online on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days.

## Written sell orders

Some circumstances require written sell orders along with signature guarantees. These include:

- amounts of \$10,000 or more on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days
- requests to send the proceeds to a different payee or address

Written sell orders of \$100,000 or more must also be signature guaranteed.

**A signature guarantee** helps protect against fraud. You can obtain one from most banks or securities dealers, but not from a notary public. For joint accounts, each signature must be guaranteed. Please call us to ensure that your signature guarantee will be processed correctly.

## General policies

Unless you decline teleservice privileges on your application, the fund's transfer agent is authorized to act on telephone or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the transfer agent to be genuine. You may be responsible for any fraudulent telephone or online order as long as the fund's transfer agent takes reasonable measures to confirm that instructions are genuine.

**The fund is designed for long-term investors.** Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, Dreyfus and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices (frequent trading) that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. Dreyfus and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading.

**The fund reserves the right to:**

- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend the privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum or maximum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only during unusual market conditions or in cases of very large redemptions or excessive trading)
- "redeem in kind," or make payments in securities rather than cash, if the amount redeemed is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)
- refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any individual or group who, in Dreyfus' view, is likely to engage in frequent trading

More than four roundtrips within a rolling 12-month period generally is considered to be frequent trading. A roundtrip consists of an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days. Based on the facts and circumstances of the trades, the fund may also view as frequent trading a pattern of investments that are partially liquidated within 60 days.

Dreyfus monitors selected transactions to identify frequent trading. When its surveillance systems identify multiple roundtrips, Dreyfus evaluates trading activity in the account for evidence of frequent trading. Dreyfus considers the investor's trading history in other accounts under common ownership or control, in other Dreyfus, Dreyfus/ Founders and Mellon Funds Trust funds, and if known, in non-affiliated mutual funds and accounts under common control. These evaluations involve judgments that are inherently subjective. In all instances, Dreyfus seeks to make these judgments to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests. If Dreyfus concludes the account is likely to engage in frequent trading, Dreyfus may cancel or revoke the purchase or exchange on the following business day. Dreyfus may also temporarily or permanently bar such investor's future purchases into the fund in lieu of, or in addition to, canceling or revoking the trade. At its discretion, Dreyfus may apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership control or perceived affiliation.

Dreyfus' ability to monitor the trading activity of investors whose shares are held in omnibus accounts is limited. However, the selling agreements between the distributor and financial intermediaries include obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state securities laws and rules, regulations, requirements and conditions of all applicable regulatory and self-regulatory agencies or authorities. Moreover, the intermediaries agree that the fund's procedures relating to all orders and the handling thereof will be subject to the terms of the prospectus and the distributor's written instructions. In order to seek assurances that such intermediaries comply with rules and regulations, all intermediaries, including those whose trades occur through omnibus accounts, have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the selling agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to late trading. Further, all intermediaries have been requested in writing to notify the distributor immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

Although these policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

Transactions made through Automatic Investment Plans, Automatic Withdrawal Plans, Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privileges and automatic non-discretionary rebalancing programs approved in writing by Dreyfus generally are not considered to be frequent trading.

### Third-party investments

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If you invest through a third party (rather than directly with Dreyfus), the policies and fees may be different than those described herein. Banks, brokers, financial advisers, and financial supermarkets may charge transaction fees and may set different minimum investments or limitations on buying or selling shares. Consult a representative of your financial institution for further information.



## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

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The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends once a month and capital gain distributions annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless you instruct the fund otherwise. There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

**The fund anticipates that** virtually all dividends paid to you will be exempt from federal personal income tax. However, for federal tax purposes, certain distributions, such as distributions of short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income, while long-term capital gains are taxable to you as capital gains.

**High portfolio turnover** and more volatile markets can result in significant taxable distributions to shareholders, regardless of whether their shares have increased in value. The tax status of any distribution generally is the same regardless of how long you have been in the fund and whether you reinvest your distributions or take them in cash.

**If you buy shares of a fund** when the fund has realized but not yet distributed income or capital gains, you will be “buying a dividend” by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion back in the form of a taxable distribution.

Your sale of shares, including exchanges into other funds, may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment in the fund generally is the difference between the cost of your shares and the amount you receive when you sell them.

The tax status of your distributions will be detailed in your annual tax statement from the fund. Because everyone’s tax situation is unique, please consult your tax advisor before investing.



## SERVICES FOR FUND INVESTORS

### Automatic services

Buying or selling shares automatically is easy with the services described below. With each service, you select a schedule and amount, subject to certain restrictions. You can set up most of these services with your application or by calling 1-800-645-6561.

#### For investing

**Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder®** For making automatic investments from a designated bank account.

**Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan** For making automatic investments through a payroll deduction.

**Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege** For making automatic investments from your federal employment, Social Security or other regular federal government check.

**Dreyfus Dividend Sweep** For automatically reinvesting the dividends and distributions from one Dreyfus fund into another (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

**Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege** For making regular exchanges from one Dreyfus fund into another.

#### For selling shares

**Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan** For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds.

### Dreyfus Financial Centers

Through a nationwide network of Dreyfus Financial Centers, Dreyfus offers a full array of investment services and products. This includes information on mutual funds, brokerage services, tax-advantaged products and retirement planning.

Experienced financial advisers can help you make informed choices and provide you with personalized attention in handling account transactions. The Financial Centers also offer informative seminars and events. To find the Financial Center nearest you, call **1-800-499-3327**.

### Checkwriting privilege

You may write redemption checks against your account in amounts of \$500 or more. These checks are free; however, a fee will be charged if you request a stop payment or if the transfer agent cannot honor a redemption check due to insufficient funds or another valid reason. Please do not post-date your checks or use them to close your account.

### Exchange privilege

You can exchange shares worth \$500 or more from one Dreyfus fund into another. You can request your exchange in writing, by phone or online through Dreyfus.com. Be sure to read the current prospectus for any fund into which you are exchanging before investing. Any new account established through an exchange will have the same privileges as your original account (as long as they are available). There is currently no fee for exchanges, although you may be charged a sales load when exchanging into any fund that has one.

### Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege

To move money between your bank account and your Dreyfus fund account with a phone call or online through Dreyfus.com, use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege. You can set up Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your account by providing bank account information and following the instructions on your application.

### Dreyfus Express® voice-activated account access

You can easily manage your Dreyfus accounts, check your account balances, purchase fund shares, transfer money between your Dreyfus funds, get price and yield information and much more — when it's convenient for you — by calling 1-800-645-6561. Certain requests may require the services of a representative.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGULAR ACCOUNTS

### TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



#### In Writing

Complete the application.  
Mail your application and a check to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 55299, Boston, MA 02205-8553

### TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check.  
Mail the slip and the check to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 105, Newark, NJ 07101-0105

### TO SELL SHARES

Write a redemption check **or** write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name(s) and signature(s)
- your account number
- the fund name
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:  
The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
P.O. Box 55263, Boston, MA 02205-8501



#### By Telephone

**Wire** Call us to request an account application and an account number. Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:

- ABA# 021000018
- DDA# 8900051825
- the fund name
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)

Return your application with the account number on the application.

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:

- ABA# 021000018
- DDA# 8900051825
- the fund name
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but insert "111" before your 14-digit account number.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Call us to request your transaction.

**Wire** Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Call us to request your transaction. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Call us to request your transaction. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.

**Check** Call us to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.

## Concepts to understand

**Wire transfer:** for transferring money from one financial institution to another. Wiring is the fastest way to move money, although your bank may charge a fee to send or receive wire transfers. Wire redemptions from the fund are subject to a \$1,000 minimum.

**Electronic check:** for transferring money out of a bank account. Your transaction is entered electronically, but may take up to eight business days to clear. Electronic checks usually are available without a fee at all Automated Clearing House (ACH) banks.

To reach Dreyfus, call toll free in the U.S.

**1-800-645-6561**

Outside the U.S. 516-794-5452

Make checks payable to:

**The Dreyfus Family of Funds**

You also can deliver requests to any Dreyfus Financial Center. Because processing time may vary, please ask the representative when your account will be credited or debited.



## TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



- Online ([www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com))

## TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction.

## TO SELL SHARES

**Wire** Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.

**Check** Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.



- Automatically

**With an initial investment** Indicate on your application which automatic service(s) you want. Return your application with your investment.

**Without any initial investment** Check the Dreyfus Step Program option on your application. Return your application, then complete the additional materials when they are sent to you.

**All services** Call us to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see “Services for Fund Investors”). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials.

**Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan** Call us to request a form to add the plan. Complete the form, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals you would like.

Be sure to maintain an account balance of \$5,000 or more.





# For More Information

## **Dreyfus Municipal Bond Fund**

A series of Dreyfus Bond Funds, Inc.

SEC file number: 811-2653

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

### **Annual/Semiannual Report**

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year.

### **Statement of Additional Information (SAI)**

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

### **Portfolio Holdings**

The fund will disclose its complete schedule of portfolio holdings, as reported on a month-end basis, on its Web site at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com), under Mutual Fund Center – Dreyfus Mutual Funds – Mutual Fund Total Holdings. The information will be posted with a one-month lag and will remain accessible until the fund files a report on Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the date as of which the information was current. In addition, fifteen days following the end of each calendar quarter, the fund will publicly disclose on the Web site its complete schedule of portfolio holdings as of the end of such quarter.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available (i) in the fund's SAI, and (ii) on the fund's Web site at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com).

To obtain information:

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**By telephone**

Call 1-800-645-6561

**By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144

**By E-mail** Send your request to [info@dreyfus.com](mailto:info@dreyfus.com)

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:

**SEC** <http://www.sec.gov>

**Dreyfus** <http://www.dreyfus.com>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-942-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.



# Dreyfus Premier High Income Fund

Seeks total return by investing in  
high yield bonds

**PROSPECTUS** January 1, 2005



YOU, YOUR ADVISOR AND

**Dreyfus**

A MELLON FINANCIAL COMPANY™

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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## For More Information

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*See back cover.*

## Dreyfus Premier High Income Fund

Ticker Symbols **Class A: DIMAX**  
**Class B: DIMBX**  
**Class C: DIMCX**  
**Class R: DIMRX**



### GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks to maximize total return consistent with capital preservation and prudent risk management. To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in high yield bonds (commonly known as “junk bonds”). The high yield securities in which the fund invests may include:

- corporate debt securities, including convertible securities, preferred stock and corporate commercial paper
- structured notes, including hybrid or “indexed” securities, catastrophe bonds and loan participations
- zero coupon securities
- debt securities issued by states or local governments and their agencies, authorities and other instrumentalities

The fund may invest substantially all of its assets in high yield securities. The fund may invest the remainder (up to 20%) of its assets in bank certificates of deposit, fixed time deposits and bankers’ acceptances, and obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities. These securities may have all types of interest rate payment and reset terms, including fixed rate, adjustable rate, contingent, deferred, payment-in-kind and auction rate features. The fund also may invest in investment grade bonds; typically, on an opportunistic basis.

The fund may enter into repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements. The fund also may invest in private placements with or without registration rights, and may own warrants and common stock, typically acquired in “units” with high yield bonds.

# The Fund

In choosing securities for the fund, the portfolio managers look for issuers that generally exhibit, or have the prospect for, positive credit momentum with the potential for credit rating upgrade. Using bottom up, fundamental analysis, the portfolio managers seek to maximize portfolio return and minimize default risk on the overall portfolio through broad diversification, direct communication with management and monitoring all issuers on a systematic basis. The portfolio managers also avoid investing in securities of issuers with a high risk of default, and investing in industries with historically high default rates.

The fund may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as futures and options, as a substitute for taking a position in an underlying asset, to increase returns, to manage interest rate risk, or as part of a hedging strategy. The fund also may engage in short-selling, typically for hedging purposes, such as to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of its portfolio securities.

### Concepts to understand

**High yield bonds:** those rated at the time of purchase BB or Ba and below by credit rating agencies such as S&P or Moody’s or the unrated equivalent as determined by the fund’s sub-adviser. Because the issuers of high yield securities may be highly leveraged, at an early stage of development, or unable to repay past debts, these bonds typically must offer higher yields than investment grade bonds to compensate investors for greater credit risk.



## MAIN RISKS

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The fund's principal risks are discussed below. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Credit risk.* Failure of an issuer to make timely interest or principal payments, or a decline or perception of a decline in the credit quality of a bond, can cause a bond's price to fall, potentially lowering the fund's share price. High yield ("junk") bonds involve greater credit risk, including the risk of default, than investment grade bonds, and are considered predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments. The prices of high yield bonds can fall dramatically in response to bad news about the issuer or its industry, or the economy in general even during periods of declining interest rates.
- *Interest rate risk.* Prices of bonds tend to move inversely with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in rates will adversely affect bond prices and, accordingly, the fund's share price. Unlike investment grade bonds, however, the prices of high yield ("junk") bonds may fluctuate unpredictably and not necessarily inversely with changes in interest rates. The longer the fund's effective duration, the more its share price is likely to react to interest rates.
- *Call risk.* Some bonds give the issuer the option to call, or redeem, the bonds before their maturity date. If an issuer "calls" its bond during a time of declining interest rates, the fund might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield.
- *Market risk.* The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. They also may decline because of factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- *Market sector risk.* The fund's overall risk level will depend on the market sectors in which the fund is invested and the current interest rate, liquidity and credit quality of such sectors. The fund may significantly overweight or underweight certain industries or market sectors, which may cause the fund's performance to be more or less sensitive to developments affecting those industries or sectors.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to buy or sell the securities at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically even during periods of declining interest rates.
- *Foreign investment risk.* The prices and yields of foreign bonds can be affected by political and economic instability or changes in currency exchange rates.



- *Derivatives risk.* The fund may invest in derivative instruments such as options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to securities, indexes, foreign currencies and interest rates), swaps and other credit derivatives. A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets. Derivatives can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the fund's other investments.
- *Short sale risk.* The fund may make short sales, which involves selling a security it does not own in anticipation that the security's price will decline. Short sales expose the fund to the risk that it will be required to buy the security sold short (also known as "covering" the short position) at a time when the security has appreciated in value, thus resulting in a loss to the fund.

## Other potential risks

Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund may not achieve its investment objective.

At times, the fund may engage in short-term trading, which could produce higher transaction costs and taxable distributions, and lower the fund's after-tax performance.

The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral.



## PAST PERFORMANCE

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Since the fund does not have one calendar year of performance to report, past performance information is not included in this section of the prospectus.

## What this fund is – and isn't

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This fund is a mutual fund: a pooled investment that is professionally managed and gives you the opportunity to participate in financial markets. It strives to reach its stated goal, although as with all mutual funds, it cannot offer guaranteed results.

An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. You could lose money in this fund, but you also have the potential to make money.



## EXPENSES

As an investor, you pay certain fees and expenses in connection with the fund, which are described in the table below.

Fee table	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R
<b>Shareholder transaction fees</b> <i>(fees paid from your account)</i>				
Maximum front-end sales charge on purchases <i>% of offering price</i>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>
Maximum contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) <i>% of purchase or sale price, whichever is less</i>	<b>none*</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b> <i>(expenses paid from fund assets)</i>				
<i>% of average daily net assets</i>				
Management fees	<b>.75</b>	<b>.75</b>	<b>.75</b>	<b>.75</b>
Rule 12b-1 fee	<b>none</b>	<b>.50</b>	<b>.75</b>	<b>none</b>
Shareholder services fee	<b>.25</b>	<b>.25</b>	<b>.25</b>	<b>none</b>
Other expenses	<b>.18</b>	<b>.22</b>	<b>.21</b>	<b>.15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>.90</b>

\* Shares bought without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1 million or more may be charged a CDSC of 1% if redeemed within one year.

Expense example	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Class A</b>	<b>\$565</b>	<b>\$808</b>	<b>\$1,070</b>	<b>\$1,817</b>
<b>Class B</b>				
<i>with redemption</i>	<b>\$575</b>	<b>\$842</b>	<b>\$1,133</b>	<b>\$1,757</b>
<i>without redemption</i>	<b>\$175</b>	<b>\$542</b>	<b>\$933</b>	<b>\$1,757</b>
<b>Class C</b>				
<i>with redemption</i>	<b>\$299</b>	<b>\$615</b>	<b>\$1,057</b>	<b>\$2,285</b>
<i>without redemption</i>	<b>\$199</b>	<b>\$615</b>	<b>\$1,057</b>	<b>\$2,285</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>\$92</b>	<b>\$287</b>	<b>\$498</b>	<b>\$1,108</b>

This example shows what you could pay in expenses over time. It uses the same hypothetical conditions other funds use in their prospectuses: \$10,000 initial investment, 5% total return each year and no changes in expenses. The figures shown would be the same whether you sold your shares at the end of one period or kept them. Because actual returns and expenses will be different, the example is for comparison only.

## Concepts to understand

**Management fee:** the fee paid to Dreyfus for managing the fund's portfolio and assisting in all aspects of the fund's operations.

**Rule 12b-1 fee:** the fee paid to the fund's distributor for financing the sale and distribution of Class B and C shares. Because this fee is paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time it will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.

**Shareholder services fee:** the fee paid to the fund's distributor for providing shareholder services.

**Other expenses:** fees paid by the fund for the current fiscal year for miscellaneous items such as transfer agency, custody, professional and registration fees. The fund also makes payments to certain financial intermediaries, including affiliates, who provide sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services to beneficial owners of the fund.



## MANAGEMENT

### Investment adviser

The investment adviser for the fund is The Dreyfus Corporation (Dreyfus), 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166. Founded in 1947, Dreyfus manages approximately \$161 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. During the last fiscal period, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.74% of the fund's average daily net assets. Dreyfus is the primary mutual fund business of Mellon Financial Corporation (Mellon Financial), a global financial services company with approximately \$3.7 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$670 billion under management. Mellon Financial provides financial services for institutions, corporations and individuals, offering institutional asset management, mutual funds, private wealth management, asset servicing, human resources services and treasury services. Mellon Financial is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Dreyfus asset management philosophy is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, Dreyfus seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Dreyfus has engaged Shenkman Capital Management, Inc., (Shenkman Capital), located at 461 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017, to serve as the fund's sub-investment adviser. Shenkman Capital focuses exclusively on managing high yield assets. Shenkman Capital, subject to Dreyfus' supervision and approval, provides investment advisory assistance and research and the day-to-day management of the fund's investments. Shenkman Capital managed approximately \$12.2 billion in assets, which include investment advisory services for three other registered investment companies having aggregate assets of approximately \$743 million, as of November 30, 2004.

Mark Shenkman, Frank Whitley, Mark Flanagan, Robert Stricker and Steven Schweitzer are the fund's co-primary portfolio managers. Mr. Shenkman has been the president of Shenkman Capital since he founded the company in 1985. Mr. Whitley, executive vice president of Shenkman Capital, joined the firm in 1988 and became a portfolio manager in 1994. Mr. Flanagan, senior vice president of Shenkman Capital, joined the firm in 1992 and became a portfolio manager in 2002. Mr. Flanagan was the director of credit research for Shenkman Capital Management from 1996 to 2002. Mr. Stricker, senior vice president of Shenkman Capital, joined the firm in 2001 and became a portfolio manager in 2003. Mr. Stricker was the director of credit research for Shenkman Capital from 2002 to 2003. Prior to joining Shenkman Capital, Mr. Stricker was a managing director, U.S. fixed income at Citigroup Asset Management from 1994 to 2001. Mr. Schweitzer, vice president of Shenkman Capital, joined the firm in 1996 and became a portfolio manager in 2004. From 1996 to 2001 he served as credit analyst and senior credit analyst of Shenkman Capital. Mr. Schweitzer was promoted to vice president in 2001.

Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial, Mellon Bank, N.A., Dreyfus, Founders Asset Management LLC, and the directors of certain Dreyfus funds, on behalf of a purported class and derivatively on behalf of said funds, alleging violations of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and the common law. The complaints alleged, among other things, (i) that 12b-1 fees and directed brokerage were improperly used to pay brokers to recommend Dreyfus funds over other funds, (ii) that such payments were not disclosed to investors, (iii) that economies of scale and soft-dollar benefits were not passed on to investors, and (iv) that 12b-1 fees charged to certain funds that were closed to new investors were also improper. The complaints sought compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the advisory contracts and an accounting and restitution of any unlawful fees, as well as an

award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. On April 22, 2004, the actions were consolidated under the caption *In re Dreyfus Mutual Funds Fee Litigation*, and a consolidated amended complaint was filed on September 13, 2004. While adding new parties and claims under state and federal law, the allegations in the consolidated amended complaint essentially track the allegations in the prior complaints pertaining to 12b-1 fees, directed brokerage, soft dollars and revenue sharing. Dreyfus and the funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and intend to defend the action vigorously.

Additional lawsuits arising out of these circumstances and presenting similar allegations and requests for relief may be filed against the defendants in the future. Neither Dreyfus nor the Dreyfus funds believe that any of the pending actions will have a material adverse effect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.

### **Distributor**

The fund's distributor is Dreyfus Service Corporation (DSC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Dreyfus. Dreyfus or DSC may provide additional cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of the fund or provide other services. Such payments are in addition to any sales charges, 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses paid by the fund. These additional payments may be made to intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid to intermediaries for inclusion of the fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." In some cases, these payments may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell

shares of the fund to you. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

From time to time, Dreyfus or DSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorship; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations, as periodically amended.

### **Code of ethics**

The fund, Dreyfus, Shenkman Capital and DSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. Each of the Dreyfus and Shenkman Capital code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of its employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the respective code's pre-clearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of Dreyfus' code is to ensure that personal trading by employees of Dreyfus or Shenkman Capital does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund. Shenkman Capital's code is designed to ensure that personal trading by its employees does not disadvantage any client account, including the fund.

### Composite performance information for Shenkman Capital

Although the fund does not have one full calendar year of performance to report, the fund's sub-investment adviser follows substantially the same investment policies and strategies managing the fund's assets as it does managing certain other mutual funds and private accounts that invest in high yield bonds. The following tables present the past performance of a composite of certain of these funds and accounts managed by Shenkman Capital that employ Shenkman Capital's Quadrant investment style and of the CSFB High Yield Index. Because the gross performance data shown in the table does not reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees paid by the accounts comprising the composite and certain other expenses which would be applicable to mutual funds, the net performance data may be more relevant to potential investors in the fund in their analysis of the historical experience of Shenkman Capital in managing high yield bond portfolios with investment strategies and techniques substantially similar to those of the fund. To calculate the performance of the composite net of advisory fees and expenses, the annual fund operating expenses as reflected in the "Fee table" for Class A shares of the fund were used. The performance information does *not* reflect the deduction of any applicable sales loads which, if reflected, would reduce the performance quoted. The index information is provided to represent the investment environment existing at the time periods shown. The index is unmanaged and an investor may not invest directly in the index. Investors should not consider this performance data as an indication of the future performance of the fund.

The performance of the private accounts included in the Shenkman Capital High Yield Bond Composite could have been adversely affected by the imposition of certain regulatory requirements, restrictions and limitations, if such accounts had been regulated as investment companies under the U.S. federal securities and tax laws. Additionally, although it is anticipated that the fund and the accounts included in the Shenkman Capital High Yield Bond Composite may hold similar securities, their investment results are expected to differ. In particular, differences in asset size and in cash flow resulting from purchases and redemptions of fund shares may result in different security selections, differences in the relative weightings of securities or differences in the price paid for particular fund holdings. Please remember that past performance is not indicative of future returns, and that the investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The fund's actual performance may vary significantly from the past performance of the composite.

The performance information for the Shenkman Capital High Yield Bond Composite was prepared and presented, to the extent described below, in compliance with the Performance Presentation Standards of the Association for Investment Management and Research (AIMR-PPS™) the U.S. and Canadian version of the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). AIMR has not been involved with or reviewed this performance information. A complete list and description of Shenkman Capital's composites and/or a presentation that adheres to the AIMR-PPS standards is available by calling 1-212-867-9090. All returns are calculated in U.S. dollars and reflect the reinvestment of dividends and other distributions.

## Shenkman Capital High Yield Bond Composite Performance\*

Average annual total returns *as of 11/30/04*

	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Composite net of fund Class A fees and expenses	<b>8.42%</b>	<b>6.73%</b>	<b>8.16%</b>
Composite gross of advisory fees	<b>9.66%</b>	<b>7.01%</b>	<b>8.78%</b>
CSFB High Yield Index	<b>11.74%</b>	<b>6.43%</b>	<b>7.29%</b>

Year-by year total returns *as of 12/31 each year (%)*

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Composite net of fund Class A fees and expenses	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>17.22%</b>	<b>11.99%</b>	<b>13.23%</b>	<b>3.50%</b>	<b>3.26%</b>
Composite gross of advisory fees	<b>2.56%</b>	<b>18.57%</b>	<b>13.29%</b>	<b>14.53%</b>	<b>4.70%</b>	<b>4.46%</b>
CSFB High Yield Index	<b>-0.97%</b>	<b>17.38%</b>	<b>12.42%</b>	<b>12.63%</b>	<b>0.58%</b>	<b>3.28%</b>
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004**	
Composite net of fund Class A fees and expenses	<b>0.70%</b>	<b>6.19%</b>	<b>4.39%</b>	<b>14.93%</b>	<b>9.03%</b>	
Composite gross of advisory fees	<b>1.89%</b>	<b>7.49%</b>	<b>5.59%</b>	<b>16.27%</b>	<b>10.30%</b>	
CSFB High Yield Index	<b>-5.21%</b>	<b>5.80%</b>	<b>3.10%</b>	<b>27.94%</b>	<b>8.02%</b>	

\* *As of November 30, 2004, the Shenkman Capital High Yield Bond composite was composed of 86 accounts and mutual funds, totaling approximately \$10.4 billion and representing 84.8% of Shenkman Capital Management's total assets under management. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.***

\*\* *Aggregate total returns (1/1/04–11/30/04).*



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables describe the performance of each share class for the fiscal periods indicated. “Total Return” shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all

dividends and distributions. These figures have been independently audited by Ernst & Young, LLP, whose report, along with the fund’s financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request.

Class A	Year Ended August 31,	
	2004	2003 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>		
Net asset value, beginning of period	13.39	12.50
Investment operations: Investment income – net <sup>2</sup>	.92	.48
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.45	.70
Total from investment operations	1.37	1.18
Distributions: Dividends from investment income – net	(.91)	(.29)
Net asset value, end of period	13.85	13.39
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>	10.40	9.55 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>		
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.18	1.33 <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.16	1.25 <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	6.60	6.31 <sup>5</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	62.65	21.71 <sup>4</sup>
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	184,674	117,731

<sup>1</sup> From January 31, 2003 (commencement of operations) to August 31, 2003. <sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge. <sup>4</sup> Not annualized.

<sup>5</sup> Annualized.

Class B	Year Ended August 31,	
	2004	2003 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>		
Net asset value, beginning of period	13.38	12.50
Investment operations: Investment income – net <sup>2</sup>	.84	.44 <sup>2</sup>
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.45	.70
Total from investment operations	1.29	1.14
Distributions: Dividends from investment income – net	(.83)	(.26)
Net asset value, end of period	13.84	13.38
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>	9.83	9.24 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>		
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.72	1.88 <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.71	1.75 <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	6.06	5.77 <sup>5</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	62.65	21.71 <sup>4</sup>
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	69,573	45,444

<sup>1</sup> From January 31, 2003 (commencement of operations) to August 31, 2003. <sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge. <sup>4</sup> Not annualized.

<sup>5</sup> Annualized.



Class C	Year Ended August 31,	
	2004	2003 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>		
Net asset value, beginning of period	13.36	12.50
Investment operations: Investment income – net <sup>2</sup>	.81	.43
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.45	.68
Total from investment operations	1.26	1.11
Distributions: Dividends from investment income – net	(.81)	(.25)
Net asset value, end of period	13.81	13.36
Total Return (%) <sup>3</sup>	9.53	9.00 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>		
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.96	2.11 <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.94	2.00 <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	5.82	5.64 <sup>5</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	62.65	21.71 <sup>4</sup>
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	155,189	75,962

<sup>1</sup> From January 31, 2003 (commencement of operations) to August 31, 2003. <sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Exclusive of sales charge. <sup>4</sup> Not annualized.

<sup>5</sup> Annualized.

Class R	Year Ended August 31,	
	2004	2003 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>		
Net asset value, beginning of period	13.42	12.50
Investment operations: Investment income – net <sup>2</sup>	.94	.42
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.46	.80
Total from investment operations	1.40	1.22
Distributions: Dividends from investment income – net	(.94)	(.30)
Net asset value, end of period	13.88	13.42
Total Return (%)	10.75	9.80 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>		
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.90	1.35 <sup>4</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	.90	1.00 <sup>4</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	6.92	6.11 <sup>4</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	62.65	21.71 <sup>3</sup>
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	11,265	2,048

<sup>1</sup> From January 31, 2003 (commencement of operations) to August 31, 2003. <sup>2</sup> Based on average shares outstanding at each month end.

<sup>3</sup> Not annualized. <sup>4</sup> Annualized.

# Your Investment



## SHAREHOLDER GUIDE

The Dreyfus Premier Funds are designed primarily for people who are investing through a third party, such as a bank, broker-dealer or financial adviser, or in a 401(k) or other retirement plan. Third parties with whom you open a fund account may impose policies, limitations and fees which are different from those described in this prospectus. Consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information.

Your financial representative may receive different compensation for selling one class of shares than for selling another class. It is important to remember that the CDSCs and Rule 12b-1 fees for Class B and Class C shares have the same purpose as the front-end sales charge on sales of Class A shares: to compensate the distributor for concessions and expenses it pays to dealers and financial institutions for selling shares.

### Deciding which class of shares to buy

This prospectus offers Class A, B, C and R shares of the fund. The different classes represent investments in the same portfolio of securities, but the classes are subject to different expenses and will likely have different share prices. When choosing a class, you should consider your investment amount, anticipated holding period, the potential costs over your holding period and whether you qualify for any reduction or waiver of the sales charge.

**When you invest in Class A shares** you generally pay an initial sales charge. Class A shares have no ongoing Rule 12b-1 fees. Each class, except Class R shares, is subject to a shareholder service fee. Class R shares are available only to limited types of investors. Please see below for more information regarding the eligibility requirements.

A more complete description of each class follows. You should review these arrangements with your investment professional before determining which class to invest in.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R
Initial sales charge	up to 4.50%	none	none	none
Ongoing distribution fee (Rule 12b-1 fee)	none	0.50%	0.75%	none
Ongoing shareholder service fee	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	none
Contingent deferred sales charge	1% on sale of shares bought within one year without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1 million or more	sliding scale over six years	1% on sale of shares held for one year or less	none
Conversion feature	no	yes	no	no
Recommended purchase maximum	none	\$100,000	\$1 million	none

## Class A share considerations

When you invest in Class A shares, you pay the public offering price, which is the share price, or NAV, plus the initial sales charge that may apply to your purchase. The amount of the initial sales charge is based on the size of your investment, as the following table shows. We also describe below how you may reduce or eliminate the initial sales charge. (See “Sales charge reductions and waivers.”)

Since some of your investment goes to pay an up-front sales charge when you purchase Class A shares, you purchase fewer shares than you would with the same investment in Class B or Class C shares. Nevertheless, you are usually better off purchasing Class A shares, rather than Class B or Class C shares, and paying an up-front sales charge if you:

- plan to own the shares for an extended period of time, since the higher ongoing service and/or Rule 12b-1 fees on Class B and Class C shares may eventually exceed the cost of the up-front sales charge
- qualify for a reduced or waived sales charge

If you invest \$1 million or more (and are not eligible to purchase Class R shares), Class A shares will always be the most advantageous choice.

### Class A sales charges

Purchase amount	Sales charge as a % of offering price	Sales charge as a % of NAV
Less than \$50,000	4.50%	4.70%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	4.00%	4.20%
\$100,000 to \$249,999	3.00%	3.10%
\$250,000 to \$499,999	2.50%	2.60%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	2.00%	2.00%
\$1 million or more *	none	none

*\* No sales charge applies on investments of \$1 million or more, but a contingent deferred sales charge of 1% may be imposed on certain redemptions of such shares within one year of the date of purchase.*

## Sales charge reductions and waivers

To receive a reduction or waiver of your initial sales charge, you must let your financial intermediary or the fund know at the time you purchase shares that you qualify for such a reduction or waiver. If you do not let your financial intermediary or the fund know that you are eligible for a reduction or waiver, you may not receive the reduction or waiver to which you are otherwise entitled. In order to receive a reduction or waiver, you may be required to provide your financial intermediary or the fund with evidence of your qualification for the reduction or waiver, such as records regarding shares of Dreyfus Premier Funds or Founders Funds held in accounts with that financial intermediary and other financial intermediaries. Additional information regarding reductions and waivers of sales loads is available, free of charge, at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com) and in the fund's Statement of Additional Information.

**You can reduce your initial sales charge** in the following ways:

- *Rights of accumulation.* You can count toward the amount of your investment your total account value in all share classes of the fund and certain other Dreyfus Premier Funds or Founders Funds. For example, if you have \$1 million invested in shares of certain other Dreyfus Premier Funds or Founders Funds, you can invest in Class A shares of any fund without an initial sales charge. We may terminate or change this privilege at any time on written notice.
- *Letter of intent.* You can sign a letter of intent, in which you agree to invest a certain amount (your goal) in the fund and certain other Dreyfus Premier Funds or Founders Funds over a 13-month period, and your initial sales charge will be based on your goal. A 90-day back-dated period can also be used to count previous purchases toward your goal. Your goal must be at least \$50,000, and your initial investment must be at least \$5,000. The sales charge will be adjusted if you do not meet your goal.

- *Combine with family members.* You can also count toward the amount of your investment all investments in certain other Dreyfus Premier Funds or Founders Funds, in any class of shares, by your spouse and your children under age 21 (family members), including their rights of accumulation and goals under a letter of intent. Certain other groups may also be permitted to combine purchases for purposes of reducing or eliminating sales charges. (See "How to Buy Shares" in the Statement of Additional Information.)

**Class A shares may be purchased** at NAV without payment of a sales charge by the following individuals and entities:

- full-time or part-time employees, and their family members, of Dreyfus or any of its affiliates
- board members of Dreyfus and board members of the Dreyfus Family of Funds
- full-time employees, and their family members, of financial institutions that have entered into selling agreements with the fund's distributor
- "wrap" accounts for the benefit of clients of financial institutions, provided they have entered into an agreement with the fund's distributor specifying operating policies and standards
- qualified separate accounts maintained by an insurance company and any state, county or city or instrumentality thereof
- employees participating in certified qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plans

## Class B and Class C share considerations

Since you pay no initial sales charge, an investment of less than \$1 million in Class B or Class C shares buys more shares than the same investment would in Class A shares. However, you will pay higher ongoing service and/or distribution fees. Over time these fees may cost you more than paying an initial sales charge on Class A shares.

Due to availability of sales charge discounts for Class A shares and the higher ongoing fees for Class B and Class C shares, the fund will generally not accept a purchase order for Class B shares in the amount of \$100,000 or more and will generally not accept a purchase order for Class C shares in the amount of \$1 million or more. While the fund will take reasonable steps to prevent investments of \$100,000 or more in Class B shares, and \$1 million or more in Class C shares, it may not be able to identify such investments made through certain financial intermediaries or omnibus accounts.

Class B shares sold within six years are subject to the following CDSCs:

Class B sales charges	
For shares sold in the:	CDSC as a % of amount redeemed subject to the charge
First year	4.00%
Second year	4.00%
Third year	3.00%
Fourth year	3.00%
Fifth year	2.00%
Sixth year	1.00%
Thereafter	none

Class B shares convert to Class A shares (which are not subject to a Rule 12b-1 fee) at the end of the calendar quarter six years after the date they were purchased. If you intend to hold your shares less than six years, Class C shares will generally be more economical than Class B shares.

Class C shares redeemed within one year are subject to a 1% CDSC. Unlike Class B shares, Class C shares will never convert to Class A shares and are subject to a higher ongoing Rule 12b-1 fee than Class B. As a result, long-term Class C shareholders pay higher ongoing Rule 12b-1 fees over the life of their investment.

## Class R share considerations

Since you pay no initial sales charge, an investment of less than \$1 million in Class R shares buys more shares than the same investment would in Class A shares. There is also no CDSC imposed on purchases of Class R shares, and you do not pay any ongoing service or distribution fees.

Class R shares may be purchased by:

- a bank trust department or other financial services provider acting on behalf of its customers having a qualified trust or investment account or relationship at such institution
- a custodian, trustee, investment manager or other entity authorized to act on behalf of a qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plan that has entered an agreement with the fund's distributor or a SEP-IRA

## CDSC waivers

The CDSC on Class A, B and C shares may be waived in the following cases:

- permitted exchanges of shares, except if shares acquired by exchange are then redeemed within the period during which a CDSC would apply to the initial shares purchased
- redemptions made within one year of death or disability of the shareholder
- redemptions of Class B or Class C shares due to receiving required minimum distributions from retirement accounts upon reaching age 70 ½
- redemptions through the fund's Automatic Withdrawal Plan, if such redemptions do not exceed 12% of the value of the account annually
- redemptions from qualified and unqualified employee benefit plans

## Buying shares

The **net asset value (NAV)** of each class is generally calculated as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the exchange is open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. The fund's investments generally are valued by one or more independent pricing services approved by the fund's board or on the basis of market quotations. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board. If prices from a pricing service or market quotations are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value (such as when the value of a security has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded (for example, a foreign exchange or market), but before the fund calculates its NAV), the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Using fair value to price securities may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Foreign securities held by the fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors have no access to the fund.

**Orders to buy and sell shares** received by dealers by the close of trading on the NYSE and transmitted to the distributor or its designee by the close of its business day (normally 5:15 p.m. Eastern time) will be based on the NAV determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE that day.

### Minimum investments

	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$100; \$500</b> <i>for Dreyfus TeleTransfer investments</i>
<b>Traditional IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Spousal IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Roth IRAs</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>no minimum</b>
<b>Education Savings Accounts</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>no minimum</b> <i>after the first year</i>

All investments must be in U.S. dollars. Third-party checks cannot be accepted. You may be charged a fee for any check that does not clear. Maximum Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase is \$150,000 per day.

## Concepts to understand

**Net asset value (NAV):** the market value of one share, computed by dividing the total net assets of a fund or class by its shares outstanding. The fund's Class A shares are offered to the public at NAV plus a sales charge. Classes B, C and R are offered at NAV, but Classes B and C generally are subject to higher annual operating expenses and a CDSC.

## Selling shares

You may sell (redeem) shares at any time. Your shares will be sold at the next NAV calculated after your order is accepted by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. Any certificates representing fund shares being sold must be returned with your redemption request. Your order will be processed promptly and you will generally receive the proceeds within a week.

To keep your CDSC as low as possible, each time you request to sell shares we will first sell shares that are not subject to a CDSC, and then those subject to the lowest charge. The CDSC is based on the lesser of the original purchase cost or the current market value of the shares being sold, and is not charged on shares you acquired by reinvesting your dividends. As described above in this prospectus, there are certain instances when you may qualify to have the CDSC waived. Consult your financial representative or the SAI for additional details.

**Before selling shares recently purchased by check, Dreyfus TeleTransfer or Automatic Asset Builder, please note that:**

- if you send a written request to sell such shares, the fund may delay sending the proceeds for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares
- the fund will not process wire, telephone, online, or Dreyfus TeleTransfer redemption requests for up to eight business days following the purchase of those shares

### Limitations on selling shares by phone or online

Proceeds sent by	Minimum phone/online	Maximum phone/online
<b>Check*</b>	<b>no minimum</b>	<b>\$250,000 per day</b>
<b>Wire</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days / \$20,000 per day</b>
<b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500,000 for joint accounts every 30 days / \$20,000 per day</b>

*\* Not available online on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days.*

## Written sell orders

Some circumstances require written sell orders along with signature guarantees. These include:

- amounts of \$10,000 or more on accounts whose address has been changed within the last 30 days
- requests to send the proceeds to a different payee or address

Written sell orders of \$100,000 or more must also be signature guaranteed.

**A signature guarantee** helps protect against fraud. You can obtain one from most banks or securities dealers, but not from a notary public. For joint accounts, each signature must be guaranteed. Please call us to ensure that your signature guarantee will be processed correctly.

## General policies

**Unless you decline teleservice privileges** on your application, the fund's transfer agent is authorized to act on telephone or online instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the transfer agent to be genuine. You may be responsible for any fraudulent telephone or online order as long as the fund's transfer agent takes reasonable measures to confirm that instructions are genuine.

**The fund is designed for long-term investors.** Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, Dreyfus and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices ("frequent trading") that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. Dreyfus and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading.

**The fund reserves the right to:**

- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend the privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum or maximum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only during unusual market conditions or in cases of very large redemptions or excessive trading)
- "redeem in kind," or make payments in securities rather than cash, if the amount redeemed is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it exceeds 1% of the fund's assets)
- refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any individual or group who, in Dreyfus' view, is likely to engage in frequent trading

More than four roundtrips within a rolling 12-month period generally is considered to be frequent trading. A roundtrip consists of an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days. Based on the facts and circumstances of the trades, the fund may also view as frequent trading a pattern of investments that are partially liquidated within 60 days.

Dreyfus monitors selected transactions to identify frequent trading. When its surveillance systems identify multiple roundtrips, Dreyfus evaluates trading activity in the account for evidence of frequent trading. Dreyfus considers the investor's trading history in other accounts under common ownership or control, in other Dreyfus, Dreyfus/Founders and Mellon Funds Trust funds, and if known, in non-affiliated mutual funds and accounts under common control. These evaluations involve judgments that are inherently subjective. In all instances, Dreyfus seeks to make these judgments to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests. If Dreyfus concludes the account is likely to engage in frequent trading, Dreyfus may cancel or revoke the purchase or exchange on the following business day. Dreyfus may also temporarily or permanently bar such investor's future purchases into the fund in lieu of, or in addition to, canceling or revoking the trade. At its discretion, Dreyfus may apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership, control or perceived affiliation.



Dreyfus' ability to monitor the trading activity of investors whose shares are held in omnibus accounts is limited. However, the selling agreements between the distributor and financial intermediaries include obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state securities laws and rules, regulations, requirements and conditions of all applicable regulatory and self-regulatory agencies or authorities. Moreover, the intermediaries agree that the fund's procedures relating to all orders and the handling thereof will be subject to the terms of the prospectus and the distributor's written instructions. In order to seek assurances that such intermediaries comply with rules and regulations, all intermediaries, including those whose trades occur through omnibus accounts, have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the selling agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to late trading. Further, all intermediaries have been requested in writing to notify the distributor immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

Although these policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

Transactions made through Automatic Investment Plans, Automatic Withdrawal Plans, Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privileges and automatic non-discretionary rebalancing programs approved in writing by Dreyfus generally are not considered to be frequent trading.

#### Small account policy

If your account has a balance of fewer than 50 shares, the fund may ask you to increase your balance. If it is still below 50 shares after 45 days, the fund may close your account and send you the proceeds.



## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

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The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends and capital gain distributions annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless you instruct the fund otherwise. There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

**Distributions paid by the fund** are subject to federal income tax, and may also be subject to state or local taxes (unless you are investing through a tax-advantaged retirement account). For federal tax purposes, in general, certain fund distributions, including dividends from foreign companies and distributions of short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income. Other fund distributions, including dividends from U.S. companies and distributions of long-term capital gains are taxable to you as qualified dividends and capital gains.

**High portfolio turnover** and more volatile markets can result in significant taxable distributions to shareholders, regardless of whether their shares have increased in value. The tax status of any distribution generally is the same regardless of how long you have been in the fund and whether you reinvest your distributions or take them in cash.

**If you buy shares of a fund** when the fund has realized but not yet distributed income or capital gains, you will be “buying a dividend” by paying the full price for the shares and then receiving a portion back in the form of a taxable distribution.

Your sale of shares, including exchanges into other funds, may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment in the fund generally is the difference between the cost of your shares and the amount you receive when you sell them.

The tax status of your distributions will be detailed in your annual tax statement from the fund. Because everyone’s tax situation is unique, please consult your tax advisor before investing.



## SERVICES FOR FUND INVESTORS

The third party through whom you purchased fund shares may impose different restrictions on these services and privileges offered by the fund, or may not make them available at all. Consult your financial representative for more information on the availability of these services and privileges.

### Automatic services

**Buying or selling shares automatically** is easy with the services described below. With each service, you select a schedule and amount, subject to certain restrictions. You can set up most of these services with your application, or by calling your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611.

#### For investing

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Asset Builder®</b>	For making automatic investments from a designated bank account.
<b>Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan</b>	For making automatic investments through a payroll deduction.
<b>Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege</b>	For making automatic investments from your federal employment, Social Security or other regular federal government check.
<b>Dreyfus Dividend Sweep</b>	For automatically reinvesting the dividends and distributions from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

<b>Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege</b>	For making regular exchanges from the fund into another Dreyfus fund or certain Founders-advised funds.
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#### For selling shares

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b>	For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds. There will be no CDSC on Class B or Class C shares, as long as the amount of any withdrawal does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the plan, or at the time of the subsequent withdrawal.
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### Exchange privilege

**You can exchange shares worth \$500 or more** (no minimum for retirement accounts) from one class of the fund into the same class of another Dreyfus Premier fund or Founders-advised fund. You can request your exchange by contacting your financial representative. Be sure to read the current prospectus for any fund into which you are exchanging before investing. Any new account established through an exchange will generally have the same privileges as your original account (as long as they are available). There is currently no fee for exchanges, although you may be charged a sales load when exchanging into any fund that has a higher one.

### Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege

**To move money between your bank account and your Dreyfus fund account** with a phone call or online, use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer privilege. You can set up Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your account by providing bank account information and following the instructions on your application, or contacting your financial representative.

### Reinvestment privilege

**Upon written request you can reinvest** up to the number of Class A or Class B shares you redeemed within 45 days of selling them at the current share price without any sales charge. If you paid a CDSC, it will be credited back to your account. This privilege may be used only once.

### Account statements

**Every fund investor** automatically receives regular account statements. You will also be sent a yearly statement detailing the tax characteristics of any dividends and distributions you have received.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR **REGULAR ACCOUNTS**

### TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT



#### In Writing

Complete the application.

Mail your application and a check to:

Name of Fund

P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502

Attn: Institutional Processing

### TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check.

Mail the slip and the check to:

Name of Fund

P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502

Attn: Institutional Processing

### TO SELL SHARES

Write a letter of instruction that includes:

- your name(s) and signature(s)
- your account number
- the fund name
- the share class
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Shareholder Guide – Selling Shares").

Mail your request to:

The Dreyfus Family of Funds

P.O. Box 55268, Boston, MA 02205-8502

Attn: Institutional Processing



#### By Telephone

**Wire** Call us to request an account application and an account number. Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:

- ABA# 021000018
- DDA# 8900479930
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)
- dealer number if applicable

Return your application with the account number on the application.

**Wire** Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:

- ABA# 021000018
- DDA# 8900479930
- the fund name
- the share class
- your account number
- name(s) of investor(s)
- dealer number if applicable

**Electronic check** Same as wire, but insert "111" before your 14-digit account number.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Call us to request your transaction.

**Wire** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.

**Dreyfus TeleTransfer** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.



**Check** Call us or your financial representative to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.

To open an account, make subsequent investments or to sell shares, please contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**.  
Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Family of Funds**.




### Concepts to understand

**Wire transfer:** for transferring money from one financial institution to another. Wiring is the fastest way to move money, although your bank may charge a fee to send or receive wire transfers. Wire redemptions from the fund are subject to a \$1,000 minimum.

**Electronic check:** for transferring money out of a bank account. Your transaction is entered electronically, but may take up to eight business days to clear. Electronic checks usually are available without a fee at all Automated Clearing House (ACH) banks.

TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
<div> Online (<a href="http://www.dreyfus.com">www.dreyfus.com</a>)</div>	<p><b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Request Dreyfus TeleTransfer on your application. Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction.</p>	<p><b>Wire</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be wired to your bank.</p> <p><b>Dreyfus TeleTransfer</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. Be sure the fund has your bank account information on file. Proceeds will be sent to your bank by electronic check.</p> <p><b>Check</b> Visit the Dreyfus Web site to request your transaction. A check will be sent to the address of record.</p>
<div> Automatically</div> <p><b>With an initial investment</b> Indicate on your application which automatic service(s) you want. Return your application with your investment.</p>	<p><b>All services</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see “Services for Fund Investors”). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials.</p>	<p><b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add the plan. Complete the form, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals you would like.</p> <p>Be sure to maintain an account balance of \$5,000 or more.</p>

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR IRAS

TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
 <p><b>In Writing</b></p> <p>Complete an IRA application, making sure to specify the fund name and to indicate the year the contribution is for.</p> <p>Mail your application and a check to: The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568 Attn: Institutional Processing</p>	<p>Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check. Indicate the year the contribution is for.</p> <p>Mail the slip and the check to: The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568 Attn: Institutional Processing</p>	<p>Write a letter of instruction that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• your name and signature</li> <li>• your account number</li> <li>• the fund name</li> <li>• the share class</li> <li>• the dollar amount you want to sell</li> <li>• how and where to send the proceeds</li> <li>• whether the distribution is qualified or premature</li> <li>• whether the 10% TEFRA should be withheld</li> </ul> <p>Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Shareholder Guide – Selling Shares").</p> <p>Mail your request to: The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568 Attn: Institutional Processing</p>
 <p><b>By Telephone</b></p>	<p><b>Wire</b> Have your bank send your investment to The Bank of New York, with these instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABA# 021000018</li> <li>• DDA# 8900479930</li> <li>• the fund name</li> <li>• the share class</li> <li>• your account number</li> <li>• name of investor</li> <li>• the contribution year</li> <li>• dealer number if applicable</li> </ul> <p><b>Electronic check</b> Same as wire, but insert "111" before your 14-digit account number.</p>	
 <p><b>Automatically</b></p>	<p><b>All services</b> Call us or your financial representative to request a form to add any automatic investing service (see "Services for Fund Investors"). Complete and return the form along with any other required materials. All contributions will count as current year.</p>	<p><b>Systematic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us to request instructions to establish the plan.</p>

For information and assistance, contact your financial representative or call toll free in the U.S. **1-800-554-4611**. Make checks payable to: **The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian**.



# For More Information

## **Dreyfus Premier High Income Fund**

A series of Dreyfus Bond Funds, Inc.

SEC file number: 811-2653

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

### **Annual/Semiannual Report**

Describes the fund's performance, lists portfolio holdings and contains a letter from the fund's managers discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the last fiscal year.

### **Statement of Additional Information (SAI)**

Provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is incorporated by reference (is legally considered part of this prospectus).

### **Portfolio Holdings**

The fund will disclose its complete schedule of portfolio holdings, as reported on a month-end basis, on its Web site at **www.dreyfus.com**, under Mutual Fund Center – Dreyfus Mutual Funds – Mutual Fund Total Holdings. The information will be posted with a one-month lag and will remain accessible until the fund files a report on Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the date as of which the information was current. In addition, fifteen days following the end of each calendar quarter, the fund will publicly disclose on the Web site its complete schedule of portfolio holdings as of the end of such quarter.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available (i) in the fund's SAI; and (ii) on the fund's Web site at **www.dreyfus.com**.

To obtain information:

#### **By telephone**

Call your financial representative or 1-800-554-4611

#### **By mail** Write to:

The Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144

**On the Internet** Text-only versions of certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:  
<http://www.sec.gov>

You can also obtain copies, after paying a duplicating fee, by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (for information, call 1-202-942-8090) or by E-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-0102.





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DREYFUS BOND FUNDS, INC.

*DREYFUS MUNICIPAL BOND FUND*

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
JANUARY 1, 2005

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This Statement of Additional Information, which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus of Dreyfus Municipal Bond Fund (the "Fund"), a series of Dreyfus Bond Funds, Inc. (the "Company"), dated January 1, 2005, as it may be revised from time to time. To obtain a copy of the Fund's Prospectus, please call your financial advisor, or write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit the Dreyfus.com web site, or call one of the following numbers:

Call Toll Free 1-800-645-6561  
In New York City -- Call 1-718-895-1206  
Outside the U.S. -- Call 516-794-5452

The Fund's most recent Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report to Shareholders are separate documents supplied with this Statement of Additional Information, and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent auditors appearing in the Annual Report are incorporated by reference into this Statement of Additional Information.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY AND THE FUND

The Company is a Maryland corporation formed on July 12, 1976. The Fund is a separate series of the Company, an open-end management investment company, known as a municipal bond fund. As a municipal bond fund, the Fund invests in debt obligations issued by states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, or multistate agencies or authorities, and certain other specified securities, the interest from which is, in the opinion of bond counsel to the issuer, exempt from Federal income tax ("Municipal Bonds"). The Fund is a diversified fund, which means that, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the securities of any single issuer nor hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer (other than, in each case, securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities).

The Dreyfus Corporation (the "Manager") serves as the Fund's investment adviser.

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the "Distributor") is the distributor of the Fund's shares.

### Certain Portfolio Securities

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectus.

Municipal Bonds. As a fundamental policy, the Fund normally invests at least 80% of the value of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in Municipal Bonds (or other investments with economic characteristics). Municipal Bonds generally include debt obligations issued to obtain funds for various public purposes as well as certain industrial development bonds issued by or on behalf of public authorities. Municipal Bonds are classified as general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and notes. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from the revenue derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source, but not from the general taxing power. Tax-exempt industrial development bonds, in most cases, are revenue bonds that do not carry the pledge of the credit of the issuing municipality, but generally are guaranteed by the corporate entity on whose behalf they are issued. Notes are short-term instruments, which are obligations of the issuing municipalities or agencies and are sold in anticipation of a bond sale, collection of taxes or receipt of other revenues. Municipal Bonds include municipal lease/purchase agreements, which are similar to installment purchase contracts for property or equipment issued by municipalities. Municipal Bonds bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest, which are determined in some instances by formulas under which the Municipal Bond's interest rate will change directly or inversely to changes in interest rates or an index, or multiples thereof, in many cases subject to a maximum and minimum. Certain Municipal Bonds are subject to redemption at a date earlier than their stated maturity pursuant to call options, which may be separated from the related Municipal Bond and purchased and sold separately.

For the purpose of diversification under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), the identification of the issuer of Municipal Bonds depends on the terms and conditions of the security. When the assets and revenues of an agency, authority, instrumentality or other political subdivision are separate from those of the government creating the subdivision and the security is backed only by the assets and revenues of the subdivision, such subdivision would be deemed to be the sole issuer. Similarly, in the case of an industrial development bond, if that bond is backed only by the assets and revenues of the non-governmental user, then such non-governmental user would be deemed to be the sole issuer. If, however, in either case, the creating government or some other entity guarantees a security, such a guaranty would be considered a separate security and will be treated as an issue of such government or other entity.

The yields on Municipal Bonds are dependent on a variety of factors, including general economic and monetary conditions, money market factors, conditions in the Municipal Bond market, size of a particular offering, maturity of the obligation and rating of the issue.

Municipal Bonds include certain private activity bonds (a type of revenue bond), the income from which is subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT). The Fund may invest without limitation in such Municipal Bonds if the Manager determines that their purchase is consistent with the Fund's investment objective.

Certain Tax Exempt Obligations. The Fund may purchase floating and variable rate demand notes and bonds, which are tax exempt obligations ordinarily having stated maturities in excess of one year, but which permit the holder to demand payment of principal at any time or at specified intervals. Variable rate demand notes include master demand notes, which are obligations that permit the Fund to invest fluctuating amounts, at varying rates of interest, pursuant to direct arrangements between the Fund, as lender, and the borrower. These obligations permit daily changes in the amount borrowed. Because these obligations are direct lending arrangements between the lender and borrower, it is not contemplated that such instruments generally will be traded, and there generally is no established secondary market for these obligations, although they are redeemable at face value, plus accrued interest. Accordingly, where these obligations are not secured by letters of credit or other credit support arrangements, the Fund's right to redeem is dependent on the ability of the borrower to pay principal and interest on demand. Each obligation purchased by the Fund will meet the quality criteria established for the purchase of Municipal Bonds.

Tax Exempt Participation Interests. The Fund may purchase from financial institutions participation interests in Municipal Bonds (such as industrial development bonds and municipal lease/purchase agreements). A participation interest gives the Fund an undivided interest in the Municipal Bond in the proportion that the Fund's participation interest bears to the total principal amount of the Municipal Bond. These instruments may have fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. If the participation interest is unrated, it will be backed by an irrevocable letter of credit or guarantee of a bank that the Fund's Board has determined meets prescribed quality standards for banks, or the payment obligation otherwise will be collateralized by U.S. Government securities. For certain participation interests, the Fund will have the right to demand payment, on not more than seven days' notice, for all or any part of the Fund's participation interest in the Municipal Bond, plus accrued interest. As to these instruments, the Fund intends to exercise its

right to demand payment only upon a default under the terms of the Municipal Bond, as needed to provide liquidity to meet redemptions, or to maintain or improve the quality of its investment portfolio.

Municipal lease obligations or installment purchase contract obligations (collectively, "lease obligations") have special risks not ordinarily associated with Municipal Bonds. Although lease obligations do not constitute general obligations of the municipality for which the municipality's taxing power is pledged, a lease obligation ordinarily is backed by the municipality's covenant to budget for, appropriate and make the payments due under the lease obligation. However, certain lease obligations in which the Fund may invest may contain "non-appropriation" clauses, which provide that the municipality has no obligation to make lease or installment purchase payments in future years unless money is appropriated for such purpose on a yearly basis. Although "non-appropriation" lease obligations are secured by the leased property, disposition of the property in the event of foreclosure might prove difficult. Certain lease obligations may be illiquid. Determination as to the liquidity of such securities is made in accordance with guidelines established by the Fund's Board. Pursuant to such guidelines, the Board has directed the Manager to monitor carefully the Fund's investment in such securities with particular regard to: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the lease obligation; (2) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the lease obligation and the number of potential buyers; (3) the willingness of dealers to undertake to make a market in the lease obligation; (4) the nature of the marketplace trades, including the time needed to dispose of the lease obligation, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer; and (5) such other factors concerning the trading market for the lease obligation as the Manager may deem relevant. In addition, in evaluating the liquidity and credit quality of a lease obligation that is unrated, the Fund's Board has directed the Manager to consider: (a) whether the lease can be cancelled; (b) what assurance there is that the assets represented by the lease can be sold; (c) the strength of the lessee's general credit (e.g., its debt, administrative, economic, and financial characteristics); (d) the likelihood that the municipality will discontinue appropriating funding for the leased property because the property is no longer deemed essential to the operations of the municipality (e.g., the potential for an "event of nonappropriation"); (e) the legal recourse in the event of failure to appropriate; and (f) such other factors concerning credit quality as the Manager may deem relevant.

Tender Option Bonds. The Fund may purchase tender option bonds. A tender option bond is a Municipal Bond (generally held pursuant to a custodial arrangement) having a relatively long maturity and bearing interest at a fixed rate substantially higher than prevailing short-term tax exempt rates, that has been coupled with the agreement of a third party, such as a bank, broker-dealer or other financial institution, pursuant to which such institution grants the security holders the option, at periodic intervals, to tender their securities to the institution and receive the face value thereof. As consideration for providing the option, the financial institution receives periodic fees equal to the difference between the Municipal Bond's fixed coupon rate and the rate, as determined by a remarketing or similar agent at or near the commencement of such period, that would cause the securities, coupled with the tender option, to trade at par on the date of such determination. Thus, after payment of this fee, the security holder effectively holds a demand obligation that bears interest at the prevailing short-term tax-exempt rate. The Manager, on behalf of the Fund, will consider on an ongoing basis the creditworthiness of the issuer of the underlying Municipal Bonds, of any custodian and of the third party provider of the tender

option. In certain instances and for certain tender option bonds, the option may be terminable in the event of a default in payment of principal or interest on the underlying Municipal Bonds and for other reasons.

The Fund will purchase tender option bonds only when the Manager is satisfied that the custodial and tender option arrangements, including the fee payment arrangements, will not adversely affect the tax exempt status of the underlying Municipal Bonds and that payment of any tender fees will not have the effect of creating taxable income for the Fund. Based on the tender option bond agreement, the Fund expects to be able to value the tender option bond at par; however, the value of the instrument will be monitored to assure that it is valued at fair value.

Custodial Receipts. The Fund may purchase custodial receipts representing the right to receive certain future principal and interest payments on Municipal Bonds, which underlie the custodial receipts. A number of different arrangements are possible. In a typical custodial receipt arrangement, an issuer or a third party owner of Municipal Bonds deposits such obligations with a custodian in exchange for two classes of custodial receipts. The two classes have different characteristics, but, in each case, payments on the two classes are based on payments received on the underlying Municipal Bonds. One class has the characteristics of a typical auction rate security, where at specified intervals its interest rate is adjusted, and ownership changes, based on an auction mechanism. This class's interest rate generally is expected to be below the coupon rate of the underlying Municipal Bonds and generally is at a level comparable to that of a Municipal Bond of similar quality and having a maturity equal to the period between interest rate adjustments. The second class bears interest at a rate that exceeds the interest rate typically borne by a security of comparable quality and maturity; this rate also is adjusted, but in this case inversely to changes in the rate of interest of the first class. The aggregate interest paid with respect to the two classes will not exceed the interest paid by the underlying Municipal Bonds. The value of the second-class and similar securities typically fluctuates more than the value of a Municipal Bond of comparable quality and maturity, which would increase the volatility of the Fund's net asset value. These custodial receipts are sold in private placements. The Fund also may purchase directly from issuers, and not in a private placement, Municipal Bonds having characteristics similar to custodial receipts. These securities may be issued as part of a multi-class offering and the interest rate on certain classes may be subject to a cap or floor.

Ratings of Municipal Bonds. The Fund will invest at least 75% of the value of its net assets in securities which, in the case of Municipal Bonds, are rated no lower than A by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P") or Fitch Ratings ("Fitch" and, together with Moody's and S&P, the "Rating Agencies") or, if unrated, deemed to be of comparable quality by the Manager. The Fund may invest up to 25% of the value of its net assets in securities which, in the case of Municipal Bonds, are rated lower than A by the Rating Agencies and as low as the lowest rating assigned by the Rating Agencies. For purposes of the 75% requirement described in this paragraph, securities which, while not rated, are determined by the Manager to be of comparable quality to the rated securities in which the Fund may invest will be considered to have the rating so determined.

The average distribution of Fund investments (at value) in Municipal Bonds (including notes) by ratings for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, computed on a monthly basis, was as follows:

<u>Fitch</u>	or	<u>Moody's</u>	or	<u>S&amp;P</u>	Percentage of <u>Value</u>
AAA		Aaa		AAA	47.9%
AA		Aa		AA	25.5%
A		A		A	10.7%
BBB		Baa		BBB	8.3%
BB		Ba		BB	3.3%
F-1, F-1+		MIG 1, P-1		SP-1, A-1	2.6% <sup>(1)</sup>
Not Rated		Not Rated		Not Rated	<u>1.7%</u> <sup>(2)</sup>
					100.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes tax exempt notes rated in one of the two highest rating categories by a Rating Agency. These securities, together with Municipal Bonds rated A or better by a Rating Agency, are taken into account at the time of purchase for purposes of determining that the Fund's portfolio meets the 75% minimum quality standard discussed above.

<sup>(2)</sup> Included in the Not Rated category are securities comprising 3.5% of the Fund's market value which, while not rated, have been determined by the Manager to be of comparable quality to securities in the following rating categories: Aaa/AAA (0.8%) and Baa/BBB (0.9%).

Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, an issue of rated Municipal Bonds may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum required for purchase by the Fund. Neither event will require the sale of such Municipal Bonds by the Fund, but the Manager will consider such event in determining whether the Fund should continue to hold the Municipal Bonds. To the extent that the ratings given by a Rating Agency for Municipal Bonds may change as a result of changes in such organization or its rating system, the Fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance with the investment policies described in the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information. The ratings of the Rating Agencies represent their opinions as to the quality of the Municipal Bonds which they undertake to rate. It should be emphasized, however, that ratings are relative and subjective and are not absolute standards of quality. Although these ratings may be an initial criterion for selection of portfolio investments, the Manager also will evaluate these securities and the creditworthiness of the issuers of such securities.

Taxable Investments. From time to time, on a temporary basis other than for temporary defensive purposes (but not to exceed 20% of the value of the Fund's net assets) or for temporary defensive purposes, the Fund may invest in taxable short-term investments ("Taxable Investments") consisting of: notes of issuers having, at the time of purchase, a quality rating within the two highest grades of a Rating Agency; obligations of the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities; commercial paper rated not lower than P-1 by Moody's, A-1 by S&P or F-1 by Fitch; certificates of deposit of U.S. domestic banks, including foreign branches of domestic banks, with assets of one billion dollars or more; time deposits; bankers' acceptances and other short-term bank obligations; and repurchase agreements in respect of any of the foregoing. Dividends paid by the Fund that are

attributable to income earned by the Fund from Taxable Investments will be taxable to investors. See "Dividends, Distributions and Taxes." Except for temporary defensive purposes, at no time will more than 20% of the value of the Fund's net assets be invested in Taxable Investments. Under normal market conditions, the Fund anticipates that not more than 5% of the value of its total assets will be invested in any one category of Taxable Investments.

Stand-By Commitments. The Fund may acquire "stand-by commitments" with respect to Municipal Bonds held in its portfolio. Under a stand-by commitment, the Fund obligates a broker, dealer or bank to repurchase, at the Fund's option, specified securities at a specified price and, in this respect, stand-by commitments are comparable to put options. The exercise of a stand-by commitment, therefore, is subject to the ability of the seller to make payment on demand. The Fund will acquire stand-by commitments solely to facilitate its portfolio liquidity and does not intend to exercise its rights thereunder for trading purposes. The Fund may pay for stand-by commitments if such action is deemed necessary, thus increasing to a degree the cost of the underlying Municipal Bond and similarly decreasing such security's yield to investors. Gains realized in connection with stand-by commitments will be taxable. The Fund may acquire call options on specific Municipal Bonds. The Fund generally would purchase these call options to protect the Fund from the issuer of the related Municipal Bond redeeming, or other holder of the call option from calling away, the Municipal Bond before maturity. The sale by the Fund of a call option that it owns on a specific Municipal Bond could result in the receipt of taxable income by the Fund.

Zero Coupon, Pay-In-Kind and Step-Up Securities. The Fund may invest in zero coupon securities, which are debt securities issued or sold at a discount from their face value which do not entitle the holder to any periodic payment of interest prior to maturity or a specified redemption date (or cash payment date). The Fund may invest in pay-in-kind bonds, which are bonds which generally pay interest through the issuance of additional bonds. The Fund may invest in step-up coupon bonds, which are debt securities that typically do not pay interest for a specified period of time and then pay interest at a series of different rates. The market prices of these securities generally are more volatile and are likely to respond to a greater degree to changes in interest rates than the market prices of securities that pay cash interest periodically having similar maturities and credit qualities. In addition, unlike bonds which pay cash interest throughout the period to maturity, the Fund will realize no cash until the cash payment date unless a portion of such securities are sold and, if the issuer defaults, the Fund may obtain no return at all on its investment. Federal income tax law requires the holder of a zero coupon security or of certain pay-in-kind or step-up bonds to accrue income with respect to these securities prior to the receipt of cash payments. To maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid liability for Federal income taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute such income accrued with respect to these securities and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements. See "Dividends, Distributions and Taxes."

Investment Companies. The Fund may invest in securities issued by investment companies. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund's investment in such securities, subject to certain exceptions, currently is limited to (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets in the aggregate. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear,

along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory fees and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. The Fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the Fund's securities lending program in shares of one or more money market funds advised by the Manager. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations described above, except that the Fund's aggregate investment of uninvested cash reserves in such money market funds may not exceed 25% of its total assets. See "Lending Portfolio Securities."

**Illiquid Securities.** The Fund may invest up to 15% of the value of its net assets in securities as to which a liquid trading market does not exist, provided such investments are consistent with the Fund's investment objective. These securities may include securities that are not readily marketable, such as securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale, and repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice. As to these securities, the Fund is subject to a risk that should the Fund desire to sell them when a ready buyer is not available at a price the Fund deems representative of their value, the value of the Fund's net assets could be adversely affected.

#### **Investment Techniques**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectus. The Fund's use of certain of the investment techniques described below may give rise to taxable income.

**Borrowing Money.** The Fund is permitted to borrow to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, which permits an investment company to borrow in an amount up to 33-1/3% of the value of its total assets. The Fund currently intends to borrow money only for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, in an amount up to 15% of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) valued at the lesser of cost or market, less liabilities (not including the amount borrowed) at the time the borrowing is made. While such borrowings exceed 5% of the Fund's total assets, the Fund will not make any additional investments.

**Lending Portfolio Securities.** The Fund may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, the Fund remains the owner of the loaned securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. The Fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. The Fund may call the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the Fund's investment is to be voted upon. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The Fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the Fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the Fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. The Fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by Mellon Bank, N.A., as lending agent (the "Lending Agent"). The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of



the Fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the Fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by the Manager to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, the Fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. The Fund will minimize this risk by limiting the investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by the Manager, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities.

Derivatives. The Fund may invest in, or enter into, derivatives for a variety of reasons, including to hedge certain market and interest rate risks, to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities or to increase potential income gain. Generally, derivatives are financial contracts whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate or index, and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies, or currency exchange rates, commodities, and related indexes. Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker or more specifically focused way for the Fund to invest than “traditional” securities would. Examples of derivative instruments that the Fund may use include options contracts, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, and swap transactions. The Fund’s portfolio manager may decide not to employ any of these strategies and there is no assurance that any derivatives strategy used by the Fund will succeed.

Derivatives can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risk, depending upon the characteristics of the particular derivative and the portfolio as a whole. Derivatives permit the Fund to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which its portfolio is exposed in much the same way as the Fund can increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, of its portfolio by making investments in specific securities. However, derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in derivatives could have a large potential impact on the Fund's performance.

If the Fund invests in derivatives at inopportune times or judges market conditions incorrectly, such investments may lower the Fund's return or result in a loss. The Fund also could experience losses if its derivatives were poorly correlated with its other investments, or if the Fund were unable to liquidate its position because of an illiquid secondary market. The market for many derivatives is, or suddenly can become, illiquid. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices for derivatives.

Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter derivatives. Exchange-traded derivatives generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency which is the issuer or counterparty to such derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a daily variation margin system operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with derivatives purchased on an exchange. By contrast, no clearing agency guarantees over-the-counter derivatives. Therefore, each party to an over-the-counter derivative bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, the Manager will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to over-the-counter derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by the Fund. Over-the-counter derivatives are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since the other party to the transaction

may be the only investor with sufficient understanding of the derivative to be interested in bidding for it.

Neither the Company nor the Fund will be a commodity pool. In addition, as a registered investment company, the Company has filed notice with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and National Futures Association of its eligibility for an exclusion from the definition of commodity pool operator and, therefore, neither the Company nor the Fund is subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act.

Futures Transactions--In General. The Fund may enter into futures contracts in U.S. domestic markets. Engaging in these transactions involves risk of loss to the Fund, which could adversely affect the value of the Fund's net assets. Although the Fund intends to purchase or sell futures contracts only if there is an active market for such contracts, no assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular contract at any particular time. Many futures exchanges and boards of trade limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the trading day. Futures contract prices could move to the limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and potentially subjecting the Fund to substantial losses.

Successful use of futures and options with respect thereto by the Fund also is subject to the Manager's ability to predict correctly movements in the direction of the relevant market and, to the extent the transaction is entered into for hedging purposes, to ascertain the appropriate correlation between the securities being hedged and the price movements of the futures contract. For example, if the Fund uses futures to hedge against the possibility of a decline in the market value of securities held in its portfolio and the prices of such securities instead increase, the Fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of securities which it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. Furthermore, if in such circumstances the Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements. The Fund may have to sell such securities at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets to cover its obligations relating to its transactions in derivatives. To maintain this required cover, the Fund may have to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices or times since it may not be possible to liquidate a derivative position at a reasonable price. In addition, the segregation of such assets will have the effect of limiting the Fund's ability otherwise to invest those assets.

Specific Futures Transactions. The Fund may purchase and sell interest rate futures contracts. An interest rate future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security at a future date at a specific price.

Swap Transactions. The Fund may engage in swap transactions, including interest rate swaps, interest rate locks, caps, collars and floors to mitigate risk, manage duration and reduce portfolio turnover. Swap transactions, including interest rate swaps, interest rate locks, caps, collars and floors, may be individually negotiated and include exposure to a variety of different interest rates. Swaps involve two

parties exchanging a series of cash flows at specified intervals. In the case of an interest rate swap, the parties exchange interest payments based upon an agreed upon principal amount (referred to as the "notional principal amount"). Under the most basic scenario, Party A would pay a fixed rate on the notional principal amount to Party B, which would pay a floating rate on the same notional principal amount to Party A. Swap agreements can take many forms and are known by a variety of names.

In a typical cap or floor agreement, one party agrees to make payments only under specified circumstances, usually in return for payment of a fee by the other party. For example, the buyer of an interest rate cap obtains the right to receive payments to the extent that a specified interest rate exceeds an agreed-upon level, while the seller of an interest rate floor is obligated to make payments to the extent that a specified interest rate falls below an agreed-upon level. An interest rate collar combines elements of buying a cap and selling a floor.

In a typical interest rate lock transaction, if Party A desires to lock in a particular interest rate on a given date it may enter into an agreement to pay, or receive a payment from, Party B based on the yield of a reference index or security, such as a Municipal Bond or U.S. Treasury security. At the maturity of the term of the agreement, one party makes a payment to the other party as determined by the relative change in the yield of the reference security or index. An interest rate lock transaction may be terminated prior to its stated maturity date by calculating the payment due as of the termination date, which generally differs from the make-whole provisions for an early termination of an interest rate swap transaction in which the party terminating the swap early is required to give its counterparty the economic benefit of the transaction.

The Fund will set aside cash or permissible liquid assets to cover its current obligations under swap transactions. If the Fund enters into a swap agreement on a net basis (that is, the two payment streams are netted out, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments), the Fund will maintain cash or permissible liquid assets 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.

The most important factor in the performance of a swap agreement is the change in the specific interest rate or other factor(s) that determine the amounts of payments due to and from the Fund. If a swap agreement called 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.

The Fund will enter into swaps, interest rate locks, caps, collars and floors only with banks and recognized securities dealers believed by the Manager to present minimal credit risks. If there were a default by the other party to such transaction, the Fund would have to rely on its contractual remedies (which may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency or similar laws) pursuant to the agreement relating to the transaction.

The use of interest rate swaps is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If the Manager is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates and other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these investment techniques were not used. Moreover, even if the Manager is correct in its forecasts,

there is a risk that the swap position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged.

The Fund will enter into swap transactions only when the Manager believes it would be in the best interests of the Fund's shareholders to do so. Depending on the circumstances, gains from a swap transaction can be treated either as taxable ordinary income or as short- or long-term capital gains.

Options—In General. The Fund may invest up to 5% of its assets, represented by the premium paid, in the purchase of call and put options. The Fund may write (i.e., sell) covered call and put option contracts to the extent of 20% of the value of its net assets at the time such option contracts are written. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date. Conversely, a put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date.

A covered call option written by the Fund is a call option with respect to which the Fund owns the underlying security or otherwise covers the transaction by segregating permissible liquid assets. A put option written by the Fund is covered when, among other things, the Fund segregates permissible liquid assets having a value equal to or greater than the exercise price of the option to fulfill the obligation undertaken. The principal reason for writing covered call and put options is to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the underlying securities alone. The Fund receives a premium from writing covered call or put options which it retains whether or not the option is exercised.

There is no assurance that sufficient trading interest to create a liquid secondary market on a securities exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time, and for some options no such secondary market may exist. A liquid secondary market in an option may cease to exist for a variety of reasons. In the past, for example, higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow, or other unforeseen events, at times have rendered certain of the clearing facilities inadequate and resulted in the institution of special procedures, such as trading rotations, restrictions on certain types of orders or trading halts or suspensions in one or more options. There can be no assurance that similar events, or events that may otherwise interfere with the timely execution of customers' orders, will not recur. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If, as a covered call option writer, the Fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or it otherwise covers its position.

Successful use by the Fund of options, including options on futures contracts, will be subject to the Manager's ability to predict correctly movements in interest rates. To the extent the Manager's predictions are incorrect, the Fund may incur losses.

Future Developments. The Fund may take advantage of opportunities in options and futures contracts and options on futures contracts and any other derivatives which are not presently contemplated for use by the Fund or which are not currently available but which may be developed,

to the extent such opportunities are both consistent with the Fund's investment objective and legally permissible for the Fund. Before entering into such transactions or making any such investment, the Fund will provide appropriate disclosure in its Prospectus or this Statement of Additional Information.

Forward Commitments. The Fund may purchase or sell Municipal Bonds and other securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, which means that delivery and payment take place a number of days after the date of the commitment to purchase. The payment obligation and the interest rate receivable on a forward commitment, when-issued, or delayed-delivery security are fixed when the Fund enters into the commitment, but the Fund does not make payment until it receives delivery from the counterparty. The Fund will commit to purchase such securities only with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but the Fund may sell these securities before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable. The Fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal at all times to the amount of the Fund's purchase commitments.

Municipal Bonds and other securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued, or delayed-delivery 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, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates. Securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued, or delayed-delivery basis may expose the Fund to risks because they may experience such fluctuations prior to their actual delivery. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment, when-issued, or delayed-delivery basis can involve the additional risk 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, when-issued, or delayed-delivery basis when the Fund is fully or almost fully invested may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the Fund's net assets and its net asset value per share.

#### Certain Investment Considerations and Risks

General. Even though interest-bearing securities are investments, which promise a stable stream of income, the prices of such securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates and, therefore, are subject to the risk of market price fluctuations. Certain securities that may be purchased by the Fund, such as those with interest rates that fluctuate directly or indirectly based on multiples of a stated index, are designed to be highly sensitive to changes in interest rates and can subject the holders thereof to extreme reductions of yield and possibly loss of principal. The values of fixed-income securities also may be affected by changes in the credit rating or financial condition of the issuing entities. The net asset value of the Fund generally will not be stable and should fluctuate based upon changes in the value of its respective portfolio securities. Securities in which the Fund invests may earn a higher level of current income than certain shorter-term or higher quality securities, which generally have greater liquidity, less market risk and less fluctuation in market value.

Investing In Municipal Bonds. The Fund may invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in Municipal Bonds which are related in such a way that an economic, business or political development or change affecting one such security also would affect the other securities; for

example, securities the interest upon which is paid from revenues of similar types of projects, or securities whose issuers are located in the same state. As a result, the Fund may be subject to greater risk as compared to a municipal bond fund that does not follow this practice.

Certain provisions in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), relating to the issuance of Municipal Bonds may reduce the volume of Municipal Bonds qualifying for Federal tax exemption. One effect of these provisions could be to increase the cost of the Municipal Bonds available for purchase by the Fund and thus reduce available yield. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers concerning the effect of these provisions on an investment in the Fund. Proposals that may restrict or eliminate the income tax exemption for interest on Municipal Bonds may be introduced in the future. If any such proposal were enacted that would reduce the availability of Municipal Bonds for investment by the Fund so as to adversely affect Fund shareholders, the Fund would reevaluate its investment objective and policies and submit possible changes in the Fund's structure to shareholders for their consideration. If legislation were enacted that would treat a type of Municipal Bond as taxable, the Fund would treat such security as a permissible Taxable Investment within the applicable limits set forth herein.

Lower Rated Securities. The Fund may invest up to 25% of the value of its net assets in higher yielding (and, therefore, higher risk) debt securities, such as those rated below investment grade by the Rating Agencies (commonly known as "junk" bonds). They may be subject to certain risks with respect to the issuing entity and to greater market fluctuations than certain lower yielding, higher rated Municipal Bonds. See "Appendix" for a general description of the Rating Agencies' ratings of Municipal Bonds. Although ratings may be useful in evaluating the safety of interest and principal payments, they do not evaluate the market value risk of these bonds. The Fund will rely on the Manager's judgment, analysis and experience in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer.

You should be aware that the market values of many of these bonds tend to be more sensitive to economic conditions than are higher rated securities and will fluctuate over time. These bonds generally are considered by the Rating Agencies to be, on balance, predominantly speculative with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation and generally will involve more credit risk than securities in the higher rating categories.

Because there is no established retail secondary market for many of these securities, the Fund anticipates that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of dealers or institutional investors. To the extent a secondary trading market for these bonds does exist, it generally is not as liquid as the secondary market for higher rated securities. The lack of a liquid secondary market may have an adverse impact on market price and yield and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular issues when necessary to meet the Fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The lack of a liquid secondary market for certain securities also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio and calculating its net asset value. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of these securities. In such cases, judgment may play a greater role in valuation because less reliable objective data may be available.

These bonds may be particularly susceptible to economic downturns. An economic recession could adversely affect the ability of the issuers of lower rated bonds to repay principal and

pay interest thereon which would increase the incidence of default for such securities. It is likely that any economic recession also would disrupt severely the market for such securities and have an adverse impact on their value.

The Fund may acquire these bonds during an initial offering. Such securities may involve special risks because they are new issues. The Fund has no arrangement with any person concerning the acquisition of such securities, and the Manager will review carefully the credit and other characteristics pertinent to such new issues.

The credit risk factors pertaining to lower rated securities also apply to lower rated zero coupon bonds, pay-in-kind bonds and step-up bonds, in which the Fund may invest up to 5% of its total assets. In addition to the risks associated with the credit rating of the issuers, the market price of these securities may be very volatile during the period no interest is paid.

Simultaneous Investments. Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of other investment companies advised by the Manager. The Manager has adopted written trade allocation procedures for its equity and fixed income trading desks. Under the procedures, portfolio managers or the trading desks will ordinarily seek to aggregate (or “bunch”) orders that are placed or received concurrently for more than one investment company or account. In some cases, this procedure may adversely affect the size of the position obtained for or disposed of by the Fund or the price paid or received by the Fund.

#### Investment Restrictions

The Fund's investment objective and its policy to normally invest at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in Municipal Bonds (or other investments with similar economic characteristics), are fundamental policies, which cannot be changed without approval by the holders of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Fund has adopted investment restrictions numbered 1 through 8 as fundamental policies. Investment restrictions numbered 9 through 14 are not fundamental policies and may be changed by a vote of a majority of the Fund's Board members at any time. The Fund may not:

1. Invest more than 5% of its assets in the obligations of any single issuer, except that up to 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities may be purchased, without regard to any such limitation.
2. Hold more than 10% of the voting securities of any single issuer. This Investment Restriction applies only with respect to 75% of the Fund's total assets.
3. Invest more than 25% of its total assets in the securities of issuers in any single industry; provided that there shall be no limitation on the purchase of Municipal Bonds and, for temporary defensive purposes, obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.

4. Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (which currently limits borrowing to no more than 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets). For purposes of this investment restriction, the entry into options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices shall not constitute borrowing.

5. Purchase or sell real estate, commodities or commodity contracts, or oil and gas interests, but this shall not prevent the Fund from investing in Municipal Bonds secured by real estate or interests therein, or prevent the Fund from purchasing and selling options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.

6. Underwrite the securities of other issuers, except that the Fund may bid separately or as part of a group for the purchase of Municipal Bonds directly from an issuer for its own portfolio to take advantage of the lower purchase price available, and except to the extent the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, by virtue of disposing of portfolio securities.

7. Make loans to others, except through the purchase of debt obligations and the entry into repurchase agreements; however, the Fund may lend its portfolio securities in an amount not to exceed 33-1/3% of the value of its total assets. Any loans of portfolio securities will be made according to guidelines established by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Fund's Board.

8. Issue any senior security (as such term is defined in Section 18(f) of the 1940 Act), except to the extent that the activities permitted in Investment Restrictions numbered 4, 5 and 12 may be deemed to give rise to a senior security.

9. Sell securities short or purchase securities on margin, but the Fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.

10. Purchase securities other than Municipal Bonds and Taxable Investments and those arising out of transactions in futures and options or as otherwise provided in the Fund's Prospectus.

11. Invest in securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

12. Pledge, hypothecate, mortgage or otherwise encumber its assets, except to the extent necessary to secure permitted borrowings and to the extent related to the deposit of assets in escrow in connection with the purchase of securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis and collateral and initial or variation margin arrangements with respect to options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those related to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.



13. Enter into repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice or purchase securities which are illiquid (which securities could include participation interests (including municipal lease/purchase agreements) that are not subject to the demand feature described in the Fund's Prospectus, and floating and variable rate demand obligations as to which the Fund cannot exercise the demand feature described in the Fund's Prospectus on less than seven days' notice and as to which there is no secondary market) if, in the aggregate, more than 15% of its net assets would be so invested.

14. Invest in companies for the purpose of exercising control.

For purposes of Investment Restriction No. 3, industrial development bonds, where the payment of principal and interest is the ultimate responsibility of companies within the same industry, are grouped together as an "industry."

If a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of investment, a later change in percentage resulting from a change in values or assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction. With respect to Investment Restriction No. 4, however, if borrowings exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets as a result of a change in values or assets, the Fund must take steps to reduce such borrowings at least to the extent of such excess.

The Company and the Manager have received an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission which, among other things, permits the Fund to use cash collateral received in connection with lending the Fund's securities and other uninvested cash to purchase shares of one or more registered money market funds advised by the Manager in excess of limitations imposed by the 1940 Act.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY

The Company's Board is responsible for the management and supervision of the Fund, and approves all significant agreements with those companies that furnish services to the Fund. These companies are as follows:

The Dreyfus Corporation.....	Investment Adviser
Dreyfus Service Corporation.....	Distributor
Dreyfus Transfer, Inc.....	Transfer Agent
The Bank of New York.....	Custodian

#### Board Members of the Company<sup>1</sup>

Board members of the Company, together with information as to their positions with the Company, principal occupations and other board memberships and affiliations, are shown below.

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Company (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and</u> <u>Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (61) Chairman of the Board (1995)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, <i>Director</i> Levcor International, Inc., an apparel

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Company (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and</u> <u>Affiliations</u>
		<p>fabric processor, <i>Director</i>  Century Business Services, Inc., a  provider of outsourcing functions  for small and medium size  companies, <i>Director</i>  The Newark Group, a provider of a  national market of paper recovery  facilities, paperboard mills and  paperboard converting plants,  <i>Director</i>  Azimuth Trust, an institutional asset  management firm, <i>Member of</i>  <i>Board of Managers and Advisory</i>  <i>Board</i></p>
David W. Burke (68) Board Member (1994)	Corporate Director and Trustee	<p>John F. Kennedy Library  Foundation, <i>Director</i>  U.S.S. Constitution Museum,  <i>Director</i></p>
William Hodding Carter III (69) Board Member (1988)	President and Chief Executive Officer of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (1998-present)	<p>Independent Sector, <i>Director</i>  The Century Foundation, <i>Director</i>  The Enterprise Corporation of the  Delta, <i>Director</i>  Foundation of the Mid-South,  <i>Director</i></p>
Ehud Houminer (64) Board Member (1994)	Executive-in-Residence at the Columbia Business School, Columbia University Principal of Lear, Yavitz and Associates, a management consulting firm, (1996 to 2001)	<p>Avnet Inc., an electronics distributor,  <i>Director</i>  International Advisory Board to the  MBA Program School of  Management, Ben Gurion  University, <i>Chairman</i>  Explore Charter School, Brooklyn,  NY, <i>Chairman</i></p>
Richard C. Leone (64) Board Member (1976)	President of The Century Foundation (formerly, The Twentieth Century Fund, Inc.), a tax exempt research foundation engaged in the study of economic, foreign policy and domestic issues	None

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Company (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and</u> <u>Affiliations</u>
Hans C. Mautner (66) Board Member (1978)	President-International Division and an Advisory Director of Simon Property Group, a real estate investment company, (1998 – present) Director and Vice Chairman of Simon Property Group (1998- 2003) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Simon Global Limited (1999 – present)	Capital and Regional PLC, a British co-investing real estate asset manager, <i>Director</i> Member –Board of Managers of: Mezzacappa Long/Short Fund LLC Mezzacappa Multi-Strategy Fund LLC Mezzacappa Multi-Strategy Plus LLC
Robin A. Pringle (41) Board Member (1995)	Senior Vice President of Mentor/National Mentoring Partnership, a national non- profit organization that is leading the movement to connect America’s young people with caring mentors	None
John E. Zuccotti (67) Board Member (1977)	Chairman of Brookfield Financial Properties, Inc.	None

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Company has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not “interested persons” of the Company, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is (i) to oversee the Fund’s accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Fund’s financial statements and (ii) to assist in the Board’s oversight of the integrity of the Fund’s financial statements, the Fund’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and the independent auditors’ qualifications, independence and performance. The Company’s nominating committee is responsible for selecting and nominating persons as members of the Board for elections or appointment by the Board and for election by shareholders. In evaluating potential nominees, including any nominees recommended by shareholders, the committee takes into consideration various factors listed in the Nominating Committee Charter, including character and integrity, business and professional experience, and whether the committee believes the person has the ability to apply sound and independent business judgment and would act in the interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The nominating committee will consider recommendations for nominees from shareholders submitted to the Secretary of the Company, c/o The Dreyfus Corporation Legal Department, 200 Park Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor West, New York, New York 10166, which includes information regarding the recommended nominee as specified in the Nominating Committee Charter. The function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The Company also has a standing pricing committee comprised of any one Board member. The function of the pricing

committee is to assist in valuing the Fund's investments. The Company's audit committee met seven times and its nominating committee met once during the fiscal year ended the August 31, 2004. The pricing and compensation committees did not meet during the Company's last fiscal year.

The table below indicates the dollar range of each Board member's ownership of Fund shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which he or she is a Board member, in each case as of December 31, 2003.

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holdings of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which Responsible as a Board Member</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	Over \$100,000
David W. Burke	None	Over \$100,000
William Hodding Carter III	None	None
Ehud Houminer	None	Over \$100,000
Richard C. Leone	\$50,001 - \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Hans C. Mautner	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Robin A. Pringle	None	\$1 - \$10,000
John E. Zuccotti	None	Over \$100,000

As of December 31, 2003, none of the Board members or their immediate family members owned securities of the Manager, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Manager or the Distributor.

The Company typically pays its Board members its allocated portion of an annual retainer of \$30,000 and of a per meeting fee of \$4,000 (with a minimum of \$500 per meeting and per telephone meeting) attended for the Company and seven other funds (representing a total of 11 portfolios) in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, and reimburses them for their expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation. Emeritus Board members, if any, are entitled to receive an annual retainer and a per meeting attended fee of one-half the amount paid to them as Board members. The aggregate amount of compensation paid to each Board member by the Company for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, and by all funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person is a Board member (the number of portfolios of such funds is set forth in parenthesis next to each Board member's total compensation) for the year ended December 31, 2003 was as follows:

Name of Board Member	Aggregate Compensation from the Company*	Total Compensation from the Company and Fund Complex Paid to Board Members (**)
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$22,891	\$800,306 (186)
David W. Burke	\$20,049	\$283,744 (83)
Hodding Carter, III	\$20,049	\$48,994 (11)
Ehud Houminer	\$20,049	\$94,494 (30)
Richard C. Leone	\$20,049	\$48,994 (11)
Hans C. Mautner	\$18,313	\$36,494 (11)
Robin A. Pringle	\$19,831	\$48,994 (11)
John E. Zuccotti	\$20,049	\$48,994 (11)

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 \* Amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$3,081 for all Board members as a group.

\*\* Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the Fund Complex, including the Fund, for which the Board member serves.

### Officers of the Company

STEPHEN E. CANTER, President since March 2000. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 190 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Canter also is a Board Member and, where applicable, Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 59 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since October 2002. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman, and a director of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 190 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Byers also is an Officer, Director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 51 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since January 2000. Prior to joining the Manager, he served as an Executive Vice President—Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

MARK N. JACOBS, Vice President since March 2000. Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 58 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1977.

JOHN B. HAMMALIAN, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 37 investment companies (comprised of 46 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 41 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since February 1991.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 95 investment companies (comprised of 199 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1991.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 55 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since July 1980.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director Mutual Fund Accounting of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 46 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since April 1985.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Fund Tax Director of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 50 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1993.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, Assistant Treasurer since January 2003. Senior Accounting Manager – Taxable Fixed Income of the Manager, and an officer of 19 investment companies (comprised of 74 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 36 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since November 1992.

GREGORY S. GRUBER, Assistant Treasurer since March 2000. Senior Accounting Manager-Municipal Bond Funds of the Manager, and an officer of 30 investment companies (comprised of 59 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 45 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since August 1981.

JOSEPH W. CONNOLLY, Chief Compliance Officer since October 2004. Chief Compliance Officer of the Manager and The Dreyfus Family of Funds (98 investment companies, comprising 206 portfolios). From November 2001 through March 2004, Mr. Connolly was first Vice-President, Mutual Fund Servicing for Mellon Global Securities Services. In that capacity, Mr. Connolly was responsible for managing Mellon's Custody, Fund Accounting and Fund Administration services to third-party mutual fund clients. Mr. Connolly has served in various capacities with the Manager since 1980, including manager of the firm's Fund Accounting Department from 1997 through October 2001. Mr. Connolly is 47 years old.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since August 2002. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 93 investment companies (comprised of 201 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 33 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since October 1998.

The address of each Board member and officer of the Company is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

The Company's Board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of the Fund's shares outstanding on December 5, 2004.

As of December 5, 2004, there were no shareholders known by the Fund to own of record 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund.

## MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Investment Adviser. The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation ("Mellon"). Mellon is a global financial holding company incorporated under Pennsylvania law in 1971 and registered under the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Mellon provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services in domestic and selected international markets.

The Manager provides management services pursuant to a Management Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Company and the Manager. As to the Fund, the Agreement is subject to annual approval by (i) the Company's Board or (ii) vote of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, provided that in either event the continuance also is approved by a majority of the Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company or the Manager, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Agreement is terminable without penalty, on 60 days' notice, by the Fund's Board or by vote of the holders of a majority of the Company's outstanding voting shares, or, upon not less than 90 days' notice, by the Manager. The Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

In approving the current Agreement, the Board considered a number of factors, including the nature and quality of the services provided by the Manager, the investment philosophy and investment approach as applied to the Fund by the Manager; the investment management expertise of the Manager in respect of the Fund's investment strategies; the personnel, resources and experience of the Manager; the Fund's performance history and the management fees paid to the Manager relative to those of mutual funds with similar investment objectives, strategies and restrictions; the Manager's costs of providing services under the Agreement; and ancillary benefits the Manager may receive from its relationship with the Fund.

The following persons are officers and/or directors of the Manager: Stephen E. Canter, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Michael G. Millard, President and a director; Stephen R. Byers, Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director;

J. Charles Cardona, Vice Chairman and a director; J. David Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; Ronald P. O'Hanley III, Vice Chairman and a director; Diane P. Durnin, Executive Vice President; Mark N. Jacobs, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; Patrice M. Kozlowski, Senior Vice President-Corporate Communications; Lisa A. Fox, Vice President-Human Resources; Anthony Mayo, Vice President-Information Systems; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President-Tax; Alex G. Sciulli, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; William H. Maresca, Controller; Joseph W. Connolly, Chief Compliance Officer; James Bitetto, Assistant Secretary; Steven F. Newman, Assistant Secretary; and Steven G. Elliott, David F. Lamere, Martin G. McGuinn and Richard W. Sabo, directors.

The Manager manages the Fund's portfolio of investments in accordance with the stated policies of the Fund, subject to the approval of the Fund's Board. The Manager is responsible for investment decisions and provides the Fund with portfolio managers who are authorized by the Fund's Board to execute purchases and sales of securities. The Fund's portfolio managers are Joseph P. Darcy, A. Paul Disdier, Douglas J. Gaylor, Joseph A. Irace, Colleen A. Meehan, W. Michael Petty, Scott Sprauer, Bill Vasiliou, James Welch and Monica S. Wieboldt. The Manager also maintains a research department with a professional staff of portfolio managers and securities analysts who provide research services for the Fund and for other funds advised by the Manager.

The Manager's Code of Ethics subjects its employees' personal securities transactions to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund advised by the Manager. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel of the Manager must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with the Code of Ethics and are also subject to the oversight of Mellon's Investment Ethics Committee. Portfolio managers and other investment personnel of the Manager who comply with the preclearance and disclosure procedures of the Code of Ethics and the requirements of the Committee may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in fund(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

All expenses incurred in the operation of the Company are borne by the Company, except to the extent specifically assumed with respect to the Fund by the Manager. The expenses borne by the Company include: taxes, interest, loan commitment fees, interest on securities sold short, brokerage fees and commissions, if any, fees of Board members who are not officers, directors, employees or holders of 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Manager, Securities and Exchange Commission fees, state Blue Sky qualification fees, advisory fees, charges of custodians, transfer and dividend disbursing agents' fees, certain insurance premiums, industry association fees, outside auditing and legal expenses, costs of maintaining the Fund's existence, costs of independent pricing services, costs attributable to investor services (including, without limitation, telephone and personnel expenses), costs of shareholders' reports and meetings, costs of preparing and printing prospectuses and statements of additional information for regulatory purposes and for distribution to existing shareholders, and any extraordinary expenses.

The Manager maintains office facilities on behalf of the Fund, and furnishes statistical and research data, clerical help, accounting, data processing, bookkeeping and internal auditing and certain other required services to the Fund. The Manager may pay the Distributor for shareholder services from the Manager's own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the Fund. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay securities dealers,



banks or other financial institutions in respect of these services. The Manager also may make such advertising and promotional expenditures, using its own resources, as it from time to time deems appropriate.

As compensation for the Manager's services, the Fund has agreed to pay the Manager a monthly management fee at the annual rate of 0.60% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets. All fees and expenses are accrued daily and deducted before the declaration of dividends to shareholders. For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2002, 2003 and 2004, the management fees payable by the Fund amounted to \$15,033,538, \$14,467,841 and \$13,396,456, respectively, which amounts were reduced by \$4,623 and \$922,108 for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2003 and 2004 pursuant to an undertaking then in effect, resulting in net fees paid of \$14,463,218 in fiscal 2003, respectively, and \$12,474,348 in fiscal year 2004.

The Manager has agreed that if in any fiscal year the aggregate expenses of the Fund, exclusive of taxes, brokerage fees, interest on borrowings and (with the prior written consent of the necessary state securities commissions) extraordinary expenses, but including the management fee, exceed 1½% of the value of the Fund's average net assets for the fiscal year, the Fund may deduct from the payment to be made to the Manager under the Agreement, or the Manager will bear, such excess expense. Such deduction or payment, if any, will be estimated, reconciled and effected or paid, as the case may be, on a monthly basis.

The aggregate of the fees payable to the Manager is not subject to reduction as the value of the Fund's net assets increases.

Distributor. The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manager located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as the Fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement with the Fund which is renewable annually.

The Manager or the Distributor may provide additional cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of the Fund or provide other services. Such payments are in addition to any sales charges, 12b-1 fee and/or shareholder services fee or other expenses paid by the Fund. These additional payments may be made to certain institutions (which may include banks), securities dealers and other industry professionals (collectively, "Service Agents"), including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the Service Agent. Cash compensation also may be paid to Service Agents for inclusion of the Fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." In some cases, these payments may create an incentive for a Service Agent to recommend or sell shares of the Fund to you. Please contact your Service Agent for details about any payments they may receive in connection with the sale of Fund shares or the provision of services to the Fund.

From time to time, the Manager or the Distributor also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to Service Agents in the form of: occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets, or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorship; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations, as periodically amended.

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian. Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. (the "Transfer Agent"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manager, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is the Fund's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Under a transfer agency agreement with the Fund, the Transfer Agent arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the Fund, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the Fund and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund. For these services, the Transfer Agent receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for the Fund during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

The Bank of New York (the "Custodian"), 100 Wall Street, New York, New York 10286, is the Fund's custodian. The Custodian has no part in determining the investment policies of the Fund or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Fund. Under a custody agreement with the Fund, the Custodian holds the Fund's securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee based on the market value of the Fund's assets held in custody and receives certain securities transactions charges.

## HOW TO BUY SHARES

General. Fund shares may be purchased through the Distributor or Service Agents that have entered into service agreements with the Distributor. Stock certificates are issued only upon your written request. No certificates are issued for fractional shares. It is not recommended that the Fund be used as a vehicle for Keogh, IRA or other qualified retirement plans. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

As discussed under "Management Arrangements-Distributor," Service Agents may receive revenue sharing payments from the Manager or the Distributor. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for a Service Agent to recommend or sell shares of a Fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Please contact your Service Agent for details about any payments they may receive in connection with the sale of Fund shares or the provision of services to the Fund.

The minimum initial investment is \$2,500, or \$1,000 if you are a client of a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution which maintains an omnibus account in the Fund and has made an aggregate minimum initial purchase for its customers of \$2,500. Subsequent investments must be at least \$100. The initial investment must be accompanied by the Account Application. For full-time or part-time employees of the Manager or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of the Manager, Board members of a fund advised by the Manager, including members of the Company's Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing, the minimum initial investment is \$1,000. For full-time or part-time employees of the Manager or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries who elect to have a portion of their pay directly deposited into their Fund accounts, the minimum initial investment is \$50. Fund shares are offered without regard to the minimum initial investment requirements to Board members of a fund advised by the Manager, including members of the Fund's Board, who elect to have all or a portion of their compensation for serving in that capacity automatically allocated to the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to vary the initial and subsequent investment minimum requirements at any time.

Fund shares also are offered without regard to the minimum initial investment requirements through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®, Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege or Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan pursuant to the Dreyfus Step Program described under "Shareholder Services." These services enable you to make regularly scheduled investments and may provide you with a convenient way to invest for long-term financial goals. You should be aware, however, that periodic investment plans do not guarantee a profit and will not protect an investor against loss in a declining market.

Shares are sold on a continuous basis at the net asset value per share next determined after an order in proper form is received by the Transfer Agent or other entity authorized to receive orders on behalf of the Fund. Net asset value per share is determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business. For purposes of computing net asset value per share, certain options and futures contracts may be valued 15 minutes after the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Net asset value per share is computed by dividing the value of the Fund's net assets (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares outstanding. For information regarding the methods employed in valuing the Fund's investments, see "Determination of Net Asset Value."

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may purchase shares by telephone or online if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. The proceeds will be transferred between the bank account designated in one of these documents and your Fund account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an Automated Clearing House ("ACH") member may be so designated.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase orders may be made at any time. If purchase orders are received by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day that the Transfer Agent and the New York Stock Exchange are open for regular business, Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on that day. If purchase orders are made after 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day the Transfer Agent and the New York Stock Exchange are open for business, or made on Saturday, Sunday or any Fund holiday (e.g., when the New York Stock Exchange is not open for regular business), Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, the initial payment for purchase of shares must be drawn on, and redemption proceeds paid to, the same bank and account as are designated on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form on file. If the proceeds of a particular redemption are to be sent to an account at any other bank, the request must be in writing and signature-guaranteed. See "How to Redeem Shares--Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege."

Reopening an Account. You may reopen an account with a minimum investment of \$100 without filing a new Account Application during the calendar year the account is closed or during the following calendar year, provided the information on the old Account Application is still applicable.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES PLAN

The Company has adopted, with respect to the Fund, a Shareholder Services Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to which the Fund reimburses the Distributor an amount not to exceed an annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets for certain allocated expenses of providing personal services and/or maintaining shareholder accounts. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the Fund and providing reports and other information, and services related to the maintenance of shareholder accounts.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under the Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Company's Board for its review. In addition, the Plan provides that material amendments of the Plan must be approved by the Company's Board and by the Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. The Plan is terminable at any time by vote of a majority of the Board members who are not "interested persons" and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan.

For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the Fund reimbursed the Distributor \$1,221,610 pursuant to the Plan.

## HOW TO REDEEM SHARES

General. The Fund ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, if you have purchased Fund shares by check, by Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege or through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® and subsequently submit a written redemption request to the Transfer Agent, the Fund may delay sending the redemption proceeds for up to eight business days after the purchase of such shares. In addition, the Fund will not honor checks under the Checkwriting Privilege, and will reject requests to redeem shares by wire or telephone, online or pursuant to the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, for a period of up to eight business days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of the purchase check, the Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase or the Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® order against which such redemption is requested. These procedures will not apply if your shares were purchased by wire payment, or if you otherwise have a sufficient collected balance in your account to cover the redemption request. Fund shares may not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

Redemption Fee. The Fund will deduct a redemption fee equal to 0.10% of the net asset value of Fund shares redeemed (including redemptions through the use of the Fund exchanges service) less than 30 days following the issuance of such shares. The redemption fee will be deducted from the redemption proceeds and retained by the Fund. For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the Fund retained \$18,885 in redemption fees.

No redemption fee will be charged on the redemption or exchange of shares (1) through the Fund's Checkwriting Privilege, Automatic Withdrawal Plan or Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, (2) through accounts that are reflected on the records of the Transfer Agent as omnibus accounts approved by the Distributor, (3) through accounts established by securities dealers, banks or other financial institutions approved by the Distributor that utilize the National Securities Clearing Corporation's networking system, or (4) acquired through the reinvestment of dividends or distributions. The redemption fee may be waived, modified or terminated at any time.

Checkwriting Privilege. The Fund provides redemption checks ("Checks") automatically upon opening an account, unless you specifically refuse the Checkwriting Privilege by checking the applicable "No" box on the Account Application. The Checkwriting Privilege may be established for an existing account by a separate signed Shareholder Services Form. Checks will be sent only to the registered owner(s) of the account and only to the address of record. The Account Application or Shareholder Services Form must be manually signed by the registered owner(s). Checks may be made payable to the order of any person in an amount of \$500 or more. When a Check is presented to the Transfer Agent for payment, the Transfer Agent, as your agent, will cause the Fund to redeem a sufficient number of shares in your account to cover the amount of the Check. Dividends are earned until the Check clears. After clearance, a copy of the Check will be returned to you. You generally will be subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to checking accounts, although the election of this Privilege creates only a shareholder-transfer agent relationship with the Transfer Agent.

You should date your Checks with the current date when you write them. Please do not postdate your Checks. If you do, the Transfer Agent will honor, upon presentment, even if presented before the date of the Check, all postdated Checks which are dated within six months of presentment for payment, if they are otherwise in good order.

Checks are free but the Transfer Agent will impose a fee for stopping payment of a Check upon your request or if the Transfer Agent cannot honor a Check due to insufficient funds or other valid reason. If the amount of the Check is greater than the value of the shares in your account, the Check will be returned marked insufficient funds. Checks should not be used to close an account.

This Privilege will be terminated immediately, without notice, with respect to any account which is, or becomes, subject to backup withholding on redemptions. Any Check written on an account which has become subject to backup withholding on redemptions will not be honored by the Transfer Agent.

Wire Redemption Privilege. By using this Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephone, letter or online redemption instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Ordinarily, the Fund will initiate payment for shares redeemed pursuant to this Privilege on the next business day after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form. Redemption proceeds (\$1,000 minimum) will be transferred by Federal Reserve wire only to the commercial bank account specified by you on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form, or to a correspondent bank if your bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve System. Fees ordinarily are imposed by

such bank and borne by the investor. Immediate notification by the correspondent bank to your bank is necessary to avoid a delay in crediting the funds to your bank account.

To change the commercial bank or account designated to receive redemption proceeds, a written request must be sent to the Transfer Agent. This request must be signed by each shareholder, with each signature guaranteed as described below under "Stock Certificates; Signatures."

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may request by telephone or online that redemption proceeds be transferred between your Fund account and your bank account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be designated. You should be aware that if you have selected the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, any request for a wire redemption will be effected through the ACH system unless more prompt transmittal specifically is requested. Redemption proceeds will be on deposit in your account at an ACH member bank ordinarily two business days after receipt of the redemption request. See "How to Buy Shares--Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege."

Stock Certificates; Signatures. Any certificates representing Fund shares to be redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. Written redemption requests must be signed by each shareholder, including each holder of a joint account, and each signature must be guaranteed. Signatures on endorsed certificates submitted for redemption also must be guaranteed. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which signature-guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations, as well as from participants in the New York Stock Exchange Medallion Signature Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program ("STAMP") and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program. Guarantees must be signed by an authorized signatory of the guarantor and "Signature-Guaranteed" must appear with the signature. The Transfer Agent may request additional documentation from corporations, executors, administrators, trustees or guardians, and may accept other suitable verification arrangements from foreign investors, such as consular verification. For more information with respect to signature-guarantees, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the cover.

Redemption Commitment. The Fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any shareholder of record, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund's net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the case of requests for redemption in excess of such amount, the Company's Board reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets of the Fund in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of the Fund to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the Fund's portfolio is valued. If the recipient sells such securities, brokerage charges might be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when trading in the markets the Fund ordinarily

utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission so that disposal of the Fund's investments or determination of its net asset value is not reasonably practicable, or (c) for such other periods as the Securities and Exchange Commission by order may permit to protect the Fund's shareholders.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

Fund Exchanges. You may purchase, in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of certain other funds managed or administered by the Manager or shares of certain funds advised by Founders Asset Management LLC ("Founders"), an indirect subsidiary of the Manager, to the extent such shares are offered for sale in your state of residence. The Fund will deduct a redemption fee equal to 0.10% of the net asset value of Fund shares exchanged where the exchange is made less than 30 days after the issuance of such shares. Shares of other funds purchased by exchange will be purchased on the basis of relative net asset value per share as follows:

- A. Exchanges for shares of funds offered without a sales load will be made without a sales load.
- B. Shares of funds purchased without a sales load may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load may be exchanged without a sales load for shares of other funds sold without a sales load.
- D. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load, shares of funds acquired by a previous exchange from shares purchased with a sales load and additional shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or distributions of any such funds (collectively referred to herein as "Purchased Shares") may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceed the maximum sales load that could have been imposed in connection with the Purchased Shares (at the time the Purchased Shares were acquired), without giving effect to any reduced loads, the difference may be deducted.

To accomplish an exchange under item D above, you must notify the Transfer Agent of your prior ownership of fund shares and your account number.

To request an exchange, you must give exchange instructions to the Transfer Agent in writing, by telephone or online. The ability to issue exchange instructions by telephone or online is given to all Fund shareholders automatically, unless you check the applicable "No" box on the Account Application, indicating that you specifically refuse this privilege. By using the privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephonic and online instructions (including over the Dreyfus Express® automated telephone system) from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Exchanges may be subject to limitations as to the amount involved or the number of exchanges permitted. Shares issued in certificate form are not eligible for telephone or online exchange. No fees currently are charged to

shareholders directly in connection with exchanges, although the Fund reserves the right, upon not less than 60 days' written notice, to charge shareholders a nominal administrative fee in accordance with rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

To establish a personal retirement plan by exchange, shares of the fund being exchanged must have a value of at least the minimum initial investment required for the fund into which the exchange is being made.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, the Fund may suspend Fund Exchanges temporarily without notice and treat exchange requests based on their separate components – redemption orders with a simultaneous request to purchase the other fund's shares. In such a case, the redemption request would be processed at the Fund's next determined net asset value but the purchase order would be effective only at the net asset value next determined after the fund being purchased receives the proceeds of the redemption, which may result in the purchase being delayed.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (on a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of another fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or shares of a fund advised by Founders of which you are a shareholder. This Privilege is available only for existing accounts. Shares will be exchanged on the basis of relative net asset value as described above under "Fund Exchanges." Enrollment in or modification or cancellation of this Privilege is effective three business days following notification by the investor. You will be notified if your account falls below the amount designated to be exchanged under this Privilege. In this case, your account will fall to zero unless additional investments are made in excess of the designated amount prior to the next Auto-Exchange transaction. Shares held under IRA and other retirement plans are eligible for this Privilege. Exchanges of IRA shares may be made between IRA accounts from regular accounts to IRA accounts, but not from IRA accounts to regular accounts. With respect to all other retirement accounts, exchanges may be made only among those accounts.

Fund Exchanges and the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege are available to shareholders resident in any state in which shares of the fund being acquired may legally be sold. Shares may be exchanged only between accounts having certain identical identifying designations.

Shareholder Services Forms and prospectuses of the other funds may be obtained by calling 1-800-645-6561, or visiting the Dreyfus.com website. The Fund reserves the right to reject any exchange request in whole or in part. The Fund Exchanges service or the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege may be modified or terminated at any time upon notice to shareholders.

Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®. Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$150,000 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by you. Fund shares are purchased by transferring funds from the bank account designated by you.

Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege. Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege enables you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$50,000 per



transaction) by having Federal salary, Social Security, or certain veterans', military or other payments from the U.S. Government automatically deposited into your Fund account.

Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 per transaction) automatically on a regular basis. Depending upon your employer's direct deposit program, you may have part or all of your paycheck transferred to your existing Dreyfus account electronically through the ACH system at each pay period. To establish a Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan account, you must file an authorization form with your employer's payroll department. It is the sole responsibility of your employer to arrange for transactions under the Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan.

Dreyfus Step Program. Dreyfus Step Program enables you to purchase Fund shares without regard to the Fund's minimum initial investment requirements through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®, Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege or Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. To establish a Dreyfus Step Program account, you must supply the necessary information on the Account Application and file the required authorization form(s) with the Transfer Agent. For more information concerning this Program, or to request the necessary authorization form(s), please call toll free 1-800-782-6620. You may terminate your participation in this Program at any time by discontinuing your participation in Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder, Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege or Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan, as the case may be, as provided under the terms of such Privilege(s). The Fund may modify or terminate this Program at any time.

Dreyfus Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of another fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or shares of a fund advised by Founders of which you are a shareholder. Shares of other funds purchased pursuant to this privilege will be purchased on the basis of relative net asset value per share as follows:

- A. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested without a sales load in shares of other funds offered without a sales load.
- B. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund which does not charge a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that charges a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load charged by the fund from which dividends or distributions are being swept (without giving effect to any reduced loads), the difference may be deducted.
- D. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested in shares of other funds that impose a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC") and the applicable CDSC, if any, will be imposed upon redemption of such shares.

Dreyfus Dividend ACH permits you to transfer electronically dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund to a designated bank account. Only an account

maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. Banks may charge a fee for this service.

Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan permits you to request withdrawal of a specified dollar amount (minimum of \$50) on either a monthly or quarterly basis if you have a \$5,000 minimum account. Withdrawal payments are the proceeds from sales of Fund shares, not the yield on the shares. If withdrawal payments exceed reinvested dividends and distributions, your shares will be reduced and eventually may be depleted. An Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be established by filing an Automatic Withdrawal Plan Application with the Transfer Agent or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling the Fund at the appropriate telephone number, as listed on page B-2 of this Statement of Additional Information. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be terminated at any time by you, the Company or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

Certain Retirement Plans, including Dreyfus-Sponsored retirement plans, may permit certain participants to establish an automatic withdrawal plan from such Retirement Plans. Participants should consult their Retirement Plan Sponsor and tax adviser for details. Such a withdrawal plan is different than the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

## DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

Valuation of Portfolio Securities. The Fund's investments are valued each business day by an independent pricing service (the "Service") approved by the Company's Board. When, in the judgment of the Service, quoted bid prices for investments are readily available and are representative of the bid side of the market, these investments are valued at the mean between the quoted bid prices (as obtained by the Service from dealers in such securities) and asked prices (as calculated by the Service based upon its evaluation of the market for such securities). The value of other investments (which constitute a majority of the portfolio securities) is determined by the Service based on methods which include consideration of: yields or prices of municipal bonds of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions. The Service may employ electronic data processing techniques and/or a matrix system to determine valuations. The Service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the Company's Board. If valuations for investments (received from the Service or otherwise) are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the Fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with the procedures approved by the Fund's board. Fair value of investments may be done by the Fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. The factors that may be considered in fair valuing a security include fundamental analytical data, the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition, an evaluation of the forces that influence the market in which the securities are purchased or sold, and public trading of similar securities of the issuer or comparable issuers. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent price and from prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Expenses and fees, including the management fee (reduced by the expense limitation, if any), are accrued daily and are taken into account for the purpose of determining the net asset value of Fund shares.

New York Stock Exchange Closings. The holidays (as observed) on which the New York Stock Exchange is closed currently are: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

Management believes that the Fund has qualified for treatment as a "regulated investment company" under the Code for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004. The Fund intends to continue to so qualify if such qualification is in the best interests of its shareholders. As a regulated investment company, the Fund will pay no Federal income tax on net investment income and net realized capital gains to the extent that such income and gains are distributed to shareholders in accordance with applicable provisions of the Code. To qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must pay out to its shareholders at least 90% of its net income (consisting of net investment income from tax exempt obligations and taxable obligations, if any, and net short-term capital gains), and must meet certain asset diversification and other requirements. If the Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, it will be treated for tax purposes as an ordinary corporation subject to Federal income tax. The term "regulated investment company" does not imply the supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency.

The Fund ordinarily declares dividends from its net investment income on each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business. Fund shares begin earning income dividends on the day following the date of purchase. The Fund's earnings for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are declared as dividends on the next business day. Dividends usually are paid on the last business day of each month and are automatically reinvested in additional Fund shares at net asset value or, at your option, paid in cash. If you redeem all shares in your account at any time during the month, all dividends to which you are entitled will be paid to you along with the proceeds of the redemption. If you are an omnibus accountholder and indicate in a partial redemption request that a portion of any accrued dividends to which such account is entitled belongs to an underlying accountholder who has redeemed all shares in his or her account, such portion of the accrued dividends will be paid to you along with the proceeds of the redemption. Distributions from net realized securities gains, if any, generally are declared and paid once a year, but the Fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to comply with the distribution requirements of the Code, in all events in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act.

If you elect to receive dividends and distributions in cash, and your dividend or distribution check is returned to the Fund as undeliverable or remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest such dividend or distribution and all future dividends and distributions payable to you in additional Fund shares at net asset value. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed distribution or redemption checks.

If, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets consists of Federal tax exempt obligations, then the Fund may designate and pay Federal exempt-interest dividends from interest earned on all such tax exempt obligations. Such exempt-interest dividends may be excluded by shareholders of the Fund from their gross income for Federal

income tax purposes. Dividends derived from Taxable Investments, together with distributions from any net realized short-term securities gains, generally are taxable as ordinary income for Federal income tax purposes whether or not reinvested. Distributions from net realized long-term securities gains generally are taxable as long-term capital gains to a shareholder who is a citizen or resident of the United States, whether or not reinvested and regardless of the length of time the shareholder has held his or her shares.

Any dividend or distribution paid shortly after an investor's purchase of Fund shares may have the effect of reducing the aggregate net asset value of the shares below the cost of the investment. Such a dividend or distribution would be a return on investment in an economic sense, as described herein. In addition, if a shareholder has not held Fund shares for more than six months and has received a capital gain distribution with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss due to the extent of capital gain distribution received.

Ordinarily, gains and losses realized from portfolio transactions will be treated as capital gain or loss. However, all or a portion of any gain realized from the sale or other disposition of certain market discount bonds will be treated as ordinary income. In addition, all or a portion of the gain realized from engaging in "conversion transactions" (generally including certain transactions designed to convert ordinary income into capital gain) may be treated as ordinary income.

Gain or loss, if any, realized by the Fund from certain financial futures and options transactions ("Section 1256 contracts") will be treated as 60% long-term capital gain or loss and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Gain or loss will arise upon exercise or lapse of Section 1256 contracts as well as from closing transactions. In addition, any Section 1256 contracts remaining unexercised at the end of the Fund's taxable year will be treated as sold for their then fair market value, resulting in additional gain or loss to the Fund characterized as described above.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain futures or forward contracts or options transactions with respect to actively traded personal property may be considered, for tax purposes, to constitute "straddles." To the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by the Fund, losses realized by the Fund may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in the offsetting position. In addition, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gains on straddle positions may be treated as short-term capital gains or ordinary income. Certain of the straddle positions held by a Fund may constitute "mixed straddles." The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to the treatment of "mixed straddles," resulting in different tax consequences. In certain circumstances, the provisions governing the tax treatment of straddles override or modify certain of the provisions discussed above.

If the Fund either (1) holds an appreciated financial position with respect to stock, certain debt obligations, or partnership interests ("appreciated financial position") and then enters into a short sale, futures, forward, or offsetting notional principal contract (collectively, a "Contract") with respect to the same or substantially identical property or (2) holds an appreciated financial position that is a Contract and then acquires property that is the same as, or substantially identical to, the underlying property, the Fund generally will be taxed as if the appreciated financial position were

sold at its fair market value on the date the Fund enters into the financial position or acquires the property, respectively.

Investment by the Fund in securities issued at a discount or providing for deferred interest or for payment of interest in the form of additional obligations, such as zero coupon, pay-in-kind and step-up securities could, under special tax rules, affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders. For example, the Fund could be required to take into account annually a portion of the discount (or deemed discount) at which such securities were issued and to distribute such portion in order to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company. In such case, the Fund may have to dispose of securities which it might otherwise have continued to hold in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements.

### PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

General. Portfolio securities ordinarily are purchased from and sold to parties acting as principal. Newly-issued securities ordinarily are purchased directly from the issuer or from an underwriter; other purchases and sales usually are placed with those dealers from which it appears that the best price or execution will be obtained. Usually no brokerage commissions, as such, are paid by the Fund for such purchases and sales, although the price paid usually includes an undisclosed compensation to the dealer. The prices paid to underwriters of newly-issued securities usually include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter, and purchases of after-market securities from dealers ordinarily are executed at a price between the bid and asked price. No brokerage commissions have been paid by the Fund to date.

Transactions are allocated to various dealers by the Fund's portfolio managers in their best judgment. The primary consideration is prompt and effective execution of orders at the most favorable price. Subject to that primary consideration, dealers may be selected for research, statistical or other services to enable the Manager to supplement its own research and analysis with the views and information of other securities firms.

Research services furnished by brokers through which the Fund effects securities transactions may be used by the Manager in advising other funds it advises and, conversely, research services furnished to the Manager by brokers in connection with other funds the Manager advises may be used by the Manager in advising the Fund. Although it is not possible to place a dollar value on these services, it is the opinion of the Manager that the receipt and study of such services should not reduce the overall expenses of its research department.

Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings. It is the policy of the Company to the protect the confidentiality of the Fund's portfolio holdings and prevent the selective disclosure of non-public information about such holdings. The fund will publicly disclose its holdings in accordance with regulatory requirements, such as periodic portfolio disclosure in filings with the SEC. The Fund will publicly disclose its complete schedule of portfolio holdings, as reported on a month-end basis, on its website at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com). The information will be posted with a one-month lag and will remain accessible until the Company files a report on Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the date as of which the information was current. In addition, fifteen days following the end of each calendar quarter, the Fund will publicly disclose on the website its complete schedule of portfolio holdings as of the end of such quarter.

If the Fund's portfolio holdings are released pursuant to an ongoing arrangement with any party, the Fund must have a legitimate business purpose for doing so, and neither the Fund, nor Dreyfus or its affiliates, may receive any compensation in connection with an arrangement to make available information about the Fund's portfolio holdings. The Fund may distribute portfolio holdings to mutual fund evaluation services such as Standard & Poor's, Morningstar or Lipper Analytical Services; due diligence departments of broker-dealers and wirehouses that regularly analyze the portfolio holdings of mutual funds before their public disclosure; and broker-dealers that may be used by the Fund, for the purpose of efficient trading and receipt of relevant research, provided that (a) the recipient does not distribute the portfolio holdings to persons who are likely to use the information for purposes of purchasing or selling Fund shares or Fund portfolio holdings before the portfolio holdings become public information; and (b) the recipient signs a written confidentiality agreement.

The Fund may also disclose any and all portfolio information to its service providers and others who generally need access to such information in the performance of their contractual duties and responsibilities and are subject to duties of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on non-public information, imposed by law and/or contract. These service providers include the Fund's custodians, auditors, investment adviser, administrator, and each of their respective affiliates and advisers.

Disclosure of the Fund's portfolio holdings may be authorized only by the Chief Compliance Officer, and any exceptions to this policy are reported quarterly to the Company's Board.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY AND THE FUND

Each Fund share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the offering, is fully paid and non-assessable. Fund shares are of one class and have equal rights as to dividends and in liquidation. Shares have no preemptive, subscription or conversion rights and are freely transferable.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for the Fund to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, Fund shareholders may not consider each year the election of Board members or the appointment of auditors. However, the holders of at least 10% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require the Fund to hold a special meeting of shareholders for purposes of removing a Board member from office. Fund shareholders may remove a Board member by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Board will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Board members if, at any time, less than a majority of the Board members then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

Effective January 31, 2003, the Company changed its name from "Dreyfus Municipal Bond Fund, Inc." to its current name.

The Company is a "series fund," which is a mutual fund divided into separate portfolios, each of which is treated as a separate entity for certain matters under the 1940 Act and for other

purposes. A shareholder of one portfolio is not deemed to be a shareholder of any other portfolio. For certain matters shareholders vote together as a group; as to others they vote separately by portfolio.

To date, the Board has authorized the creation of two series of shares. All consideration received by the Company for shares of one Fund and all assets in which such consideration is invested will belong to that Fund (subject only to the rights of creditors of the Company) and will be subject to the liabilities related thereto. The income attributable to, and the expenses of, one Fund are treated separately from those of the other Funds. The Company has the ability to create, from time to time, new series without shareholder approval.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Company, will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. However, the Rule exempts the selection of independent accountants and the election of Board members from the separate voting requirements of the Rule.

The Fund is intended to be a long-term investment vehicle and is not designed to provide investors with a means of speculating on short-term market movements. A pattern of frequent purchases and exchanges can be disruptive to efficient portfolio management and, consequently, can be detrimental to the Fund's performance and its shareholders. If Fund management determines that an investor is following an abusive investment strategy, it may reject any purchase request or terminate the investor's exchange privilege, with or without prior notice. Such investors also may be barred from purchasing other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Accounts under common ownership or control may be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive or abusive trading. In addition, the Fund may refuse or restrict purchase or exchange requests for Fund shares by any person or group if, in the judgment of the Fund's management, the Fund would be unable to invest the money effectively in accordance with its investment objective and policies or could otherwise be adversely affected or if the Fund receives or anticipates receiving simultaneous orders that may significantly affect the Fund. If an exchange request is refused, the Fund will take no other action with respect to the Fund shares until it receives further instructions from the investor. While the Fund will take reasonable steps to prevent excess short term trading deemed to be harmful to the Fund, it may not be able to identify excessive trading conducted through certain financial intermediaries or omnibus accounts.

The Fund sends annual and semi-annual financial statements to all its shareholders.

## COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 180 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038-4982, as counsel for the Fund, has rendered its opinion as to certain legal matters regarding the due authorization and valid issuance of the shares being sold pursuant to the Fund's Prospectus.

Ernst & Young LLP, 5 Times Square, New York, New York 10036, an independent registered public accounting firm, serves as independent auditors of the Company.



## APPENDIX

### Rating Categories

Description of certain ratings assigned by S&P, Moody's, and Fitch:

#### **S&P**

##### Long-term

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

#### **AA**

An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment 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 lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment 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 exposures 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 which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment 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 commitment on the obligation.

### **CC**

An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

### **C**

A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'C' rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A 'C' also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying.

### **D**

An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

### **r**

The symbol 'r' is attached to the ratings of instruments with significant noncredit risks. It highlights risks to principal or volatility of expected returns which are not addressed in the credit rating. Examples include: obligations linked or indexed to equities, currencies, or commodities; obligations exposed to severe prepayment risk—such as interest-only or principal-only mortgage securities; and obligations with unusually risky interest terms, such as inverse floaters.

### **N.R.**

The designation 'N.R.' indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Note: The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

## Short-term

### **SP-1**

Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus sign (+) designation.

### **SP-2**

Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

### **SP-3**

Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

## Commercial paper

### **A-1**

This designation indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation.

### **A-2**

Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated 'A-1'.

### **A-3**

Issues carrying this designation have an adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations.

### **B**

Issues rated B are regarded as having only speculative capacity for timely payment.

### **C**

This rating is assigned to short-term debt obligations with a doubtful capacity for payment.

### **D**

Debt rated 'D' is payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the due date, even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes such payments will be made during such grace period.

## **Moody's**

## Long-term

### **Aaa**

Bonds rated 'Aaa' are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an

exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

#### **Aa**

Bonds rated 'Aa' are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the 'Aaa' group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in 'Aaa' securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than the 'Aaa' securities.

#### **A**

Bonds rated 'A' possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future.

#### **Baa**

Bonds rated 'Baa' are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

#### **Ba**

Bonds rated 'Ba' are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

#### **B**

Bonds rated 'B' generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

#### **Caa**

Bonds rated 'Caa' are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

#### **Ca**

Bonds rated 'Ca' represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

#### **C**

Bonds rated 'C' are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 in 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.

#### Prime rating system (short-term)

Issuers rated **Prime-1** (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics:

Leading market positions in well-established industries.

High rates of return on funds employed.

Conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection.

Broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation.

Well-established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

Issuers rated **Prime-2** (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated **Prime-3** (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short-term obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

#### MIG/VMIG--U.S. short-term

Municipal debt issuance ratings are designated as Moody's Investment Grade (MIG) and are divided into three levels -- MIG 1 through MIG 3.

The short-term rating assigned to the demand feature of variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs) is designated as VMIG. When either the long- or short-term aspect of a VRDO is not rated, that piece is designated NR, e.g., Aaa/NR or NR/VMIG 1.

### **MIG 1/VMIG 1**

This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

### **MIG 2/VMIG 2**

This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

### **MIG 3/VMIG 3**

This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

### **SG**

This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

### **Fitch**

#### Long-term investment grade

### **AAA**

**Highest credit quality.** 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

### **AA**

**Very high credit quality.** 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

### **A**

**High credit quality.** 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

### **BBB**

**Good credit quality.** 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category.

## Long-term speculative grade

### **BB**

**Speculative.** 'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

### **B**

**Highly speculative.** 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

### **CCC, CC, C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. 'CC' ratings indicate that default of some kind appears probable. 'C' ratings signal imminent default.

### **DDD, DD, D**

**Default.** The ratings of obligations in this category are based on their prospects for achieving partial or full recovery in a reorganization or liquidation of the obligor. While expected recovery values are highly speculative and cannot be estimated with any precision, the following serve as general guidelines. 'DDD' obligations have the highest potential for recovery, around 90% - 100% of outstanding amounts and accrued interest. 'DD' ratings indicate potential recoveries in the range of 50% - 90% and 'D' the lowest recovery potential, i.e., below 50%.

Entities rated in this category have defaulted on some or all of their obligations. Entities rated 'DDD' have the highest prospect for resumption of performance or continued operation with or without a formal reorganization process. Entities rated 'DD' and 'D' are generally undergoing a formal reorganization or liquidation process; those rated 'DD' are likely to satisfy a higher portion of their outstanding obligations, while entities rated 'D' have a poor prospect of repaying all obligations.

## Short-term

A short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 12 months for most obligations, or up to three years for U.S. public finance securities, and thus places greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

### **F1**

**Highest credit quality.** Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

**F2**

**Good credit quality.** A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

**F3**

**Fair credit quality.** The capacity for timely payment of financial commitment is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction non-investment grade.

**B**

**Speculative.** Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments plus vulnerability to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

**C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

**D**

**Default.** Denotes actual or imminent payment default.

'NR' indicates that Fitch does not rate the issuer or issue in question.

Notes to long-term and short-term ratings: A plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' long-term rating category, to categories below 'CCC', or to short-term ratings other than 'F1.'



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DREYFUS BOND FUNDS, INC.

DREYFUS PREMIER HIGH INCOME FUND  
*CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C AND CLASS R SHARES*

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
JANUARY 1, 2005

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This Statement of Additional Information, which is not a prospectus, supplements and should be read in conjunction with the current Prospectus of Dreyfus Premier High Income Fund (the "Fund"), a series of Dreyfus Bond Funds, Inc. (the "Company"), dated January 1, 2005. To obtain a copy of the Fund's Prospectus, please call your financial adviser, or write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit the Dreyfus.com web site, or call 1-800-554-4611.

The Fund's most recent Annual Report and Semi-Annual Report to Shareholders are separate documents supplied with this Statement of Additional Information, and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of independent auditors appearing in the Annual Report are incorporated by reference into this Statement of Additional Information.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY AND FUND

The Company is a Maryland corporation formed on July 12, 1976. The Fund is a separate portfolio of the Company, an open-end management investment company, known as a mutual fund. The Fund is diversified, which means that, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not invest more than 5% of its assets in the securities of any single issuer, nor hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer (other than, in each case, securities of other investment companies, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities).

The Dreyfus Corporation (the "Manager") serves as the Fund's investment adviser. The Manager has engaged Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. (the "Sub-Adviser") to serve as the Fund's sub-investment adviser and to provide day-to-day management of the Fund's investments, subject to the supervision of the Manager. The Manager and Sub-Adviser are referred to collectively as the "Advisers."

Dreyfus Service Corporation (the "Distributor") is the distributor of the Fund's shares.

### Certain Portfolio Securities

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Fund's Prospectus.

Corporate Debt Securities. Corporate debt securities include corporate bonds, debentures, notes and other similar instruments, including certain convertible securities. Debt securities may be acquired with warrants attached. Corporate income-producing securities also may include forms of preferred or preference stock. The rate of interest on a corporate debt security may be fixed, floating or variable, and may vary inversely with respect to a reference rate such as interest rates or other financial indicators. The rate of return or return of principal on some debt obligations may be linked or indexed to the level of exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and a foreign currency or currencies. Such securities may include those whose principal amount or redemption price is indexed to, and thus varies directly with, changes in the market price of certain commodities, including gold bullion or other precious metals.

High Yield-Lower Rated Securities. The Fund invests at least 80% of its assets in higher yielding (and, therefore higher risk) debt securities. These securities include those rated at the time of purchase below Baa by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") and below BBB by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P") and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch," and with the other rating agencies, the "Rating Agencies") and as low as the lowest rating assigned by the Rating Agencies. Securities rated Ba by Moody's are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well assured and often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate. Securities rated BB by S&P or Fitch are regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics and, while such obligations have less near-term vulnerability to default than other speculative grade debt, they face major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial or economic conditions which could lead to inadequate capacity to meet timely interest and principal payments. Securities rated C by Moody's are regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing. Securities rated D by S&P and Fitch are in default and the payment of interest and/or repayment

of principal is in arrears. Such securities, though high yielding, are characterized by great risk. See "Appendix" for a general description of securities ratings.

The ratings of Moody's, S&P and Fitch represent their opinions as to the quality of the obligations that they undertake to rate. Ratings are relative and subjective and, although ratings may be useful in evaluating the safety of interest and principal payments, they do not evaluate the market value risk of such obligations. Although these ratings may be an initial criterion for selection of portfolio investments, the Sub-Adviser also will evaluate these securities and the ability of the issuers of such securities to pay interest and principal. The Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective may be more dependent on the Sub-Adviser's credit analysis than might be the case for a fund that invested in higher rated 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.

The Fund may invest in floating rate debt instruments ("floaters"). The interest rate on a floater is a variable rate which is tied to another interest rate, such as a money-market index or Treasury bill rate. The interest rate on a floater resets periodically, typically every six months. Because of the interest rate reset feature, floaters provide the Fund with a certain degree of protection against rises in interest rates, although the Fund will participate in any declines in interest rates as well.

The Fund 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 or inversely to a multiple of the applicable index. An inverse floating rate security may exhibit greater price volatility than a fixed rate obligation of similar credit quality.

Convertible Securities. Convertible securities may be converted at either a stated price or stated rate into underlying shares of common stock. Convertible securities have characteristics similar to both fixed-income and equity securities. Convertible securities generally are subordinated to other similar but non-convertible securities of the same issuer, although convertible bonds, as corporate debt obligations, enjoy seniority in right of payment to all equity securities, and convertible preferred stock is senior to common stock of the same issuer. Because of the subordination feature, however, convertible securities typically have lower ratings than similar non-convertible securities.

Although to a lesser extent than with fixed-income securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stock. A unique feature of convertible securities is that as the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis, and so may not experience market value declines to the same extent as the underlying common stock. When the market price of the underlying common stock increases, the prices of

the convertible securities tend to rise as a reflection of the value of the underlying common stock. While no securities investments are without risk, investments in convertible securities generally entail less risk than investments in common stock of the same issuer.

Convertible securities provide for a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than common stocks, but there can be no assurance of current income because the issuers of the convertible securities may default on their obligations. A convertible security, in addition to providing fixed income, offers the potential for capital appreciation through the conversion feature, which enables the holder to benefit from increases in the market price of the underlying common stock. There can be no assurance of capital appreciation, however, because securities prices fluctuate. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality because of the potential for capital appreciation.

The Fund may invest in so-called "synthetic convertible securities," which are comprised of two or more different securities, each with its own market value, whose investment characteristics, taken together, resemble those of convertible securities. For example, the Fund may purchase a non-convertible debt security and a warrant or option. The "market value" of a synthetic convertible is the sum of the values of its fixed income component and its convertible component. For this reason, the values of a synthetic convertible and a true convertible security may respond differently to market fluctuations.

Preferred Stock. The Fund may invest in preferred stock. Preferred stock is a form of equity ownership in a corporation. The dividend on a preferred stock is a fixed payment which the corporation is not legally bound to pay. Certain classes of preferred stock are convertible, meaning the preferred stock is convertible into shares of common stock of the issuer. By holding convertible preferred stock, the Fund can receive a steady stream of dividends and still have the option to convert the preferred stock to common stock.

The Fund may invest in convertible preferred stocks that offer enhanced yield features, such as PERCS (Preferred Equity Redemption Cumulative Stock). PERCS are preferred stock that generally feature a mandatory conversion date, as well as a capital appreciation limit that is usually expressed in terms of a stated price. The Fund also may invest in other classes of enhanced convertible securities, such as ACES (Automatically Convertible Equity Securities), PEPS (Participating Equity Preferred Stock), PRIDES (Preferred Redeemable Increased Dividend Equity Securities), SAILS (Stock Appreciation Income Linked Securities), TECONS (Term Convertible Notes), QICS (Quarterly Income Cumulative Securities) and DECS (Dividend Enhanced Convertible Securities). These securities are company-issued convertible preferred stock. Unlike PERCS, they do not have a capital appreciation limit. They are designed to provide the investor with high current income with some prospect of future capital appreciation, issued with three- or four-year maturities, and typically have some built-in call protection. Investors have the right to convert them into shares of common stock at a preset conversion ratio or hold them until maturity. Upon maturity they will convert mandatorily into either cash or a specified number of shares of common stock.

Warrants. A warrant is a form of derivative that gives the holder the right to subscribe to a specified amount of the corporation's capital stock at a set price for a specified period of time. The Fund may invest in warrants to purchase equity or fixed income securities. Bonds with warrants attached to purchase equity securities have many characteristics of convertible bonds and their prices may, to some degree, reflect the performance of the underlying stock. Bonds also

may be issued with warrants attached to purchase additional fixed income securities at the same coupon rate. A decline in interest rates would permit the Fund to buy additional bonds at the favorable rate or to sell the warrants at a profit. If interest rates rise, the warrants would generally expire with no value.

Common Stock and Other Equity Securities. From time to time, the Fund may hold common stock sold in units with, or attached to, debt securities purchased by the Fund. The Fund also may hold common stock received upon the conversion of convertible securities. In connection with its investments in corporate debt securities, or restructuring of investments owned by the Fund, the Fund may receive warrants or other non-income producing equity securities. The Fund may retain such securities until the Sub-Adviser determines it is appropriate in light of current market conditions for the Fund to dispose of such securities.

Participation Interests. The Fund may invest in short-term corporate obligations that are originated, negotiated and structured by a syndicate of lenders ("Co-Lenders"), consisting of commercial banks, thrift institutions, insurance companies, financial companies or other financial institutions one or more of which administers the security on behalf of the syndicate (the "Agent Bank"). Co-Lenders may sell such securities to third parties called "Participants." The Fund may invest in such securities either by participating as a Co-Lender at origination or by acquiring an interest in the security from a Co-Lender or a Participant (collectively, "participation interests"). Co-Lenders and Participants interposed between the Fund and the corporate borrower (the "Borrower"), together with Agent Banks, are referred herein as "Intermediate Participants."

The Fund also may purchase a participation interest in a portion of the rights of an Intermediate Participant, which would not establish any direct relationship between the Fund and the Borrower. A participation interest gives the Fund an undivided interest in the security in the proportion that the Fund's participation interest bears to the total principal amount of the security. These instruments may have fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. The Fund would be required to rely on the Intermediate Participant that sold the participation interest not only for the enforcement of the Fund's rights against the Borrower but also for the receipt and processing of payments due to the Fund under the security. Because it may be necessary to assert through an Intermediate Participant such rights as may exist against the Borrower, in the event the Borrower fails to pay principal and interest when due, the Fund may be subject to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the Fund would enforce its rights directly against the Borrower. Moreover, under the terms of a participation interest, the Fund may be regarded as a creditor of the Intermediate Participant (rather than of the Borrower), so that the Fund may also be subject to the risk that the Intermediate Participant may become insolvent. Similar risks may arise with respect to the Agent Bank if, for example, assets held by the Agent Bank for the benefit of the Fund were determined by the appropriate regulatory authority or court to be subject to the claims of the Agent Bank's creditors. In such case, the Fund might incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment in connection with the participation interest or suffer a loss of principal and/or interest. Further, in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the Borrower, the obligation of the Borrower to repay the loan may be subject to certain defenses that can be asserted by such Borrower as a result of improper conduct by the Agent Bank or Intermediate Participant.

U.S. Government Securities. The Fund may invest in U.S. Treasury securities which include Treasury Bills, Treasury Notes and Treasury Bonds that differ in their interest rates,

maturities and times of issuance. Treasury Bills have initial maturities of one year or less; Treasury Notes have initial maturities of one to ten years; and Treasury Bonds generally have initial maturities of greater than ten years. In addition to U.S. Treasury securities, each Fund, may invest in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities. Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies and instrumentalities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury; others by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; others by discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase certain obligations of the agency or instrumentality; and others only by the credit of the agency or instrumentality. These securities bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest. While the U.S. Government currently provides financial support to such U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities, no assurance can be given that it will always do so, since it is not so obligated by law.

Municipal Obligations. Municipal obligations are debt obligations issued by states, territories and possessions of the United States and the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities, or multistate agencies or authorities, generally to obtain funds for various public purposes and include certain industrial development bonds issued by or on behalf of public authorities. Municipal obligations are classified as general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and notes. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue bonds are payable from the revenue derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source, but not from the general taxing power. Industrial development bonds, in most cases, are revenue bonds that do not carry the pledge of the credit of the issuing municipality, but generally are guaranteed by the corporate entity on whose behalf they are issued. Notes are short-term instruments which are obligations of the issuing municipalities or agencies and are sold in anticipation of a bond sale, collection of taxes or receipt of other revenues. Municipal obligations include municipal lease/purchase agreements which are similar to installment purchase contracts for property or equipment issued by municipalities. Municipal obligations bear fixed, floating or variable rates of interest, which are determined in some instances by formulas under which the municipal obligation's interest rate will change directly or inversely to changes in interest rates or an index, or multiples thereof, in many cases subject to a maximum and minimum. Certain municipal obligations are subject to redemption at a date earlier than their stated maturity pursuant to call options, which may be separated from the related municipal obligation and purchased and sold separately. The Fund also may acquire call options on specific municipal obligations. The Fund generally would purchase these call options to protect the Fund from the issuer of the related municipal obligation redeeming, or other holder of the call option from calling away, the municipal obligation before maturity.

While, in general, municipal obligations are tax exempt securities having relatively low yields as compared to taxable, non-municipal obligations of similar quality, certain municipal obligations are taxable obligations offering yields comparable to, and in some cases greater than, the yields available on other permissible Fund investments. Dividends received by shareholders on Fund shares which are attributable to interest income received by the Fund from municipal obligations generally will be subject to Federal income tax. The Fund may invest in municipal obligations, the ratings of which correspond with the ratings of other permissible Fund investments.

Mortgage-Related Securities. Mortgage-related securities are a form of derivative collateralized by pools of commercial or residential mortgages. Pools of mortgage loans are assembled as securities for sale to investors by various governmental, government-related and private organizations. These securities may include complex instruments such as collateralized mortgage obligations and stripped mortgage-backed securities, mortgage pass-through securities, interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs"), adjustable rate mortgages, real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), or other kinds of mortgage-backed securities, including those with fixed, floating and variable interest rates, those with interest rates based on multiples of changes in a specified index of interest rates and those with interest rates that change inversely to changes in interest rates, as well as those that do not bear interest.

Residential Mortgage-Related Securities—The Fund may invest in mortgage-related securities representing participation interests in pools of one- to four-family residential mortgage loans issued or guaranteed by governmental agencies or instrumentalities, such as the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), the Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"), or issued by private entities. Residential mortgage-related securities have been issued using a variety of structures, including multi-class structures featuring senior and subordinated classes.

Mortgage-related securities issued by GNMA include GNMA Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates (also known as "Ginnie Maes"), which are guaranteed as to the timely payment of principal and interest by GNMA and such guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. GNMA certificates also are supported by the authority of GNMA to borrow funds from the U.S. Treasury to make payments under its guarantee. Ginnie Maes are created by an "issuer," which is a Federal Housing Administration ("FHA") approved mortgagee that also meets criteria imposed by the GNMA. The issuer assembles a pool of FHA, Farmers' Home Administration or Veterans' Administration ("VA") insured or guaranteed mortgages which are homogeneous as to interest rate, maturity and type of dwelling. Upon application by the issuer, and after approval by the GNMA of the pool, the GNMA provides its commitment to guarantee timely payment of principal and interest on the Ginnie Maes backed by the mortgages included in the pool. The Ginnie Maes, endorsed by the GNMA, then are sold by the issuer through securities dealers. Ginnie Maes bear a stated "coupon rate" which represents the effective FHA-VA mortgage rate at the time of issuance, less the GNMA's and issuer's fees.

Mortgage-related securities issued by FNMA include FNMA Guaranteed Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates (also known as "Fannie Maes") which are solely the obligations of FNMA and are not backed by or entitled to the full faith and credit of the United States. Fannie Maes are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA. Mortgage-related securities issued by FHLMC include FHLMC Mortgage Participation Certificates (also known as "Freddie Macs" or "PCs"). Freddie Macs are not guaranteed by the United States or by any Federal Home Loan Bank and do not constitute a debt or obligation of the United States or of any Federal Home Loan Bank. Freddie Macs entitle the holder to timely payment of interest, which is guaranteed by FHLMC. FHLMC guarantees either ultimate collection or timely payment of all principal payments on the underlying mortgage loans. When FHLMC does not guarantee timely payment of principal, FHLMC may remit the amount due on account of its guarantee of ultimate payment of principal at any time after default on an underlying mortgage, but in no event later than one year after it becomes payable.

Commercial Mortgage-Related Securities—The Fund may invest in commercial mortgage-related securities, which generally are multi-class debt or pass-through certificates secured by mortgage loans on commercial properties. These mortgage-related securities generally are constructed to provide protection to the holders senior classes against potential losses on the underlying mortgage loans. This protection generally is provided by having the holders of subordinated classes of securities ("Subordinated Securities") take the first loss if there are defaults on the underlying commercial mortgage loans. Other protection, which may benefit all of the classes or particular classes, may include issuer guarantees, reserve funds, additional Subordinated Securities, cross-collateralization and over-collateralization.

Subordinated Securities—The Fund may invest in Subordinated Securities issued or sponsored by commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, private mortgage insurance companies and other non-governmental issuers. Subordinated Securities have no governmental guarantee, and are subordinated in some manner as to the payment of principal and/or interest to the holders of more senior mortgage-related securities arising out of the same pool of mortgages. The holders of Subordinated Securities typically are compensated with a higher stated yield than are the holders of more senior mortgage-related securities. On the other hand, Subordinated Securities typically subject the holder to greater risk than senior mortgage-related securities and tend to be rated in a lower rating category, and frequently a substantially lower rating category, than the senior mortgage-related securities issued in respect of the same pool of mortgage. Subordinated Securities generally are likely to be more sensitive to changes in prepayment and interest rates and the market for such securities may be less liquid than is the case for traditional fixed-income securities and senior mortgage-related securities.

Collateralized Mortgage Obligations ("CMOs") and Multi-Class Pass-Through-Securities—The Fund may invest in CMOs, which are multiclass bonds backed by pools of mortgage pass-through certificates or mortgage loans. CMOs may be collateralized by (a) Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac pass-through certificates, (b) unsecuritized mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, (c) unsecuritized conventional mortgages, (d) other mortgage-related securities, or (e) any combination thereof.

Each class of CMOs, often referred to as a "tranche," is issued at a specific coupon rate and has a stated maturity or final distribution date. Principal prepayments on collateral underlying a CMO may cause it to be retired substantially earlier than the stated maturities or final distribution dates. The principal and interest on the underlying mortgages may be allocated among the several classes of a series of a CMO in many ways. One or more tranches of a CMO may have coupon rates which reset periodically at a specified increment over an index, such as the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") (or sometimes more than one index). These floating rate CMOs typically are issued with lifetime caps on the coupon rate thereon. The Fund also may invest in inverse floating rate CMOs. Inverse floating rate CMOs constitute a tranche of a CMO with a coupon rate that moves in the reverse direction to an applicable index such as LIBOR. Accordingly, the coupon rate thereon will increase as interest rates decrease. Inverse floating rate CMOs are typically more volatile than fixed or floating rate tranches of CMOs.

Many inverse floating rate CMOs have coupons that move inversely to a multiple of the applicable indexes. The effect of the coupon varying inversely to a multiple of an applicable index creates a leverage factor. Inverse floaters based on multiples of a stated index are designed to be highly sensitive to changes in interest rates and can subject the holders thereof to extreme



reductions of yield and loss of principal. The markets for inverse floating rate CMOs with highly leveraged characteristics at times may be very thin. The Fund's ability to dispose of its positions in such securities will depend on the degree of liquidity in the markets for such securities. It is impossible to predict the amount of trading interest that may exist in such securities, and therefore the future degree of liquidity.

Stripped Mortgage-Backed Securities—The Fund may invest in stripped mortgage-backed securities, which are created by segregating the cash flows from underlying mortgage loans or mortgage securities to create two or more new securities, each with a specified percentage of the underlying security's principal or interest payments. Mortgage securities may be partially stripped so that each investor class receives some interest and some principal. When securities are completely stripped, however, all of the interest is distributed to holders of one type of security, known as an interest-only security, or IOs, and all of the principal is distributed to holders of another type of security known as a principal-only security, or PO. Strips can be created in a pass-through structure or as tranches of a CMO. The yields to maturity on IO and POs are very sensitive to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the related underlying mortgage assets. If the underlying mortgage assets experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, the Fund may not fully recoup its initial investment in IOs. Conversely, if the underlying mortgage assets experience less than anticipated prepayments of principal, the yield on POs could be materially and adversely affected.

Real Estate Investment Trusts—The Fund may invest in REITs. A REIT is a corporation, or a business trust that would otherwise be taxed as a corporation, which meets the definitional requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Code permits a qualifying REIT to deduct dividends paid, thereby effectively eliminating corporate level Federal income tax and making the REIT a pass-through vehicle for Federal income tax purposes. To meet the definitional requirements of the Code, a REIT must, among other things, invest substantially all of its assets in interests in real estate (including mortgages and other REITs) or cash and government securities, derive most of its income from rents from real property or interest on loans secured by mortgages on real property, and distribute to shareholders annually a substantial portion of its otherwise taxable income.

REITs are characterized as equity REITs, mortgage REITs and hybrid REITs. Equity REITs, which may include operating or finance companies, own real estate directly and the value of, and income earned by, the REITs depends upon the income of the underlying properties and the rental income they earn. Equity REITs also can realize capital gains (or losses) by selling properties that have appreciated (or depreciated) in value. Mortgage REITs can make construction, development or long-term mortgage loans and are sensitive to the credit quality of the borrower. Mortgage REITs derive their income from interest payments on such loans. Hybrid REITs combine the characteristics of both equity and mortgage REITs, generally by holding both ownership interests and mortgage interests in real estate. The value of securities issued by REITs are affected by tax and regulatory requirements and by perceptions of management skill. They also are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers or tenants, self-liquidation and the possibility of failing to qualify for tax-free status under the Code or to maintain exemption from the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

Adjustable-Rate Mortgage Loans ("ARMs")—The Fund may invest in ARMs. ARMs eligible for inclusion in a mortgage pool generally will provide for a fixed initial mortgage interest rate

for a specified period of time, generally for either the first three, six, twelve, thirteen, thirty-six, or sixty scheduled monthly payments. Thereafter, the interest rates are subject to periodic adjustment based on changes in an index. ARMs typically have minimum and maximum rates beyond which the mortgage interest rate may not vary over the lifetime of the loans. Certain ARMs provide for additional limitations on the maximum amount by which the mortgage interest rate may adjust for any single adjustment period. Negatively amortizing ARMs may provide limitations on changes in the required monthly payment. Limitations on monthly payments can result in monthly payments that are greater or less than the amount necessary to amortize a negatively amortizing ARM by its maturity at the interest rate in effect during any particular month.

Private Entity Securities—The Fund may invest in mortgage-related securities issued by commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, private mortgage insurance companies and other non-governmental issuers. Timely payment of principal and interest on mortgage-related securities backed by pools created by non-governmental issuers often is supported partially by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance. The insurance and guarantees are issued by government entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers. There can be no assurance that the private insurers or mortgage poolers can meet their obligations under the policies, so that if the issuers default on their obligations the holders of the security could sustain a loss. No insurance or guarantee covers the Fund or the price of the Fund's shares. Mortgage-related securities issued by non-governmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government-agency and government-related securities because there are no direct or indirect government guarantees of payment.

Other Mortgage-Related Securities—Other mortgage-related securities that the Fund may invest in include securities other than those described above that directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans on real property, including CMO residuals. Other mortgage-related securities may be equity or debt securities issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, homebuilders, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks, partnerships, trusts and special purpose entities of the foregoing.

Asset-Backed Securities. Asset-backed securities are a form of derivative. The securitization techniques used for asset-backed securities are similar to those used for mortgage-related securities. These securities include debt securities and securities with debt-like characteristics. The collateral for these securities has included home equity loans, automobile and credit card receivables, boat loans, computer leases, airplane leases, mobile home loans, recreational vehicle loans and hospital account receivables. The Fund may invest in these and other types of asset-backed securities that may be developed in the future.

Asset-backed securities present certain risks that are not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities may provide the Fund with a less effective security interest in the related collateral than do mortgage-backed securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on the underlying collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities.

Zero Coupon, Pay-In-Kind and Step-Up Securities. The Fund may invest in zero coupon U.S. Treasury securities, which are Treasury Notes and Bonds that have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, the coupons themselves and receipts or certificates representing interests in such stripped debt obligations and coupons. Zero coupon securities also are issued by corporations and financial institutions which constitute a proportionate ownership of the issuer's pool of underlying U.S. Treasury securities. A zero coupon security pays no interest to its holders during its life and is sold at a discount to its face value at maturity. The Fund may invest in pay-in-kind bonds which are bonds which generally pay interest through the issuance of additional bonds. The Fund also may purchase step-up coupon bonds which are debt securities which typically do not pay interest for a specified period of time and then pay interest at a series of different rates. The market prices of these securities generally are more volatile than the market prices of securities that pay interest periodically and are likely to respond to a greater degree to changes in interest rates than securities having similar maturities and credit qualities. In addition, unlike bonds that pay cash interest throughout the period to maturity, the Fund will realize no cash until the cash payment date unless a portion of such securities are sold and, if the issuer defaults, the Fund may obtain no return at all on its investment. Federal income tax law requires the holder of a zero coupon security or of certain pay-in-kind or step-up bonds to accrue income with respect to these securities prior to the receipt of cash payments. To maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid liability for Federal income taxes, the Fund may be required to distribute such income accrued with respect to these securities and may have to dispose of portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements. See "Dividends, Distributions and Taxes."

Inflation-Indexed Bonds. The Fund may invest in inflation-indexed bonds, which are fixed-income securities whose value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. Two structures are common. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers utilize a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

Inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Treasury have varying maturities and pay interest on a semi-annual basis equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount. If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of U.S. Treasury inflation-indexed bonds, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. The Fund also may invest in other inflation-related bonds which may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal amount.

The value of inflation-indexed bonds is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if the rate of inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed bonds. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed bonds. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed bond will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity.

While these securities are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the bond's inflation measure.

The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-indexed bonds is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers ("CPI-U"), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation and energy. Inflation-indexed bonds issued by a foreign government are generally adjusted to reflect a comparable inflation index calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or any foreign inflation index will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the United States.

Catastrophe Bonds. The Fund may invest in "catastrophe bonds." Catastrophe bonds are fixed-income securities, for which the return of principal and payment of interest is contingent on the non-occurrence of a specific "trigger" catastrophic event, such as a hurricane or an earthquake. They may be issued by government agencies, insurance companies, reinsurers, special purpose corporations or other on-shore or off-shore entities. If a trigger event causes losses exceeding a specific amount in the geographic region and time period specified in a bond, the Fund may lose a portion or all of its principal invested in the bond. If no trigger event occurs, the Fund will recover its principal plus interest. For some catastrophe bonds, the trigger event or losses may be based on company wide losses, index-portfolio losses, industry indices or readings of scientific instruments rather than specified actual losses. Often the catastrophe bonds provide for extensions of maturity that are mandatory, or optional at the discretion of the issuer, in order to process and audit loss claims in those cases where a trigger event has, or possibly has, occurred. In addition to the specified trigger events, catastrophe bonds also may expose the Fund to certain unanticipated risks including but not limited to issuer (credit) default, adverse regulatory or jurisdictional interpretations and adverse tax consequences.

Depository Receipts. The Fund may invest in the securities of foreign issuers in the form of American Depositary Receipts and American Depositary Shares (collectively, "ADRs") and Global Depositary Receipts and Global Depositary Shares (collectively, "GDRs") and other forms of depository receipts. These securities may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the securities into which they may be converted. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a United States bank or trust company which evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. GDRs are receipts issued outside the United States typically by non-United States banks and trust companies that evidence ownership of either foreign or domestic securities. Generally, ADRs in registered form are designed for use in the United States securities markets and GDRs in bearer form are designed for use outside the United States.

These securities may be purchased through "sponsored" or "unsponsored" facilities. A sponsored facility is established jointly by the issuer of the underlying security and a depository. A depository may establish an unsponsored facility without participation by the issuer of the deposited security. Holders of unsponsored depository receipts generally bear all the costs of such facilities, and the depository of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to

distribute shareholder communications received from the issuer of the deposited security or to pass through voting rights to the holders of such receipts in respect of the deposited securities.

**Sovereign Debt Obligations.** The Fund may invest in sovereign debt obligations. Investments in sovereign debt obligations involve special risks which are not present in corporate debt obligations. The foreign issuer of the sovereign debt or the foreign governmental authorities that control the repayment of the debt may be unable or unwilling to repay principal or interest when due, and the Fund may have limited recourse in the event of a default. During periods of economic uncertainty, the market prices of sovereign debt, and the Fund's net asset value, to the extent it invests in such securities, may be more volatile than prices of U.S. debt issuers. In the past, certain foreign countries have encountered difficulties in servicing their debt obligations, withheld payments of principal and interest and declared moratoria on the payment of principal and interest on their sovereign debt.

A sovereign debtor's willingness or ability to repay principal and pay interest in a timely manner may be affected by, among other factors, its cash flow situation, the extent of its foreign currency reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange, the relative size of the debt service burden, the sovereign debtor's policy toward principal international lenders and local political constraints. Sovereign debtors may also be dependent on expected disbursements from foreign governments, multilateral agencies and other entities to reduce principal and interest arrearages on their debt. The failure of a sovereign debtor to implement economic reforms, achieve specified levels of economic performance or repay principal or interest when due may result in the cancellation of third party commitments to lend funds to the sovereign debtor, which may further impair such debtor's ability or willingness to service its debts.

**Brady Bonds.** Brady Bonds are debt obligations created through the exchange of existing commercial bank loans to foreign entities for new obligations in connection with debt restructurings under a plan introduced by former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Nicholas F. Brady.

Brady Bonds have been issued only relatively recently, and, accordingly, do not have a long payment history. They may be collateralized or uncollateralized and issued in various currencies (although most are U.S. dollar-denominated). They are actively traded in the over-the-counter secondary market.

Collateralized Brady Bonds may be fixed rate par bonds or floating rate discount bonds, which are generally collateralized in full as to principal due at maturity by U.S. Treasury zero coupon obligations which have the same maturity as the Brady Bonds. Interest payments on these Brady Bonds generally are collateralized by cash or securities in an amount that, in the case of fixed rate bonds, is equal to at least one year of rolling interest payments or, in the case of floating rate bonds, initially is equal to at least one year's rolling interest payments based on the applicable interest rate at that time and is adjusted at regular intervals thereafter. Certain Brady Bonds are entitled to "value recovery payments" in certain circumstances, which in effect constitute supplemental interest payments but generally are not collateralized. Brady Bonds are often viewed as having three or four valuation components: (i) the collateralized repayment of principal at final maturity; (ii) the collateralized interest payments; (iii) the uncollateralized interest payments; and (iv) any uncollateralized repayment of principal at maturity (these uncollateralized amounts constitute the "residual risk"). In the event of a default with respect to Collateralized Brady Bonds as a result of which the payment obligations of the issuer are

accelerated, the U.S. Treasury zero coupon obligations held as collateral for the payment of principal will not be distributed to investors, nor will such obligations be sold and the proceeds distributed. The collateral will be held by the collateral agent to the scheduled maturity of the defaulted Brady Bonds, which will continue to be outstanding, at which time the face amount of the collateral will equal the principal payments which would have then been due on the Brady Bonds in the normal course. In addition, in light of the residual risk of Brady Bonds and, among other factors, the history of defaults with respect to commercial bank loans by public and private entities of countries issuing Brady Bonds, investments in Brady Bonds are to be viewed as speculative.

Money Market Instruments. When the Sub-Adviser determines that adverse market conditions exist, the Fund may adopt a temporary defensive position and invest up to 100% of its assets in money market instruments, including U.S. Government securities, repurchase agreements, bank obligations and commercial paper. The Fund also may purchase money market instruments when it has cash reserves or in anticipation of taking a market position.

Bank Obligations. Bank obligations in which the Fund may invest include certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, and fixed time deposits. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning, in effect, that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Fixed time deposits are bank obligations payable at a stated maturity date and bearing interest at a fixed rate. Fixed time deposits may be withdrawn on demand by the investor, but may be subject to early withdrawal penalties which vary depending upon market conditions and the remaining maturity of the obligation. There are no contractual restrictions on the right to transfer a beneficial interest in a fixed time deposit to a third party, although there is no market for such deposits.

Repurchase Agreements. For the purposes of maintaining liquidity and achieving income, the Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with domestic commercial banks or registered broker-dealers. A repurchase agreement is a contract under which a Fund would acquire a security for a relatively short period (usually not more than one week) subject to the obligation of the seller to repurchase and the Fund to resell such security at a fixed time and price (representing the Fund's cost plus interest). In the case of repurchase agreements with broker-dealers, the value of the underlying securities (or collateral) will be at least equal at all times to the total amount of the repurchase obligation, including the interest factor. The Fund bears a risk of loss if the other party to a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations and the Fund is delayed or prevented from exercising its rights to dispose of the collateral securities. This risk includes the risk of procedural costs or delays in addition to a loss on the securities if their value should fall below their repurchase price.

Commercial Paper. The Fund may invest in commercial paper. Commercial paper represents short-term unsecured promissory notes issued in bearer form by banks or bank holding companies, corporations and finance companies. The commercial paper purchased by the Fund may consist of U.S. dollar-denominated obligations of domestic issuers, or foreign currency-denominated obligations of domestic or foreign issuers.

Investment Companies. The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund's investment in such securities, subject to certain exceptions, currently is limited to (i) 3% of the total voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets in the aggregate. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory fees and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. The Fund also may invest its uninvested cash reserves or cash it receives as collateral from borrowers of its portfolio securities in connection with the Fund's securities lending program in shares of one or more money market funds advised by the Manager. Such investments will not be subject to the limitations described above, except that the Fund's aggregate investment of uninvested cash reserves in such money market funds may not exceed 25% of its total assets. See "Lending Portfolio Securities."

Illiquid Securities. The Fund may invest up to 15% of the value of its net assets in securities as to which a liquid trading market does not exist, provided such investments are consistent with the Fund's investment objective. These securities may include securities that are not readily marketable, such as securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale, repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice, and certain privately negotiated, non-exchange traded options and securities used to cover such options. As to these securities, the Fund is subject to a risk that should the Fund desire to sell them when a ready buyer is not available at a price the Fund deems representative of their value, the value of the Fund's net assets could be adversely affected.

#### Investment Techniques

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Funds' Prospectus.

Leverage. Leveraging (that is, buying securities using borrowed money) exaggerates the effect on net asset value of any increase or decrease in the market value of the Fund's portfolio. These borrowings will be subject to interest costs which may or may not be recovered by appreciation of the securities purchased; in certain cases, interest costs may exceed the return received on the securities purchased. For borrowings for investment purposes, the 1940 Act requires the Fund to maintain continuous asset coverage (total assets including borrowings, less liabilities exclusive of borrowings) of 300% of the amount borrowed. If the required coverage should decline as a result of market fluctuations or other reasons, the Fund may be required to sell some of its portfolio holdings within three days to reduce the amount of its borrowings and restore the 300% asset coverage, even though it may be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint to sell securities at that time. The Fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with such borrowing or pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate.

The Fund may also enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks, broker/dealers or other financial institutions. This form of borrowing involves the transfer by the Fund of an underlying debt instrument in return for cash proceeds based on a percentage of the value of the security. The Fund retains the right to receive interest and principal payments on the security.

At an agreed upon future date, the Fund repurchases the security at principal plus accrued interest. To the extent the Fund enters into a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal to the aggregate amount of its reverse repurchase obligations, plus accrued interest, in certain cases, in accordance with releases promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Securities and Exchange Commission views reverse repurchase transactions as collateralized borrowings by the Fund. Except for these transactions, the Fund's borrowings generally will be unsecured.

Short-Selling. In these transactions, the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the market value of the security. To complete the transaction, the Fund must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Fund is obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it subsequently at the market price at the time of replacement. The price at such time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Fund, which would result in a loss or gain, respectively.

The Fund will not sell securities short if, after effect is given to any such short sale, the total market value of all securities sold short would exceed 25% of the value of the Fund's net assets. The Fund may not make a short sale which results in the Fund having sold short in the aggregate more than 5% of the outstanding securities of any class of an issuer.

The Fund also may make short sales "against the box," in which the Fund enters into a short sale of a security it owns.

Until the Fund closes its short position or replaces the borrowed security, it will:  
(a) segregate permissible liquid assets in an amount that, together with the amount provided as collateral, always equals the current value of the security sold short; or (b) otherwise cover its short position.

Lending Portfolio Securities. The Fund may lend securities from its portfolio to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. In connection with such loans, the Fund remains the owner of the loaned securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest, dividends or other distributions payable on the loaned securities. The Fund also has the right to terminate a loan at any time. The Fund may call the loan to vote proxies if a material issue affecting the Fund's investment is to be voted upon. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the value of all assets received as collateral for the loan). The Fund will receive collateral consisting of cash, U.S. Government securities or irrevocable letters of credit which will be maintained at all times in an amount equal to at least 100% of the current market value of the loaned securities. If the collateral consists of a letter of credit or securities, the borrower will pay the Fund a loan premium fee. If the collateral consists of cash, the Fund will reinvest the cash and pay the borrower a pre-negotiated fee or "rebate" from any return earned on the investment. The Fund may participate in a securities lending program operated by Mellon Bank, N.A., as lending agent (the "Lending Agent"). The Lending Agent will receive a percentage of the total earnings of the Fund derived from lending its portfolio securities. Should the borrower of the securities fail financially, the Fund may experience delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising its rights in the collateral. Loans are made only to borrowers that are deemed by the Advisers to be of good financial standing. In a loan transaction, the Fund will also bear the risk of any decline in value of securities acquired with cash collateral. The Fund will minimize this risk by limiting the



investment of cash collateral to money market funds advised by the Manager, repurchase agreements or other high quality instruments with short maturities.

Derivatives. The Fund also may invest in, or enter into, derivatives, such as options and futures, options on futures, swaps, and credit derivatives, for a variety of reasons, including to hedge certain market or interest rate risks, to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities or to increase potential income gain. Generally, derivatives are financial contracts whose value depends upon, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, referenced rate or index, and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies or currency exchange rates and related indexes. Examples of derivative instruments include option contracts, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, swaps, credit derivatives, mortgage-related securities and asset backed securities. Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker or more specifically focused way for the Fund to invest than traditional securities would. The Fund's portfolio manager may decide not to employ any of these strategies and there is no assurance that any derivatives strategy used by the Fund will succeed.

Derivatives can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risk, depending upon the characteristics of the particular derivative and the portfolio as a whole. Derivatives permit the Fund to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which its portfolio is exposed in much the same way as the Fund can increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, of its portfolio by making investments in specific securities. However, derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in derivatives could have a large potential impact on the Fund's performance.

If the Fund invests in derivatives at inopportune times or judges market conditions incorrectly, such investments may lower the Fund's return or result in a loss. The Fund also could experience losses if its derivatives were poorly correlated with its other investments, or if the Fund were unable to liquidate its position because of an illiquid secondary market. The market for many derivatives is, or suddenly can become, illiquid. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices for derivatives.

Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter derivatives. Exchange-traded derivatives generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency which is the issuer or counterparty to such derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a daily variation margin system operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with derivatives purchased on an exchange. By contrast, no clearing agency guarantees over-the-counter derivatives. Therefore, each party to an over-the-counter derivative bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, the Sub-Adviser will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to over-the-counter derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by the Fund. Over-the-counter derivatives are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since the other party to the transaction may be the only investor with sufficient understanding of the derivative to be interested in bidding for it.

The Fund will not be a commodity pool. In addition, as a registered investment company, the Fund has filed notice with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and National Futures Association of its eligibility for an exclusion from the definition of

commodity pool operator and, therefore, the Fund is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act.

Futures Transactions--In General. A futures contract is an agreement between two parties to buy and sell a security for a set price on a future date. These contracts are traded on exchanges, so that, in most cases, either party can close out its position on the exchange for cash, without delivering the security. An option on a futures contract gives the holder of the option the right to buy from or sell to the writer of the option a position in a futures contract at a specified price on or before a specified expiration date.

Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities, generally these obligations are closed out before delivery by offsetting purchase or sales of matching futures contracts (same exchange, underlying security or index, and delivery month). Closing out a futures contract sale is effected by purchasing a futures contract for the same aggregate amount of the specific type of financial instrument with the same delivery date. In an offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is more, the Fund realizes a capital loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the fund realizes a capital gain, or if it is less, the Fund realizes a capital loss. Transactions costs also are included in these calculations.

The Fund may enter into futures contracts in U.S. domestic markets, or on exchanges located outside the United States. Foreign markets may offer advantages such as trading opportunities or arbitrage possibilities not available in the United States. Foreign markets, however, may have greater risk potential than domestic markets. For example, some foreign exchanges are principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and an investor may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. In addition, any profits that the Fund might realize in trading could be eliminated by adverse changes in the currency exchange rate, or the Fund could incur losses as a result of those changes. Transactions on foreign exchanges may include commodities which are traded on domestic exchanges or those which are not. Unlike trading on domestic commodity exchanges, trading on foreign commodity exchanges is not regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Engaging in these transactions involves risk of loss to the Fund which could adversely affect the value of the Fund's net assets. Although the Fund intends to purchase or sell futures contracts only if there is an active market for such contracts, no assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular contract at any particular time. Many futures exchanges and boards of trade limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular contract, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond that limit or trading may be suspended for specified periods during the trading day. Futures contract prices could move to the limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and potentially subjecting the Fund to substantial losses.

Successful use of futures by the Fund also is subject to the Advisers' ability to predict correctly movements in the direction of the relevant market and, to the extent the transaction is entered into for hedging purposes, to ascertain the appropriate correlation between the position being hedged and the price movements of the futures contract. For example, if the Fund uses futures to hedge against the possibility of a decline in the market value of securities held in its portfolio and the prices of such securities instead increase, the Fund will lose part or all of the

benefit of the increased value of securities which it has hedged because it will have offsetting losses in its futures positions. Furthermore, if in such circumstances the Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements. The Fund may have to sell such securities at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets to cover its obligations relating to its transactions in derivatives. To maintain this required cover, the Fund may have to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices or times since it may not be possible to liquidate a derivative position at a reasonable price. In addition, the segregation of such assets will have the effect of limiting the Fund's ability otherwise to invest those assets.

Specific Futures Transactions. The Fund may purchase and sell interest rate futures contracts. An interest rate future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security at a future date at a specific price.

The Fund may also purchase and sell currency futures. A foreign currency future obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific currency at a future date at a specific price.

The Fund may also purchase and sell index futures contracts. A securities index future obligates the Fund to pay or receive an amount of cash equal to a fixed dollar amount specified in the futures contract multiplied by the difference between the settlement price of the contract on the contract's last trading day and the value of the index based on the prices of the securities that comprise it at the opening of trading in such securities on the next business day.

Swaps. The Fund may enter into equity, interest rate and index swap agreements in an attempt to obtain a particular return when it is considered desirable to do so, possibly at a lower cost than if the Fund had invested directly in the asset that yielded the desired return. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than a year. In a standard swap transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments, which may be adjusted for an interest factor. The gross returns to be exchanged or "swapped" between the parties are generally calculated with respect to a "notional amount" (i.e., the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate), or in a "basket" of securities representing a particular index. Forms of swap agreements include interest rate caps, under which, in return for a premium, one party agrees to make payments to the other to the extent interest rates exceed a specified rate or "cap"; interest rate floors, under which, in return for a premium, one party agrees to make payments to the other to the extent interest rates fall below a specified level or "floor"; and interest rate collars, under which a party sells a cap and purchases a floor or vice versa in an attempt to protect itself against interest rate movements exceeding given minimum or maximum levels.

Most swap agreements entered into by the Fund would calculate the obligations of the parties to the agreement on a "net basis." Consequently, the Fund's current obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement generally will be equal only to the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the positions held by each party to the agreement (the "net amount"). These transactions do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, the risk of loss with respect to swaps is

limited to the net amount of interest payments that the Fund is contractually obligated to make. If the other party to a swap defaults, the Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that the Fund contractually is entitled to receive.

Credit Derivatives. The Fund may engage in credit derivative transactions, such as those involving default price risk derivatives and market spread derivatives. Default price risk derivatives are linked to the price of reference securities or loans after a default by the issuer or borrower, respectively. Market spread derivatives are based on the risk that changes in market factors, such as credit spreads, can cause a decline in the value of a security, loan or index. There are three basic transactional forms for credit derivatives: swaps, options and structured instruments. The use of credit derivatives is a highly specialized activity which involves strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If the Sub-Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of default risks, market spreads or other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these techniques were not used. Moreover, even if the Sub-Adviser is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that a credit derivative position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged. The Fund's risk of loss in a credit derivative transaction varies with the form of the transaction. For example, if the Fund purchases a default option on a security, and if no default occurs with respect to the security, the Fund's loss is limited to the premium it paid for the default option. In contrast, if there is a default by the grantor of a default option, the Fund's loss will include both the premium it paid for the option and the decline in value of the underlying security that the default option hedged.

Options--In General. The Fund may purchase call and put options, and write (i.e., sell) covered call and put option contracts. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date. Conversely, a put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period, or at a specific date.

A covered call option written by the Fund is a call option with respect to which the Fund owns the underlying security or otherwise covers the transaction by segregating permissible liquid assets. A put option written by the Fund is covered when, among other things, the Fund segregates permissible liquid assets having a value equal to or greater than the exercise price of the option to fulfill the obligation undertaken. The principal reason for writing covered call and put options is to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the underlying securities alone. The Fund receives a premium from writing covered call or put options which it retains whether or not the option is exercised.

There is no assurance that sufficient trading interest to create a liquid secondary market on a securities exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time, and for some options no such secondary market may exist. A liquid secondary market in an option may cease to exist for a variety of reasons. In the past, for example, higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow, or other unforeseen events, at times have rendered certain of the clearing facilities inadequate and resulted in the institution of special procedures, such as trading rotations, restrictions on certain types of orders or trading halts or suspensions in one or more options. There can be no assurance that similar events, or events that may otherwise interfere with the timely execution of customers' orders, will not recur. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If, as a covered call option writer,

the Fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise or it otherwise covers its position.

Specific Options Transactions. The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options in respect of specific securities (or groups or "baskets" of specific securities) or indices listed on national securities exchanges or traded in the over-the-counter market. An option on an index is similar to an option in respect of specific securities, except that settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. Instead, the option holder receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the securities index upon which the option is based is greater than in the case of a call, or less than in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option. Thus, the effectiveness of purchasing or writing securities index options will depend upon price movements in the level of the index rather than the price of a particular security.

The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options on foreign currency. These options convey the right to buy or sell the underlying currency at a price which is expected to be lower or higher than the spot price of the currency at the time the option is exercised or expires.

The Fund may purchase cash-settled options on swaps in pursuit of its investment objective. A cash-settled option on a swap gives the purchaser the right, but not the obligation, in return for the premium paid, to receive an amount of cash equal to the value of the underlying swap as of the exercise date. These options typically are purchased in privately negotiated transactions from financial institutions, including securities brokerage firms.

Successful use by the Fund of options will be subject to the ability of the Sub-Adviser to predict correctly movements in the prices of individual securities, the financial markets generally, foreign currencies or interest rates. To the extent such predictions are incorrect, the Fund may incur losses.

Future Developments. The Fund may take advantage of opportunities in options and futures contracts and options on futures contracts and any other derivatives which are not presently contemplated for use by the Fund or which are not currently available but which may be developed, to the extent such opportunities are both consistent with the Fund's investment objective and legally permissible for the Fund. Before entering into such transactions or making any such investment, the Fund will provide appropriate disclosure in its Prospectus or Statement of Additional Information.

Forward Roll Transactions. To enhance current income, the Fund may enter into forward roll transactions with respect to mortgage-related securities. The Fund will only enter into covered rolls. In a forward roll transaction, the Fund sells a mortgage-related security to a financial institution, such as a bank or broker-dealer, and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed upon price. The securities that are purchased will bear the same interest rate as those sold, but generally will be collateralized by different pools of mortgages with different pre-payment histories than those sold. During the period between the sale and purchase, the Fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on the securities sold. Proceeds of the sale typically will be invested in short-term instruments, particularly repurchase agreements, and the income from these investments, together with any additional fee income received on the sale will be expected to generate income for the Fund exceeding the yield on the securities sold. Forward roll transactions involve the risk

that the market value of the securities sold by the Fund may decline below the purchase price of those securities. The Fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal to the amount of the repurchase price (including accrued interest).

Forward Commitments. The Fund may purchase or sell securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed delivery basis, which means delivery and payment take place a number of days after the date of the commitment to purchase or sell the securities at a predetermined price and/or yield. Typically, no interest accrues to the purchaser until the security is delivered. When purchasing a security on a forward commitment basis, the Fund assumes the rights and risks of ownership of the security, including the risk of price and yield fluctuations, and takes such fluctuations into account when determining its net asset value. Because the Fund is not required to pay for these securities until the delivery date, these risks are in addition to the risks associated with the Fund's other investments. If the Fund is fully or almost fully invested when forward commitment purchases are outstanding, such purchases may result in a form of leverage. The Fund intends to engage in forward commitments to increase its portfolio's financial exposure to the types of securities in which it invests. Leveraging the portfolio in this manner will increase the Fund's exposure to changes in interest rates and will increase the volatility of its returns. The Fund will segregate permissible liquid assets at least equal at all times to the amount of the Fund's purchase commitments. At no time will the Fund have more than 33-1/3% of its assets committed to purchase securities on a forward commitment basis.

Municipal Bonds and other securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery 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, real or anticipated, in the level of interest rates. Securities purchased on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis may expose the Fund to risks because they may experience such fluctuations prior to their actual delivery. Purchasing securities on a forward commitment, when-issued or delayed-delivery basis can involve the additional risk 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, when-issued or delayed delivery basis when the Fund is fully or almost fully invested may result in greater potential fluctuation in the value of the Fund's net assets and its net asset value per share.

Foreign Currency Transactions. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions for a variety of purposes, including: to fix in U.S. dollars, between trade and settlement date, the value of a security the Fund has agreed to buy or sell; to hedge the U.S. dollar value of securities the Fund already owns, particularly if it expects a decrease in the value of the currency in which the foreign security is denominated; or to gain exposure to the foreign currency in an attempt to realize gains.

Foreign currency transactions may involve, for example, the Fund's purchase of foreign currencies for U.S. dollars or the maintenance of short positions in foreign currencies. A short position would involve the Fund agreeing to exchange an amount of a currency it did not currently own for another currency at a future date in anticipation of a decline in the value of the currency sold relative to the currency the Fund contracted to receive. The Fund's success in these transactions will depend principally on the ability of the Advisers to predict accurately the future exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar.

Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time. They generally are determined by the forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets and the relative merits of investments in different countries, actual or perceived changes in interest rates and other complex factors, as seen from an international perspective. Currency exchange rates also can be affected unpredictably by intervention by U.S. or foreign governments or central banks, or the failure to intervene, or by currency controls or political developments in the United States or abroad.

#### Certain Investment Considerations and Risks

High Yield-Lower Rated Securities. Higher yielding (and, therefore, higher risk) securities may be subject to certain risks with respect to the issuing entity and to greater market fluctuations than certain lower yielding, higher rated securities. The retail secondary market for these securities may be less liquid than that of higher rated securities; adverse conditions could make it difficult at times for the Fund to sell certain securities or could result in lower prices than those used in calculating the Fund's net asset value.

Bond prices are inversely related to interest rate changes; however, bond price volatility also is inversely related to coupon. Accordingly, below investment grade securities may be relatively less sensitive to interest rate changes than higher quality securities of comparable maturity, because of their higher coupon. This higher coupon is what the investor receives in return for bearing greater credit risk. The higher credit risk associated with below investment grade securities potentially can have a greater effect on the value of such securities than may be the case with higher quality issues of comparable maturity, and will be a substantial factor in the Fund's relative share price volatility. Although ratings may be useful in evaluating the safety of interest and principal payments, they do not evaluate the market value risk of these securities. The Fund will rely on the Sub-Adviser's judgment, analysis and experience in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer.

Companies that issue certain of these securities often are highly leveraged and may not have available to them more traditional methods of financing. Therefore, the risk associated with acquiring the securities of such issuers generally is greater than is the case with the higher rated securities. For example, during an economic downturn or a sustained period of rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers of these securities may not have sufficient revenues to meet their interest payment obligations. The issuer's ability to service its debt obligations also may be affected adversely by specific corporate developments, forecasts, or the unavailability of additional financing. The risk of loss because of default by the issuer is significantly greater for the holders of these securities because such securities generally are unsecured and often are subordinated to other creditors of the issuer.

Because there is no established retail secondary market for many of these securities, the Fund anticipates that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of dealers or institutional investors. To the extent a secondary trading market for these securities does exist, it generally is not as liquid as the secondary market for higher rated securities. The lack of a liquid secondary market may have an adverse impact on market price and yield and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular issues when necessary to meet the Fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event such as a deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The lack of a liquid secondary market for certain securities also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio and

calculating its net asset value. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of these securities. In such cases, judgment may play a greater role in valuation because less reliable, objective data may be available.

These securities may be particularly susceptible to economic downturns. An economic recession could adversely affect the ability of the issuers of lower rated bonds to repay principal and pay interest thereon and increase the incidence of default for such securities. It is likely that an economic recession also could disrupt severely the market for such securities and have an adverse impact on their value.

The Fund may acquire these securities during an initial offering. Such securities may involve special risks because they are new issues. No Fund has an arrangement with any person concerning the acquisition of such securities, and the Sub-Adviser will review carefully the credit and other characteristics pertinent to such new issues.

The credit risk factors pertaining to lower rated securities also apply to lower rated zero coupon bonds, pay-in-kind bonds and step-up bonds. In addition to the risks associated with the credit rating of the issuers, the market prices of these securities may be very volatile during the period no interest is paid.

Mortgage-Related Securities. Mortgage-related securities are derivative instruments, subject to both credit and prepayment risk. Although they may provide opportunities for enhanced total return, you should be aware that the lower rated mortgage-related securities in which the Fund may invest are likely to be more volatile and less liquid, and more difficult to price accurately, than more traditional debt securities. These securities may be particularly susceptible to economic downturns. It is likely that an economic recession could disrupt severely the market for such securities and may have an adverse impact on the value of such securities.

Mortgage-related securities generally are subject to credit risks associated with the performance of the underlying mortgage properties and to prepayment risk. In certain instances, the credit risk associated with mortgage-related securities can be reduced by third party guarantees or other forms of credit support. Improved credit risk does not reduce prepayment risk which is unrelated to the rating assigned to the mortgage-related security. Prepayment risk can lead to fluctuations in value of the mortgage-related security which may be pronounced. If a mortgage-related security is purchased at a premium, all or part of the premium may be lost if there is a decline in the market value of the security, whether resulting from changes in interest rates or prepayments on the underlying mortgage collateral. Certain mortgage-related securities that may be purchased by the Fund, such as inverse floating rate collateralized mortgage obligations, have coupons that move inversely to a multiple of a specific index which may result in a form of leverage. As with other interest-bearing securities, the prices of certain mortgage-related securities are inversely affected by changes in interest rates. However, although the value of a mortgage-related security may decline when interest rates rise, the converse is not necessarily true, since in periods of declining interest rates the mortgages underlying the security are more likely to be prepaid. For this and other reasons, a mortgage-related security's stated maturity may be shortened by unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgages, and, therefore, it is not possible to predict accurately the security's return to the Fund. Moreover, with respect to certain stripped mortgage-backed securities, if the underlying mortgage securities



experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, the Fund may fail to fully recoup its initial investment even if the securities are rated in the highest rating category by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. During periods of rapidly rising interest rates, prepayments of mortgage-related securities may occur at slower than expected rates. Slower prepayments effectively may lengthen a mortgage-related security's expected maturity which generally would cause the value of such security to fluctuate more widely in response to changes in interest rates. Were the prepayments on the Fund's mortgage-related securities to decrease broadly, the Fund's effective duration, and thus sensitivity to interest rate fluctuations, would increase. Commercial real property loans, however, often contain provisions that reduce the likelihood that such securities will be prepaid. The provisions generally impose significant prepayment penalties on loans and in some cases there may be prohibitions on principal prepayments for several years following origination.

Foreign Securities. Foreign securities markets generally are not as developed or efficient as those in the United States. Securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Similarly, volume and liquidity in most foreign securities markets are less than in the United States and, at times, volatility of price can be greater than in the United States.

Because evidences of ownership of foreign securities usually are held outside the United States, the Fund will be subject to additional risks which include possible adverse political and economic developments, seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits and adoption of governmental restrictions which might adversely affect or restrict the payment of principal and interest on the foreign securities to investors located outside the country of the issuer, whether from currency blockage or otherwise. Moreover, foreign securities held by the Fund may trade on days when the Fund does not calculate its net asset value and thus may affect the Fund's net asset value on days when investors have no access to the Fund.

Developing countries have economic structures that are generally less diverse and mature, and political systems that are less stable, than those of developed countries. The markets of developing countries may be more volatile than the markets of more mature economies; however, such markets may provide higher rates of return to investors. Many developing countries providing investment opportunities for the Fund have experienced substantial, and in some periods extremely high, rates of inflation for many years. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had and may continue to have adverse effects on the economies and securities markets of certain of these countries.

Since foreign securities often are purchased with and payable in currencies of foreign countries, the value of these assets as measured in U.S. dollars may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency rates and exchange control regulations.

Simultaneous Investments. Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of the other investment companies advised by the Advisers. If, however, such other investment companies desire to invest in, or dispose of, the same securities as the Fund, available investments or opportunities for sales will be allocated equitably to each investment company. In some cases, this procedure may adversely affect the size of the position obtained for or disposed of by the Fund or the price paid or received by the Fund.

Investment Restrictions. Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in high yield bonds (or other investments with similar economic characteristics). The Fund has adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in its policy to so invest 80% of its assets. The Fund's investment objective is a fundamental policy, which cannot be changed without approval by the holders of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Fund has adopted investment restrictions numbered 1 through 9 as fundamental policies, which cannot be changed without approval by the holders of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. Investment restrictions numbered 10 through 14 are not fundamental policies and may be changed by vote of a majority of the Company's Board members at any time. The Fund may not:

1. Invest more than 5% of its assets in the obligations of any single issuer, except that up to 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested, and securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, or its agencies or instrumentalities may be purchased, without regard to any such limitation.
2. Hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any single issuer. This Investment Restriction applies only with respect to 75% of the Fund's total assets.
3. Invest more than 25% of the value of its total assets in the securities of issuers in any single industry, provided that there shall be no limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.
4. Invest in commodities or commodities contracts, except that the Fund may purchase and sell options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those related to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices and enter into swaps and other derivatives.
5. Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, or oil, gas or other mineral leases or exploration or development programs, but the Fund may purchase and sell securities that are secured by real estate or issued by companies that invest or deal in real estate or real estate investment trusts.
6. Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (which currently limits borrowing to no more than 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets). For purposes of this Investment Restriction, the entry into options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices shall not constitute borrowing.
7. Lend any securities or make loans to others, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act (which currently limits such loans to no more than 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets) or as otherwise permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. For purposes of this Investment Restriction, the purchase of debt obligations (including acquisitions of loans, loan participations or other forms of debt instruments) and the entry into repurchase agreements shall not constitute loans by the Fund. Any loans of portfolio securities will be made according to guidelines established by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Company's Board.

8. Act as an underwriter of securities of other issuers, except to the extent the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, by virtue of disposing of portfolio securities.

9. Issue any senior security (as such term is defined in Section 18(f) of the 1940 Act), except insofar as the Fund may be deemed to have issued a senior security by reason of borrowing money in accordance with the Fund's borrowing policies. For purposes of this Investment Restriction, collateral, escrow, or margin or other deposits with respect to the making of short sales, the purchase or sale of futures contracts or options, purchase or sale of forward foreign currency contracts, and the writing of options on securities are not deemed to be an issuance of senior security.

10. Purchase securities on margin, except for use of short-term credit necessary for clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities, but the Fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, forward contracts, futures contracts, and options on futures contracts, and except that effecting short sales will be deemed not to constitute a margin purchase for purposes of this Investment Restriction.

11. Invest in the securities of a company for the purpose of exercising management or control, but the Fund will vote the securities it owns in its portfolio as a shareholder in accordance with its views.

12. Enter into repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice or purchase securities that are illiquid, if, in the aggregate, more than 15% of the value of the Fund's net assets would be so invested.

13. Purchase securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

14. Pledge, mortgage or hypothecate its assets, except to the extent necessary to secure permitted borrowings and to the extent related to the purchase of securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed-delivery basis and the deposit of assets in escrow in connection with writing covered put and call options and collateral and initial or variation margin arrangements with respect to permitted transactions.

If a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of investment, a later change in percentage resulting from a change in values or assets will not constitute a violation of such restriction. With respect to Investment Restriction No. 6, however, if borrowings exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets as a result of changes in values or assets, the Fund must take steps to reduce such borrowings at least to the extent of such excess.

The Company and the Manager have received an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission, which, among other things, permits the Fund to use cash collateral received in connection with lending the Fund's securities and other uninvested cash to purchase shares of one or more registered money market funds advised by the Manager in excess of limitations imposed by the 1940 Act.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY

The Company's Board is responsible for the management and supervision of the Fund, and approves all significant agreements with those companies that furnish services to the Fund. These companies are as follows:

The Dreyfus Corporation .....	Investment Adviser
Shenkman Capital Management, Inc.....	Sub-Adviser
Dreyfus Service Corporation.. .....	Distributor
Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. ....	Transfer Agent
Mellon Bank, N.A. ....	Custodian

### Board Members of the Company<sup>1</sup>

Board members of the Company, together with information as to their positions with the Company, principal occupations and other board memberships and affiliations, are shown below.

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Company (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships and Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (61) Chairman of the Board (1995)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, <i>Director</i> Levcor International, Inc., an apparel fabric processor, <i>Director</i> Century Business Services, Inc., a provider of outsourcing functions for small and medium size companies, <i>Director</i> The Newark Group, a provider of a national market of paper recovery facilities, paperboard mills and paperboard converting plants, <i>Director</i> Azimuth Trust, an institutional asset management firm, <i>Member of</i> <i>Board of Managers and Advisory</i> <i>Board</i>
David W. Burke (68) Board Member (1994)	Corporate Director and Trustee	John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, <i>Director</i> U.S.S. Constitution Museum, <i>Director</i>
William Hodding Carter III (69) Board Member (1988)	President and Chief Executive Officer of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (1998 – present)	Independent Sector, <i>Director</i> The Century Foundation, <i>Director</i> The Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, <i>Director</i> Foundation of the Mid-South, <i>Director</i>

<sup>1</sup> None of the Board members are "interested persons" of the Company, as defined in the 1940 Act.

Name (Age) Position with Company (Since)	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Other Board Memberships and Affiliations
Ehud Houminer (64) Board Member (1994)	Executive-in-Residence at the Columbia Business School, Columbia University Principal of Lear, Yavitz and Associates, a management consulting firm from 1996 to 2001	Avnet Inc., an electronics distributor, <i>Director</i> International Advisory Board to the MBA Program School of Management, Ben Gurion University, <i>Chairman</i> Explore Charter School, Brooklyn, NY, <i>Chairman</i>
Richard C. Leone (64) Board Member (1976)	President of the Century Foundation (formerly, The Twentieth Century Fund, Inc.), a tax exempt research foundation engaged in the study of economic, foreign policy and domestic issues	None
Hans C. Mautner (66) Board Member (1978)	President-International Division and an Advisory Director of Simon Property Group, a real estate investment company (1998 – present) Director and Vice Chairman of Simon Property Group (1998-2003) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Simon Global Limited, (1999 – present)	Capital and Regional PLC, a British co-investing real estate asset manager, <i>Director</i> Member –Board of Managers of: Mezzacappa Long/Short Fund LLC Mezzacappa Multi-Strategy Fund LLC Mezzacappa Multi-Strategy Plus LLC
Robin A. Pringle (41) Board Member (1995)	Senior Vice President of Mentor/National Mentoring Partnership, a national non-profit organization that is leading the movement to connect America’s young people with caring mentors	None
John E. Zuccotti (66) Board Member (1977)	Chairman of Brookfield Financial Properties, Inc.	None

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Company has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not “interested persons” of the Company, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is (i) to oversee the Company’s accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Fund’s financial statements and (ii) to assist in the Board’s oversight of the integrity of the Fund’s financial statements, the Fund’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and the independent auditors’ qualifications, independence and performance. The Company’s nominating committee is responsible for selecting and nominating persons as members of the

Board for elections or appointment by the Board and for election by shareholders. In evaluating potential nominees, including any nominees recommended by shareholders, the committee takes into consideration various factors listed in the Nominating Committee Charter, including character and integrity, business and professional experience, and whether the committee believes the person has the ability to apply sound and independent business judgment and would act in the interest of the Fund and its shareholders. The nominating committee will consider recommendations for nominees from shareholders submitted to the Secretary of the Company, c/o The Dreyfus Corporation Legal Department, 200 Park Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor West, New York, New York 10166, which includes information regarding the recommended nominee as specified in the Nominating Committee Charter. The function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The Company also has a standing pricing committee comprised of any one Board member. The function of the pricing committee is to assist in valuing the Fund's investments. The Company's audit committee met seven times and its nominating committee met once during the fiscal year ended the August 31, 2004. The pricing and compensation committees did not meet during the Fund's last fiscal year.

The table below indicates the dollar range of each Board member's ownership of Fund shares and shares of other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which he or she is a Board member, in each case as of December 31, 2003.

Name of Board Member	Fund	Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which Responsible as a Board Member
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	Over \$100,000
David W. Burke	None	Over \$100,000
William Hodding Carter III	None	None
Ehud Houminer	None	Over \$100,000
Richard C. Leone	None	Over \$100,000
Hans C. Mautner	None	Over \$100,000
Robin A. Pringle	None	\$1 - \$10,000
John E. Zuccotti	None	Over \$100,000

As of December 31, 2003, none of the Board members or their immediate family members owned securities of the Manager, the Sub-Adviser, the Distributor or any person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Manager, the Sub-Adviser or the Distributor.

The Company pays its Board members its allocated portion of an annual retainer of \$30,000 and a per meeting fee of \$4,000 (with a minimum of \$500 per meeting and per telephone meeting) attended for the Company, and seven other funds (representing a total of 11 portfolios) in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, and reimburses them for their expenses. The Chairman of the Board receives an additional 25% of such compensation. Emeritus Board members, if any, are entitled to receive an annual retainer and a per meeting attended fee of one-half the amount paid to them as Board members. The aggregate amount of compensation paid to each Board member for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, and by all funds in the

Dreyfus Family of Funds for which such person is a Board member (the number of portfolios of such funds is set forth in parenthesis next to each Board member's total compensation) for the year ended December 31, 2003, was as follows:

Name of Board Member	Aggregate Compensation from the Company*	Total Compensation from the Company and Fund Complex Paid to Board Members (**)
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$22,891	\$800,306 (186)
David W. Burke	\$20,049	\$283,744 (83)
Hodding Carter, III	\$20,049	\$48,994 (11)
Ehud Houminer	\$20,049	\$94,494 (30)
Richard C. Leone	\$20,049	\$48,994 (11)
Hans C. Mautner	\$18,313	\$36,494 (11)
Robin A. Pringle	\$19,831	\$48,994 (11)
John E. Zuccotti	\$20,049	\$48,994 (11)

\* Amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$2,019 for all Board members as a group.

\*\* Represents the number of separate portfolios comprising the investment companies in the Fund Complex, including the Fund, for which the Board member serves.

#### Officers of the Company

STEPHEN E. CANTER, President since March 2000. Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Operating Officer of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 190 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Canter also is a Board Member and, where applicable, Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 59 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since October 2002. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman, and a director of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 190 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Byers also is an Officer, Director or an Executive Committee Member of certain other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 51 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since January 2000. Prior to joining the Manager, he served as an Executive Vice President—Capital Markets, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at Gruntal & Co., L.L.C.

MARK N. JACOBS, Vice President since March 2000. Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 58 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1977.

JOHN B. HAMMALIAN, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 37 investment companies (comprised of 46 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 41 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since February 1991.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 95 investment companies (comprised of 199 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 44 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1991.

STEVEN F. NEWMAN, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 55 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since July 1980.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director Mutual Fund Accounting of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 46 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since April 1985.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Fund Tax Director of the Manager, and an officer of 98 investment companies (comprised of 206 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 50 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1993.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, Assistant Treasurer since January 2003. Senior Accounting Manager – Taxable Fixed Income of the Manager, and an officer of 19 investment companies (comprised of 74 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 36 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since November 1992.

GREGORY S. GRUBER, Assistant Treasurer since March 2000. Senior Accounting Manager- Municipal Bond Funds of the Manager, and an officer of 30 investment companies (comprised of 59 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 45 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since August 1981.

JOSEPH W. CONNOLLY, Chief Compliance Officer since October 2004. Chief Compliance Officer of the Manager and The Dreyfus Family of Funds (98 investment companies, comprising 206 portfolios). From November 2001 thorough March 2004, Mr. Connolly was first Vice-President, Mutual Fund Servicing for Mellon Global Securities Services. In that capacity, Mr. Connolly was responsible for managing Mellon's Custody, Fund Accounting and Fund Administration services to third-party mutual fund clients. Mr. Connolly has served in various capacities with the Manager since 1980, including manager of the firm's Fund Accounting Department from 1997 through October 2001. Mr. Connolly is 47 years old.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since August 2002. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 93 investment companies (comprised of 201 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 33 years old and has been an employee of the Distributor since October 1998.



The address of each Board member and officer of the Company is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

The Company's Board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of the Fund's shares outstanding on December 5, 2004.

The following entities are known by the Fund to own of record 5% or more of the Fund's outstanding voting securities on December 5, 2004. A shareholder who beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of a Fund's voting securities may be deemed a "control person" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund.

Merrill Lynch Book Entry 4800 Deer Lake Drive 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Jacksonville, FL 32246-6484	28.3287%
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. – Reinvest Account 101 Montgomery Street San Francisco, CA 94104-4122	25.5791%
First Clearing, LLC 10750 Wheat First, LLC Glen Allen, VA 23060-9245	5.1757%

## MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Investment Adviser. The Manager is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial Corporation ("Mellon"). Mellon is a global financial holding company incorporated under Pennsylvania law in 1971 and registered under the Federal Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Mellon provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services in domestic and selected international markets.

The Manager supervises investment management of the Fund pursuant to a Management Agreement (the "Agreement") between the Company and the Manager. The Agreement is subject to annual approval by (i) the Company's Board or (ii) vote of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting securities, provided that in either event the continuance also is approved by a majority of the Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Company or the Manager, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. As to the Fund, the Agreement is terminable without penalty, on 60 days' notice, by the Company's Board or by vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's shares, or, on not less than 90 days' notice, by the Manager. The Agreement will terminate automatically, as to the Fund, in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The following persons are officers and/or directors of the Manager: Stephen E. Canter, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer; Michael G. Millard, President and a director; Stephen R. Byers, Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; J. Charles Cardona, Vice Chairman and a director; J. David Officer, Vice Chairman and a director; Ronald P. O'Hanley III, Vice Chairman and a director; Diane P. Durnin, Executive Vice President; Mark N. Jacobs, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary; Patrice M. Kozlowski, Senior Vice President-Corporate Communications; Lisa A. Fox, Vice President –Human Resources; Anthony Mayo, Vice President-Information Systems; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President-Tax; Alex G. Sciulli, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; William H. Maresca, Controller; Joseph W. Connolly, Chief Compliance Officer; James Bitetto, Assistant Secretary; Steven F. Newman, Assistant Secretary; and Mandell L. Berman, Steven G. Elliott, David F. Lamere, Martin G. McGuinn and Richard W. Sabo, directors.

The Manager maintains office facilities on behalf of the Fund, and furnishes statistical and research data, clerical help, accounting, data processing, bookkeeping and internal auditing and certain other required services to the Company. The Manager may pay the Distributor for shareholder services from the Manager's own assets, including past profits but not including the management fee paid by the Fund. The Distributor may use part or all of such payments to pay Service Agents (as defined below) in respect of these services. The Manager also may make such advertising and promotional expenditures, using its own resources, as it from time to time deems appropriate.

Sub-Investment Adviser. The Sub-Adviser provides investment advisory assistance and day-to-day management of the Fund's investments pursuant to the Sub-Investment Advisory Agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement") between the Sub-Adviser and the Manager. The Sub-Advisory Agreement is subject to annual approval by (i) the Company's Board or (ii) vote of

a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund's outstanding voting securities, provided that in either event the continuance also is approved by a majority of the Company's Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Sub-Adviser, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Sub-Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty (i) by the Manager on 60 days' notice, (ii) by the Company's Board or by vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's shares on 60 days' notice, or (iii) by the Sub-Adviser on not less than 90 days' notice. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act) or upon the termination of the Management Agreement for any reason.

The following persons are officers and/or directors of the Sub-Adviser: Mark Shenkman, President; Frank Whitley, Executive Vice President; Mark Flanagan, Senior Vice President and Steven Schweitzer, Vice President.

Portfolio Management. The Sub-Adviser provides day-to-day management of the Fund's investments in accordance with the stated policies of the Fund, subject to the supervision of the Manager and the approval of the Company's Board. The Manager and the Sub-Adviser provide the Fund with portfolio managers who are authorized by the Company's Board to execute purchases and sales of securities. The Fund's primary portfolio managers are Mark Shenkman, Frank Whitley, Mark Flanagan, Robert Sticker, Senior Vice President, and Steven Schweitzer. A small portion of the Fund's assets may be managed by individuals in the Sub-Advisers credit research department. A small portion of the Fund's assets may be managed by individuals in the Sub-Advisers credit research department. The Manager and the Sub-Adviser also maintain research departments with professional staffs of portfolio managers and securities analysts who provide research services for the Fund and other funds advised by the Manager and the Sub-Adviser.

Mellon and its affiliates may have deposit, loan and commercial banking or other relationships with the issuers of securities purchased by the Fund. The Manager has informed the Company that in making its investment decisions it does not obtain or use material inside information that Mellon or its affiliates may possess with respect to such issuers.

The Company, the Manager, the Sub-Adviser and the Distributor each have adopted a Code of Ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such respective Code of Ethics, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. The Manager's Code of Ethics subjects its employees' personal securities transactions to various restrictions to ensure that such trading does not disadvantage any fund advised by the Manager. In that regard, portfolio managers and other investment personnel of the Manager must preclear and report their personal securities transactions and holdings, which are reviewed for compliance with the Code of Ethics and are also subject to the oversight of Mellon's Investment Ethics Committee. Portfolio managers and other investment personnel of the Manager who comply with the preclearance and disclosure procedures of the Code of Ethics and the requirements of the Committee may be permitted to purchase, sell or hold securities which also may be or are held in fund(s) they manage or for which they otherwise provide investment advice.

In approving the Management Agreement and Sub-Investment Advisory Agreement, the Board considered a number of factors, including the nature and quality of the services provided by the Manager and the Sub-Adviser; the investment philosophy and investment approach to be applied to the Fund by the Manager and the Sub-Adviser; the investment management expertise

of the Manager and the Sub-Adviser in respect of the Fund's investment strategies; the personnel, resources and experience of the Manager and the Sub-Adviser; the Manager's and Sub-Adviser's costs of providing services under the Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement, respectively; the relationship between the fees paid to the Manager under the Agreement and the Fund's Distribution Plan; and ancillary benefits the Manager and the Sub-Adviser may receive from their respective relationship with the Company.

Expenses. All expenses incurred in the operation of the Company are borne by the Company, except to the extent specifically assumed with respect to the Fund by the Manager or Sub-Adviser. The expenses borne by the Company include, without limitation: taxes, interest, loan commitment fees, interest and distributions paid on securities sold short, brokerage fees and commissions, if any, fees of Board members who are not officers, directors, employees or holders of 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Manager or Sub-Adviser or their affiliates, Securities and Exchange Commission fees and state Blue Sky qualification fees, advisory fees, charges of custodians, transfer and dividend disbursing agents' fees, certain insurance premiums, industry association fees, outside auditing and legal expenses, costs of independent pricing services, costs of maintaining the Company's existence, costs attributable to investor services (including, without limitation, telephone and personnel expenses), costs of preparing and printing prospectuses and statements of additional information for regulatory purposes and for distribution to existing shareholders, costs of shareholders' reports and meetings, and any extraordinary expenses. In addition, each class of shares bears any class specific expenses allocated to such class, such as expenses related to the distribution and/or shareholder servicing of such class. Class A, Class B and Class C shares of the Fund are subject to an annual shareholder service fee and Class B and Class C shares of the Fund are subject to an annual distribution fee. See "Distribution Plan and Shareholder Service Plan." Expenses attributable to the Fund are charged against the assets of the Fund; other expenses of the Company are allocated between the Company's funds on the basis determined by the Board, including, but not limited to, proportionately in relation to the net assets of each fund.

As compensation for the Manager's services, the Fund has agreed to pay the Manager a monthly management fee at the annual rate of .75% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets. All fees and expenses are accrued daily and deducted before the declaration of dividends to shareholders. For the fiscal period from January 31, 2003 through August 31, 2003, the management fee payable by the Fund amounted to \$461,521, which was reduced by \$61,234 pursuant to an undertaking, resulting in a net fee paid of \$400,287. For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the management fee payable by the Fund amounted to \$ 2,776,875, which was reduced by \$ 47,160 pursuant to an undertaking, resulting in a net fee paid of \$ 2,729,715. Under the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Manager has agreed to pay the Sub-Adviser out of the fee it receives from the Fund under the Agreement. For the fiscal period from January 31, 2003 through August 31, 2003, and for the fiscal year ended August 24, 2004, the Sub-Advisory fee paid by the Manager amounted to \$184,608 and \$ 1,110,750, respectfully.

The aggregate of the fees payable to the Manager is not subject to reduction as the value of the Fund's net assets increases.

Distributor. The Distributor, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manager, located at 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, serves as the Fund's distributor on a best efforts basis pursuant to an agreement with the Company which is renewable annually.

The Distributor compensates certain financial institutions (which may include banks), securities dealers ("Selected Dealers") and other industry professionals (collectively, "Service Agents") for selling Class A shares subject to a contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC"), and Class B shares and Class C shares at the time of purchase from its own assets. The proceeds of the CDSC and fees pursuant to the Fund's Distribution Plan (described below), in part, are used to defray these expenses. The Distributor also may act as a Service Agent and retain sales loads and CDSCs and Distribution Plan fees. For purchase of Class A shares subject to a CDSC, the Distributor generally will pay Service Agents on new investments made through such Service Agents a commission of up to 1% of the amount invested. For purchases of Class B shares and Class C shares, the Distributor generally will pay Service Agents on new investments made through such Service Agents 4% and 1%, respectively, of the net asset value of such shares purchased by their clients. With respect to Fund shares subject to a CDSC or Distribution Plan issued to shareholders in exchange for shares originally issued by a series of The Bear Stearns Funds (the "Acquired Fund"), the proceeds of any CDSC and fees pursuant to the Distribution Plan are payable to the Acquired Fund's former distributor to defray the expenses it incurred in connections with the sale of such shares when originally issued by the Acquired Fund. For Class C shares, such Distribution Plan fees will be paid to the Acquired Fund's former distributor for a period not to exceed one year from the date the Acquired Fund originally issued the shares exchanged for the Class C shares of the Fund.

The amounts retained on the sale of Fund shares by the Distributor from sales loads and from CDSCs, as applicable, with respect to Class A, Class B and Class C shares, for the period from January 31, 2003 (commencement of initial offering) through August 31, 2003 were \$104,449 with respect to the Fund's Class A shares, \$9,097 with respect to the Fund's Class B shares, \$ 4,961 with respect to the Funds Class C shares; for fiscal year ended August 31, 2004 the amounts were \$151,207 with respect to the Fund's Class A shares, \$154,297 with respect to the Fund's Class B shares, and \$ 67,127 with respect to the Fund's Class C shares.

The Distributor may pay Service Agents that have entered into agreements with the Distributor a fee based on the amount invested through such Service Agents in Fund shares by employees participating in qualified or non-qualified employee benefit plans, including pension, profit-sharing and other deferred compensation plans, whether established by corporations, partnerships, non-profit entities or state and local governments ("Retirement Plans"), or other programs. The term "Retirement Plans" does not include IRAs, IRA "Rollover Accounts" or IRAs set up under a Simplified Employee Pension Plan ("SEP-IRAs"). Generally, the Distributor may pay such Service Agents a fee of up to 1% of the amount invested through the Service Agents. The Distributor, however, may pay Service Agents a higher fee and reserves the right to cease paying these fees at any time. The Distributor will pay such fees from its own funds, other than amounts received from the Fund, including past profits or any other source available to it. Sponsors of such Retirement Plans or the participants therein should consult their Service Agent for more information regarding any such fee payable to the Service Agent.

The Manager or the Distributor may provide additional cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of the Fund or provide other services. Such payments are in addition to any sales charges, 12b-1 fee and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses paid by the Fund. These additional payments may be made to Service Agents, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales

meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the Service Agent. Cash compensation also may be paid to Service Agents for inclusion of the Fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." In some cases, these payments may create an incentive for a Service Agent to recommend or sell shares of the Fund to you. Please contact your Service Agent for details about any payments they may receive in connection with the sale of Fund shares or the provision of services to the Fund.

From time to time, the Manager or the Distributor also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to Service Agents in the form of: occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets, or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorship; support for recognition programs; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations, as periodically amended.

Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent and Custodian. Dreyfus Transfer, Inc. (the "Transfer Agent"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Manager, 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166, is the Company's transfer and dividend disbursing agent. Under a transfer agency agreement with the Company, the Transfer Agent arranges for the maintenance of shareholder account records for the Fund, the handling of certain communications between shareholders and the Fund and the payment of dividends and distributions payable by the Fund. For these services, the Transfer Agent receives a monthly fee computed on the basis of the number of shareholder accounts it maintains for the Fund during the month, and is reimbursed for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Mellon Bank, N.A. (the "Custodian"), an affiliate of the Manager, One Mellon Bank Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15258, acts as custodian for the investments of the Fund. The Custodian has no part in determining the investment policies of the Fund or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Fund. Under a custody agreement with the Company, the Custodian holds the Fund's securities and keeps all necessary accounts and records. For its custody services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee based on the market value of the Fund's assets held in custody and receives certain securities transaction charges.

## HOW TO BUY SHARES

General. Fund shares may be purchased only by clients of Service Agents, including the Distributor. Subsequent purchases may be sent directly to the Transfer Agent or your Service Agent. Share certificates are issued only upon your written request. No certificates are issued for fractional shares. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

Class R shares are offered only to (i) bank trust departments and other financial service providers (including Mellon Bank, N.A. and its affiliates) acting on behalf of their customers having a qualified trust or investment account or relationship at such institution, or to customers who have received and hold Class R shares of a Fund distributed to them by virtue of such an account or relationship, and (ii) institutional investors acting for themselves or in a fiduciary, advisory, agency, custodial or similar capacity for Retirement Plans, and SEP-IRAs. Class R shares may be purchased for a Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA only by a custodian, trustee, investment manager or other entity authorized to act on behalf of such Retirement Plan or SEP-IRA. In addition, holders of Class R shares of a Fund who have held their shares since June 5, 2003 may continue to purchase Class R shares of the Fund for their existing accounts whether or

not they would otherwise be eligible to do so. Institutions effecting transactions in Class R shares for the accounts of their clients may charge their clients direct fees in connection with such transactions.

When purchasing Fund shares, you must specify which Class is being purchased. Your Service Agent can help you choose the share class that is appropriate for your investment. The decision as to which Class of shares is most beneficial to you depends on a number of factors, including the amount and intended length of your investment in the Fund. Please refer to the Fund's Prospectus for a further discussion of those factors.

In many cases, neither the Distributor nor the Transfer Agent will have the information necessary to determine whether a quantity discount or discount or reduced sales charge is applicable to a purchase. You or your Service Agent must notify the Distributor whenever a quantity discount or reduced sales charge is applicable to a purchase and must provide the Distributor with sufficient information at the time of purchase to verify that each purchase qualifies for the privilege or discount.

Service Agents may receive different levels of compensation for selling different Classes of shares. Management understands that some Service Agents may impose certain conditions on their clients which are different from those described in the Fund's Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information, and, to the extent permitted by applicable regulatory authority, may charge their clients direct fees. Please contact your Service Agent for details about any payments they may receive in connection with the sale of Fund shares or the provision of services to the Fund.

The minimum initial investment is \$1,000. Subsequent investments must be at least \$100. However, the minimum initial investment is \$750 for Dreyfus-sponsored Keogh Plans, IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs and rollover IRAs) and 403(b)(7) Plans with only one participant and \$500 for Dreyfus-sponsored Education Savings Accounts, with no minimum for subsequent purchases. The initial investment must be accompanied by the Account Application. The Company reserves the right to offer Fund shares without regard to minimum purchase requirements to government-sponsored programs or to employees participating in certain Retirement Plans or other programs where contributions or account information can be transmitted in a manner and form acceptable to the Company. The Company reserves the right to vary further the initial and subsequent investment minimum requirements at any time.

The Code imposes various limitations on the amount that may be contributed to certain Retirement Plans. These limitations apply with respect to participants at the plan level and, therefore, do not directly affect the amount that may be invested in the Fund by a Retirement Plan. Participants and plan sponsors should consult their tax advisers for details.

Fund shares also may be purchased through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder<sup>®</sup>, Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan and Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege described under "Shareholder Services." These services enable you to make regularly scheduled investments and may provide you with a convenient way to invest for long-term financial goals. You should be aware, however, that periodic investment plans do not guarantee a profit and will not protect an investor against loss in a declining market.

Fund shares are sold on a continuous basis. Net asset value per share of each Class is determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for regular business. For purposes of determining net asset value, certain options and futures contracts may be valued 15 minutes after the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Net asset value per share of each Class is computed by dividing the value of the Fund's net assets represented by such Class (i.e., the value of its assets less liabilities) by the total number of shares of such Class outstanding. For information regarding the methods employed in valuing the Fund's investments, see "Determination of Net Asset Value."

If an order is received in proper form by the Transfer Agent or other entity authorized to receive orders on behalf of the Fund by the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on a regular business day, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on that day. Otherwise, Fund shares will be purchased at the public offering price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on the next regular business day, except where shares are purchased through a dealer as provided below.

Orders for the purchase of Fund shares received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on a regular business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee by the close of such business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) will be based on the public offering price per share determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on that day. Otherwise, the orders will be based on the next determined public offering price. It is the dealer's responsibility to transmit orders so that they will be received by the Distributor or its designee before the close of its business day. For certain institutions that have entered into agreements with the Distributor, payment for the purchase of Fund shares may be transmitted, and must be received by the Transfer Agent, within three business days after the order is placed. If such payment is not received within three business days after the order is placed, the order may be canceled and the institution could be held liable for resulting fees and/or losses.

Class A Shares. The public offering price for Class A shares is the net asset value per share of that Class plus a sales load as shown below:

<u>Total Sales Load-Class A</u>			
<u>Amount of Transaction</u>	<u>As a % of offering price per share</u>	<u>As a % of net asset value per share</u>	<u>Dealers' Reallowance as a % of offering price</u>
Less than \$50,000	4.50	4.70	4.25
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	4.00	4.20	3.75
\$100,000 to less than \$250,000	3.00	3.10	2.75
\$250,000 to less than \$500,000	2.50	2.60	2.25
\$500,000 to less than \$1,000,000	2.00	2.00	1.75
\$1,000,000 or more	-0-	-0-	-0-



Class A shares purchased without an initial sales charge as part of an investment of \$1,000,000 or more will be assessed at the time of redemption at 1% CDSC if redeemed within one year of purchase. The Distributor may pay Service Agents an up-front commission of up to 1% of the net asset value of Class A shares purchased by their clients as part of a \$1,000,000 or more investment in Class A shares that are subject to a CDSC. See "Management Arrangements-Distributor."

The scale of sales loads applies to purchases of Class A shares made by any "purchaser," which term includes an individual and/or spouse purchasing securities for his, her or their own account or for the account of any minor children, or a trustee or other fiduciary purchasing securities for a single trust estate or a single fiduciary account (including a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit trust created pursuant to a plan qualified under Section 401 of the Code) although more than one beneficiary is involved; or a group of accounts established by or on behalf of the employees of an employer or affiliated employers pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program (including accounts established pursuant to Sections 403(b), 408(k), and 457 of the Code); or an organized group which has been in existence for more than six months, provided that it is not organized for the purpose of buying redeemable securities of a registered investment company and provided that the purchases are made through a central administration or a single dealer, or by other means which result in economy of sales effort or expense.

The dealer reallowance provided with respect to Class A shares may be changed from time to time but will remain the same for all dealers.

Set forth below is an example of the method of computing the offering price of the Fund's Class A shares. The example assumes a purchase of Class A shares aggregating less than \$50,000 subject to the schedule of sales charges set forth at a price which is based on the net asset value of the Fund's Class A shares as of August 31, 2004:

Net Asset Value Per Share	\$ 13.85
Per Share Sales Charge – 4.5% of offering price (4.7% of net asset value per share)	\$ 0.65
Per Share Offering Price to the Public	\$ 14.50

Class A Shares Offered at Net Asset Value. Full-time employees of NASD member firms and full-time employees of other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor pertaining to the sale of Fund shares (or which otherwise have a brokerage related or clearing arrangement with an NASD member firm or financial institution with respect to the sale of such shares) may purchase Class A shares for themselves directly or pursuant to an employee benefit plan or other program, or for their spouses or minor children, at net asset value, provided they have furnished the Distributor with such information as it may request from time to time in order to verify eligibility for this privilege. This privilege also applies to full-time employees of financial institutions affiliated with NASD member firms whose full-time employees are eligible to purchase Class A shares at net asset value. In addition, Class A shares are offered at net asset value to full-time or part-time employees of the Manager or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, directors of the Manager or its affiliates, Board members of

a fund advised by the Manager, including members of the Company's Board, or the spouse or minor child of any of the foregoing.

Class A shares are offered at net asset value without a sales load to employees participating in Retirement Plans.

Class A shares may be purchased at net asset value through certain broker-dealers and other financial institutions which have entered into an agreement with the Distributor, which includes a requirement that such shares be sold for the benefit of clients participating in a "wrap account" or a similar program under which such clients pay a fee to such broker-dealer or other financial institution.

Class A shares also may be purchased at net asset value, subject to appropriate documentation, by (i) qualified separate accounts maintained by an insurance company pursuant to the laws of any State or territory of the United States, and (ii) a State, county or city or instrumentality thereof.

Class B Shares. The public offering price for Class B shares is the net asset value per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on certain redemptions of Class B shares as described in the Fund's Prospectus and in this Statement of Additional Information under "How to Redeem Shares--Contingent Deferred Sales Charge--Class B Shares."

Approximately six years after the date of purchase, Class B shares automatically will convert to Class A shares, based on the relative net asset values for shares of each such Class. Class B shares that have been acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions will be converted on a pro rata basis together with other Class B shares, in the proportion that a shareholder's Class B shares converting to Class A shares bears to the total Class B shares not acquired through the reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

Class B shares of the Fund acquired by shareholders in exchange for Class B shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund before December 1, 2003 are subject to different CDSC and conversion to Class A schedules. See "How to Redeem Shares--Contingent Deferred Sales Charge--Class B Shares."

Class C Shares. The public offering price for Class C shares is the net asset value per share of that Class. No initial sales charge is imposed at the time of purchase. A CDSC is imposed, however, on redemptions of Class C shares made within the first year of purchase. See "How to Redeem Shares--Contingent Deferred Sales Charge--Class C Shares."

Class R Shares. The public offering price for Class R shares is the net asset value per share of that Class.

Right of Accumulation—Class A Shares. Reduced sales loads apply to any purchase of Class A shares by you and any related "purchaser" as defined below, where the aggregate investment, including such purchase, is \$50,000 or more. If, for example, you previously purchased and still hold Fund shares or shares of certain other funds advised by the Manager or Founders Asset Management LLC ("Founders"), an indirect subsidiary of the Manager, that are subject to a front-end sales load or a CDSC or shares acquired by a previous exchange of such shares (hereinafter referred to as "Eligible Funds"), or combination thereof, with an aggregate

current market value of \$40,000 and subsequently purchase Class A shares the Fund having a current value of \$20,000, the sales load applicable to the subsequent purchase would be reduced to 4.00% of the offering price. All present holdings of Eligible Funds may be combined to determine the current offering price of the aggregate investment in ascertaining the sales load applicable to each subsequent purchase.

To qualify for reduced sales loads, at the time of purchase you or your Service Agent must notify the Distributor if orders are made by wire, or the Transfer Agent if orders are made by mail. The reduced sales load is subject to confirmation of your holdings through a check of appropriate records.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may purchase shares by telephone or online if you have checked the appropriate box and supplied the necessary information on the Account Application or have filed a Shareholder Services Form with the Transfer Agent. The proceeds will be transferred between the bank account designated in one of these documents and your fund account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an Automated Clearing House ("ACH") member may be so designated.

Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase orders may be made at any time. If purchase orders are received by 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day that the Transfer Agent and the New York Stock Exchange are open for regular business, Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on that day. If purchase orders are made after 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, on any day the Transfer Agent and the New York Stock Exchange are open for regular business, or made on Saturday, Sunday or any Fund holiday (e.g., when the New York Stock Exchange is not open for business), Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, the initial payment for purchase of shares must be drawn on, and redemption proceeds paid to, the same bank and account as are designated on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form on file. If the proceeds of a particular redemption are to be sent to an account at any other bank, the request must be in writing and signature-guaranteed. See "How to Redeem Shares--Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege."

Reopening an Account. You may reopen an account with a minimum investment of \$100 without filing a new Account Application during the calendar year the account is closed or during the following calendar year, provided the information on the old Account Application is still applicable.

## DISTRIBUTION PLAN AND SHAREHOLDER SERVICES PLAN

Class B and Class C shares are subject to a Distribution Plan and Class A, Class B and Class C shares are subject to a Shareholder Services Plan.

Distribution Plan. Rule 12b-1 (the "Rule"), adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the 1940 Act, provides, among other things, that an investment company may bear expenses of distributing its shares only pursuant to a plan adopted in accordance with the Rule. The Company's Board has adopted such a plan (the "Distribution Plan") with respect to the Fund's Class B and Class C shares, pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor for distributing each such Class of shares a fee at the annual rate of 0.50% of the value of the average daily net assets of Class B and 0.75% of the average daily net assets of Class C. The

Distributor may pay one or more Service Agents in respect of advertising, marketing and other distribution services, and determines the amounts, if any, to be paid to Service Agents and the basis on which such payments are made. The Company's Board believes that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Distribution Plan will benefit the Fund and holders of its Class B and Class C shares.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under the Distribution Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Board for its review. In addition, the Distribution Plan provides that it may not be amended to increase materially the costs which holders of Class B or Class C shares may bear for distribution pursuant to the Distribution Plan without the approval of such shareholders and that other material amendments of the Distribution Plan must be approved by the Board, and by the Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or the Manager and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Plan, or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Distribution Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Distribution Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Distribution Plan. As to each of Class B and Class C, the Distribution Plan may be terminated at any time (i) by vote of a majority of the Board members who are not "interested persons" and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Distribution Plan, or (ii) by vote of the holders of a majority of such Class of shares.

For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the Fund paid the Distributor \$309, 986 with respect to Class B shares and \$968,436 with respect to Class C shares pursuant to the Distribution Plan.

Shareholder Services Plan. The Fund has adopted a Shareholder Services Plan, pursuant to which the Fund pays the Distributor for the provision of certain services to the holders of Class A, Class B and Class C shares a fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of the value of the average daily net assets of each such Class. The services provided may include personal services relating to shareholder accounts, such as answering shareholder inquiries regarding the Fund and providing reports and other information, and services related to the maintenance of such shareholder accounts. Under the Shareholder Services Plan, the Distributor may make payments to certain Service Agents in respect of these services.

A quarterly report of the amounts expended under the Shareholder Services Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Board for its review. In addition, the Shareholder Services Plan provides that material amendments must be approved by the Company's Board, and by the Board members who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Shareholder Services Plan, or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Shareholder Services Plan, by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such amendments. The Shareholder Services Plan is subject to annual approval by such vote of the Board members cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Shareholder Services Plan. As to each Class, the Shareholder Services Plan is terminable at any time by vote of a majority of the Board members who are not "interested persons" and have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Shareholder Services Plan or in any agreements entered into in connection with the Shareholder Services Plan.

For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004, the Fund paid the Distributor \$436,225, \$154,993 and \$322,812, with respect to Class A, Class B, and Class C shares, respectively, pursuant to the Shareholder Services Plan.

## HOW TO REDEEM SHARES

General. If you hold more than one Class of Fund shares, any request for redemption must specify the Class of shares being redeemed. If you fail to specify the Class of shares to be redeemed or if you own fewer shares of the Class than specified to be redeemed, the redemption request may be delayed until the Transfer Agent receives further instructions from you or your Service Agent.

The Fund ordinarily will make payment for all shares redeemed within seven days after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form, except as provided by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. However, if you have purchased Fund shares by check, by Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege or through Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder® and subsequently submit a written redemption request to the Transfer Agent, the Fund may delay sending the redemption proceeds for up to up to eight business days after the purchase of such shares. In addition, the Fund will reject requests to redeem shares by wire or telephone, online, or pursuant to the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege for a period of up to eight business days after receipt by the Transfer agent of the purchase check, the Dreyfus TeleTransfer purchase or the Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder order against which such redemption is requested. These procedures will not apply if your shares were purchased by wire payment, or if you otherwise have a sufficient collected balance in your account to cover the redemption request. Fund shares may not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge--Class B Shares. A CDSC payable to the Distributor is imposed on any redemption of Class B shares which reduces the current net asset value of your Class B shares to an amount which is lower than the dollar amount of all payments by you for the purchase of Class B shares of the Fund held by you at the time of redemption. No CDSC will be imposed to the extent that the net asset value of the Class B shares redeemed does not exceed (i) the current net asset value of the Class B shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or capital gain distributions, plus (ii) increases in the net asset value of your Class B shares above the dollar amount of all your payments for the purchase of Class B shares held by you at the time of redemption. If the aggregate value of Class B shares redeemed has declined below their original cost as a result of the Fund's performance, a CDSC may be applied to the then-current net asset value rather than the purchase price.

In circumstances where the CDSC is imposed, the amount of the charge will depend on the number of years for the time you purchased the Class B shares until the time of redemption of such shares. Solely for purposes of determining the number of years from the time of any payment for the purchase of Class B shares, all payments during a month will be aggregated and deemed to have been made on the first day of the month.

The following table sets forth the rates of the CDSC for Class B shares, except for certain Class B shares issued in exchange for shares originally issued by the Acquired fund described below:

Year Since Purchase

CDSC as a % of Amount Invested or

<u>Payment was Made</u>	<u>Redemption Proceeds (whichever is less)</u>
First	4.00
Second	4.00
Third	3.00
Fourth	3.00
Fifth	2.00
Sixth	1.00

The following table sets forth the rates of the CDSC payable to the Acquired Fund's former distributor and the conversion to Class A schedule for Class B shares of the Fund issued in exchange for class B shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund before December 1, 2003:

<u>Year Since Purchase Payment was Made</u>	<u>CDSC as a % of Amount Invested or Redemption Proceeds (whichever is less)</u>
First	5.00
Second	4.00
Third	3.00
Fourth	3.00
Fifth	2.00
Sixth	1.00
Seventh	0.00
Eighth	0.00*

\* These Class B shares will automatically convert into Class A shares at the end of the calendar quarter that is eight years after the initial purchase of the Class B shares of the Acquired Fund (applies to such Class B shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund before December 1, 2003).

In determining whether a CDSC is applicable to a redemption, the calculation will be made in a manner that results in the lowest possible rate. It will be assumed that the redemption is made first of amounts representing shares acquired pursuant to the reinvestment of dividends and distributions; then of amounts representing the increase in net asset value of Class B shares above the total amount of payments for the purchase of Class B shares made during the preceding six years (or eight years for certain shares issued in exchange for shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund); then of amounts representing the cost of shares purchased six years prior to the redemption; and finally, of amounts representing the cost of shares held for the longest period.

For example, assume an investor purchased 100 shares at \$10 per share for a cost of \$1,000. Subsequently, the shareholder acquired five additional shares through dividend reinvestment. During the second year after the purchase the investor decided to redeem \$500 of the investment. Assuming at the time of the redemption the net asset value had appreciated to \$12 per share, the value of the investor's shares would be \$1,260 (105 shares at \$12 per share). The CDSC would not be applied to the value of the reinvested dividend shares and the amount which represents appreciation (\$260). Therefore, \$240 of the \$500 redemption proceeds (\$500 minus \$260) would be charged at a rate of 4% (the applicable rate in the second year after purchase) for a total CDSC of \$9.60.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge--Class C Shares. A CDSC of 1% payable to the Distributor is imposed on any redemption of Class C shares within one year of the date of

purchase. The basis for calculating the payment of any such CDSC will be the method used in calculating the CDSC for Class B shares. See "Contingent Deferred Sales Charge--Class B Shares" above.

Waiver of CDSC. The CDSC may be waived in connection with (a) redemptions made within one year after the death or disability, as defined in Section 72(m)(7) of the Code, of the shareholder, (b) redemptions by employees participating in Retirement Plans, (c) redemptions as a result of a combination of any investment company with the Fund by merger, acquisition of assets or otherwise, (d) a distribution following retirement under a tax-deferred retirement plan or upon attaining age 70-1/2 in the case of an IRA or Keogh plan or custodial account pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Code, and (e) redemptions pursuant to the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, as described below. If the Company's Board determines to discontinue the waiver of the CDSC, the disclosure herein will be revised appropriately. Any Fund shares subject to a CDSC which were purchased prior to the termination of such waiver will have the CDSC waived as provided in the Fund's Prospectus or this Statement of Additional Information at the time of the purchase of such shares.

To qualify for a waiver of the CDSC, at the time of redemption you must notify the Transfer Agent or your Service Agent must notify the Distributor. Any such qualification is subject to confirmation of your entitlement.

Redemption Through a Selected Dealer. If you are a customer of a Selected Dealer, you may make redemption requests to your Selected Dealer. If the Selected Dealer transmits the redemption request so that it is received by the Transfer Agent prior to the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), the redemption request will be effective on that day. If a redemption request is received by the Transfer Agent after the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, the redemption request will be effective on the next business day. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit a request so that it is received in a timely manner. The proceeds of the redemption are credited to your account with the Selected Dealer. See "How to Buy Shares" for a discussion of additional conditions or fees that may be imposed upon redemption.

In addition, the Distributor or its designee will accept orders from Selected Dealers with which the Distributor has sales agreements for the repurchase of shares held by shareholders. Repurchase orders received by dealers by the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on any business day and transmitted to the Distributor or its designee prior to the close of its business day (usually 5:15 p.m., Eastern time) are effected at the price determined as of the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on that day. Otherwise, the shares will be redeemed at the next determined net asset value. It is the responsibility of the Selected Dealer to transmit orders on a timely basis. The Selected Dealer may charge the shareholder a fee for executing the order. This repurchase arrangement is discretionary and may be withdrawn at any time.

Reinvestment Privilege. Upon written request, you may reinvest up to the number of Class A or Class B shares you have redeemed, within 45 days of redemption, at the then-prevailing net asset value without a sales load, or reinstate your account for the purpose of exercising Fund Exchanges. Upon reinstatement, with respect to Class B shares, or Class A shares if such shares were subject to a CDSC, your account will be credited with an amount

equal to CDSC previously paid upon redemption of the Class A or Class B shares reinvested. The Reinvestment Privilege may be exercised only once.

Wire Redemption Privilege. By using this Privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephone, letter, or online redemption instructions from any person representing himself or herself to be you and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Ordinarily, the Fund will initiate payment for shares redeemed pursuant to this Privilege on the next business day after receipt by the Transfer Agent of a redemption request in proper form. Redemption proceeds (\$1,000 minimum) will be transferred by Federal Reserve wire only to the commercial bank account specified by you on the Account Application or Shareholder Services Form, or to a correspondent bank if your bank is not a member of the Federal Reserve System. Fees ordinarily are imposed by such bank and borne by the investor. Immediate notification by the correspondent bank to your bank is necessary to avoid a delay in crediting the funds to your bank account.

To change the commercial bank or account designated to receive redemption proceeds, a written request must be sent to the Transfer Agent. This request must be signed by each shareholder, with each signature guaranteed as described below under "Stock Certificates; Signatures."

Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege. You may request by telephone or online that redemption proceeds be transferred between your Fund account and your bank account. Only a bank account maintained in a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be designated. Redemption proceeds will be on deposit in your account at an ACH member bank ordinarily two business days after receipt of the redemption request. You should be aware that if you have selected the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, any request for a Dreyfus TeleTransfer transaction will be effected through the ACH system unless more prompt transmittal specifically is requested. See "How To Buy Shares--Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege."

Stock Certificates; Signatures. Any certificates representing Fund shares to be redeemed must be submitted with the redemption request. Written redemption requests must be signed by each shareholder, including each holder of a joint account, and each signature must be guaranteed. Signatures on endorsed certificates submitted for redemption also must be guaranteed. The Transfer Agent has adopted standards and procedures pursuant to which signature-guarantees in proper form generally will be accepted from domestic banks, brokers, dealers, credit unions, national securities exchanges, registered securities associations, clearing agencies and savings associations, as well as from participants in the New York Stock Exchange Medallion Signature Program, the Securities Transfer Agents Medallion Program ("STAMP") and the Stock Exchanges Medallion Program Guarantees must be signed by an authorized signatory of the guarantor and "Signature-Guaranteed" must appear with the signature. The Transfer Agent may request additional documentation from corporations, executors, administrators, trustees or guardians and may accept other suitable verification arrangements from foreign investors, such as consular verification.

Redemption Commitment. The Fund has committed itself to pay in cash all redemption requests by any shareholder of record, limited in amount during any 90-day period to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund's net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In the case of requests for redemption in excess of such amount, the Fund's Board



reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets of the Fund in case of an emergency or any time a cash distribution would impair the liquidity of the Fund to the detriment of the existing shareholders. In such event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the Fund's portfolio is valued. If the recipient sells such securities, brokerage charges might be incurred.

Suspension of Redemptions. The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed (a) during any period when the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings), (b) when trading in the markets the Fund ordinarily utilizes is restricted, or when an emergency exists as determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission so that disposal of the Fund's investments or determination of its net asset value is not reasonably practicable, or (c) for such other periods as the Securities and Exchange Commission by order may permit to protect the Fund's shareholders.

## SHAREHOLDER SERVICES

Fund Exchanges. Clients of certain Service Agents may purchase, in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds, to the extent such shares are offered for sale in your state of residence. Shares of the same Class of such funds purchased by exchange will be purchased on the basis of relative net asset value per share as follows:

- A. Exchanges for shares of funds offered without a sales load will be made without a sales load.
- B. Shares of funds purchased without a sales load may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load may be exchanged without a sales load for shares of other funds sold without a sales load.
- D. Shares of funds purchased with a sales load, shares of funds acquired by a previous exchange from shares purchased with a sales load and additional shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or distributions of any such funds (collectively referred to herein as "Purchased Shares") may be exchanged for shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load that could have been imposed in connection with the Purchased Shares (at the time the Purchased Shares were acquired), without giving effect to any reduced loads, the difference may be deducted.
- E. Shares of funds subject to a CDSC that are exchanged for shares of another fund will be subject to the higher applicable CDSC of the two funds, and, for purposes of calculating CDSC rates and conversion periods, if any, will be deemed to have been held since the date the shares being exchanged were initially purchased.

To accomplish an exchange under item D above, your Service Agent must notify the Transfer Agent of your prior ownership of such Class A shares and your account number.

You also may exchange your Fund shares that are subject to a CDSC for shares of Dreyfus Worldwide Dollar Money Market Fund, Inc. The shares so purchased will be held in a special account created solely for this purpose ("Exchange Account"). Exchanges of shares for an Exchange Account only can be made into certain other funds managed or administered by the Manager. No CDSC is charged when an investor exchanges into an Exchange Account; however, the applicable CDSC will be imposed when shares are redeemed from an Exchange Account or other applicable Fund account. Upon redemption, the applicable CDSC will be calculated, except for Fund shares issued in exchange for shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund, without regard to the time such shares were held in an Exchange Account; for Fund shares issued in exchange for shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund, the applicable CDSC will be calculated taking into account the time such shares were held in the Exchange Account; for Fund shares issued in exchange for shares originally issued by the Acquired Fund, the applicable CDSC will be calculated taking into account the time such shares were held in the Exchange Account. See "How to Redeem Shares." Redemption proceeds for Exchange Account shares are paid by Federal wire or check only. Exchange Account shares also are eligible for the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, Dreyfus Dividend Sweep and the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

To request an exchange, you or your Service Agent acting on your behalf must give exchange instructions to the Transfer Agent in writing, by telephone, or online. The ability to issue exchange instructions by telephone is given to all shareholders automatically, unless you check the applicable "No" box on the Account Application, indicating that you specifically refuse this privilege. By using this privilege, you authorize the Transfer Agent to act on telephonic and online instructions (including over the Dreyfus Express® voice response telephone system) from any person representing himself or herself to be you or a representative of your Service Agent, and reasonably believed by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. Exchanges may be subject to limitations as to the amount involved or the number of exchanges permitted. Shares issued in certificate form may not be exchanged by telephone or online. No fees currently are charged shareholders directly in connection with exchanges, although the Fund reserves the right, upon not less than 60 days' written notice, to charge shareholders a nominal administrative fee in accordance with rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Exchanges of Class R shares held by a Retirement Plan may be made only between the investor's Retirement Plan account in one fund and such investor's Retirement Plan account in another fund.

To establish a personal retirement plan by exchange, shares of the fund being exchanged must have a value of at least the minimum initial investment being required for shares of the same Class of the fund into which the exchange is being made.

During times of drastic economic or market conditions, the Fund may suspend Fund Exchanges temporarily without notice and treat exchange requests based on their separate components -- redemption orders with a simultaneous request to purchase the other fund's shares. In such a case, the redemption request would be processed at the Fund's next determined net asset value but the purchase order would be effective only at the net asset value next determined after the fund being purchased receives the proceeds of the redemption, which may result in the purchase being delayed.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (on a semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds of which you are a shareholder. This Privilege is available only for existing accounts. Shares will be exchanged on the basis of relative net asset value as described above under "Fund Exchanges." Enrollment in or modification or cancellation of this Privilege is effective three business days following notification by you. You will be notified if your account falls below the amount designated to be exchanged under this Privilege. In this case, your account will fall to zero unless additional investments are made in excess of the designated amount prior to the next Auto-Exchange transaction. Shares held under IRA and other retirement plans are eligible for this Privilege. Exchanges of IRA shares may be made between IRA accounts and from regular accounts to IRA accounts, but not from IRA accounts to regular accounts. With respect to all other retirement accounts, exchanges may be made only among those accounts.

Shareholder Services Forms and prospectuses of the other funds may be obtained by calling 1-800-645-6561, or visiting the Dreyfus.com website. The Fund reserves the right to reject any exchange request in whole or in part. Shares may be exchanged only between accounts having certain identical identifying designations. The Fund Exchanges service or the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege may be modified or terminated at any time upon notice to shareholders.

Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder®. Dreyfus-Automatic Asset Builder permits you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$150,000 per transaction) at regular intervals selected by you. Fund shares are purchased by transferring funds from the bank account designated by you.

Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege. Dreyfus Government Direct Deposit Privilege enables you to purchase Fund shares (minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$50,000 per transaction) by having Federal salary, Social Security, or certain veterans', military or other payments from the U.S. Government automatically deposited into your Fund account.

Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan. Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan permits you to purchase the Fund's shares (minimum of \$100 per transaction) automatically on a regular basis. Depending upon your employer's direct deposit program, you may have part or all of your paycheck transferred to your existing Dreyfus account electronically through the ACH system at each pay period. To establish a Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan account, you must file an authorization form with your employer's payroll department. It is the sole responsibility of your employer to arrange for transactions under the Dreyfus Payroll Savings Plan.

Dreyfus Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of the same Class of another fund in the Dreyfus Premier Family of Funds, shares of the same Class of certain funds advised by Founders, or shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds of which you are a shareholder. Shares of the same Class of other funds purchased pursuant to this privilege will be purchased on the basis of relative net asset value per share as follows:

- A. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested without a sales load in shares of other funds offered without a sales load.
- B. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that does not charge a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load, and the applicable sales load will be deducted.
- C. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund that charges a sales load may be invested in shares of other funds sold with a sales load (referred to herein as "Offered Shares"), but if the sales load applicable to the Offered Shares exceeds the maximum sales load charged by the fund from which dividends or distributions are being swept (without giving effect to any reduced loads), the difference may be deducted.
- D. Dividends and distributions paid by a fund may be invested in shares of other funds that imposed a CDSC and the applicable CDSC, if any, will be imposed upon redemption of such shares.

Dreyfus Dividend ACH permits you to transfer electronically dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund to a designated bank account. Only an account maintained at a domestic financial institution which is an ACH member may be so designated. Banks may charge a fee for this service.

Automatic Withdrawal Plan. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan permits you to request withdrawal of a specified dollar amount (minimum of \$50) on either a monthly or quarterly basis if you have a \$5,000 minimum account. Withdrawal payments are the proceeds from sales of Fund shares, not the yield on the shares. If withdrawal payments exceed reinvested dividends and distributions, your shares will be reduced and eventually may be depleted. An Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be established by filling an automatic Withdrawal Plan application with the Transfer Agent or by oral request from any of the authorized signatories on the account by calling the Fund at the appropriate telephone number, as listed on the page B-1 of this SAI. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be terminated at any time by you, the Company or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which share certificates have been issued may not be redeemed through the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

No CDSC with respect to Class B or Class C shares will be imposed on withdrawals made under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, provided that any amount withdrawn under the plan does not exceed on an annual basis 12% of the greater of (1) the account value at the time of the first withdrawal under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan, or (2) the account value at the time of the subsequent withdrawal. Withdrawals with respect to Class B or Class C shares under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan that exceed such amounts will be subject to a CDSC. Withdrawals of Class A shares subject to a CDSC under the Automatic Withdrawal Plan will be subject to any applicable CDSC. Purchases of additional Class A shares where the sales load is imposed concurrently with withdrawals of Class A shares generally are undesirable.

Certain Retirement Plans, including Dreyfus-sponsored retirement plans, may permit certain participants to establish an automatic withdrawal plan from such Retirement Plans. Participants should consult their Retirement Plan sponsor and tax advisor for details. Such a withdrawal plan is different than the Automatic Withdrawal Plan.

Letter of Intent--Class A and Class T Shares. By signing a Letter of Intent form you become eligible for the reduced sales load on purchases of Class A and Class T shares based on the total number of shares of Eligible Funds (as defined under “Right of Accumulation” above) purchased by you and any related “purchaser” (as defined above) in a 13-month period pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Letter of Intent. Shares of any Eligible Fund purchased within 90 days prior to the submission of the Letter of Intent may be used to equal or exceed the amount specified in the Letter of Intent. A minimum initial purchase of \$5,000 is required. You can obtain a Letter of Intent form by calling 1-800-554-4611.

Each purchase you make during the 13-month period (which begins on the date you submit the Letter of Intent) will be at the public offering price applicable to a single transaction of the aggregate dollar amount you select in the Letter of Intent. The Transfer Agent will hold in escrow 5% of the amount indicated in the Letter of Intent for payment of a higher sales load if you do not purchase the full amount indicated in the Letter of Intent. When you fulfill the terms of the Letter of Intent by purchasing the specified amount the escrowed amount will be released and additional shares representing such amount credited to your account. If your purchases meet the total minimum investment amount specified in the Letter of Intent within the 13-month period, an adjustment will be made at the conclusion of the 13-month period to reflect any reduced sales load applicable to shares purchased during the 90-day period prior to submission of the Letter of Intent. If your purchases qualify for a further sales load reduction, the sales load will be adjusted to reflect your total purchase at the end of 13 months. If total purchases are less than the amount specified, the offering price of the shares you purchased (including shares representing the escrowed amount) during the 13-month period will be adjusted to reflect the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases you actually made (which will reduce the number of shares in your account), unless you have redeemed the shares in your account, in which case the Transfer Agent, as attorney-in-fact pursuant to the terms of the Letter of Intent, will redeem an appropriate number of Class A shares of the Fund held in escrow to realize the difference between the sales load actually paid and the sales load applicable to the aggregate purchases actually made and any remaining shares will be credited to your account. Signing a Letter of Intent does not bind you to purchase, or the Fund to sell, the full amount indicated at the sales load in effect at the time of signing, but you must complete the intended purchase to obtain the reduced sales load. At the time you purchase Class A shares, you must indicate your intention to do so under a Letter of Intent. Purchases pursuant to a Letter of Intent will be made at the then-current net asset value plus the applicable sales load in effect at the time such Letter of Intent was submitted.

Corporate Pension/Profit-Sharing and Retirement Plans. The Company makes available to corporations a variety of prototype pension and profit-sharing plans, including a 401(k) Salary Reduction Plan. In addition, the Company makes available Keogh Plans, IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, Roth IRAs, SEP-IRAs, and rollover IRAs), Education Savings Accounts, 401(k) Salary Reduction Plans and 403(b)(7) Plans. Plan support services also are available.

If you wish to purchase Fund shares in conjunction with a Keogh Plan, a 403(b)(7) Plan or an IRA, including a SEP-IRA, you may request from the Distributor forms for adoption of such plans.

The entity acting as custodian for Keogh Plans, 403(b)(7) Plans or IRAs may charge a fee, payment of which could require the liquidation of shares. All fees charged are described in the appropriate form.

Shares may be purchased in connection with these plans only by direct remittance to the entity acting as custodian. Purchases for these plans may not be made in advance of receipt of funds.

You should read the prototype retirement plan and the appropriate form of custodial agreement for further details on eligibility, service fees and tax implications, and should consult a tax adviser.

## DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

Valuation of Portfolio Securities. Each Fund's investments are valued on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. The Fund's investments are valued each business day using available market quotations or at fair value. Substantially all of a Fund's fixed-income investments (excluding short-term investments) are valued by one or more independent pricing services (the "Service") approved by the Board. Securities valued by the Service for which quoted bid prices in the judgment of the Service are readily available and are representative of the bid side of the market are valued at the mean between the quoted bid prices (as obtained by the Service from dealers in such securities) and asked prices (as calculated by the Service based upon its evaluation of the market for such securities). The value of other investments is determined by the Service based on methods which include consideration of: yields or prices of securities of comparable quality, coupon, maturity and type; indications as to values from dealers; and general market conditions. Short-term investments are not valued by the Service and are valued at the mean price or yield equivalent for such securities or for securities of comparable maturity, quality and type as obtained from market makers. Other investments that are not valued by the Service are valued at the last sales price for securities traded primarily on an exchange or the national securities market or otherwise at the average of the most recent bid and asked prices. Bid-price is used when no asked price is available. Any assets or liabilities initially expressed in terms of foreign currency will be translated into U.S. dollars at the midpoint of the New York interbank market spot exchange rate as quoted on the day of such translation by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or, if no such rate is quoted on such date, at the exchange rate previously quoted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or at such other quoted market exchange rate as may be determined to be appropriate by the Advisers. Forward currency contracts will be valued at the current cost of offsetting the contract. Because of the need to obtain prices as of the close of trading on various exchanges throughout the world, the calculation of net asset value may not take place contemporaneously with the determination of prices of the Fund's foreign portfolio securities. Short-term investments may be carried at amortized cost, which approximates value.

Restricted securities, as well as securities or other assets for which recent market quotations or official closing prices are not readily available or are determined by the Company not to reflect accurately fair value (such as when the value of security has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded (for example, a Foreign exchange or market but before the Company recalculates the NAV) and that is determined by the Company to have changed the value of the security), or which are not valued by the Service, are valued at fair value as determined in good

faith based on procedures approved by the Company's Board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the Fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate. The factors that may be considered when fair valuing a security include fundamental analytical data, the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition, and evaluation of the forces that influence the market in which the securities are purchased or sold, and public trading in similar securities of the issuer or comparable issuers. Fair value of foreign equity securities may be determined with the assistance of a pricing service using correlations between the movement or prices of foreign securities and indices of domestic securities and other appropriate indicators, such as closing market prices of relevant ADRs and futures contracts. The valuation of a security based on fair value procedures may differ from the security's most recent closing price, and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their net asset values. Foreign securities held by the Fund may trade on days that the Fund is not open for business, thus affecting the value of the Fund's assets on days when the Fund investors have no access to the Fund. Restricted securities which are, or are convertible into, securities of the same class of other securities for which a public market exists usually will be valued at such market value less the same percentage discount at which the restricted securities were purchased. This discount will be revised periodically by the Board if the Board members believe that it no longer reflects the value of the restricted securities. Restricted securities not of the same class as securities for which a public market exists usually will be valued initially at cost. Any subsequent adjustment from cost will be based upon considerations deemed relevant by the Board.

New York Stock Exchange Closings. The holidays (as observed) on which the New York Stock Exchange is closed currently are: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

Management believes the Fund qualified for treatment as a "regulated investment company" under the Code for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2004. The Fund intends to continue to so qualify if such qualification is in the best interest of its shareholders. As a regulated investment company, the Fund will pay no Federal income tax on net investment income and net realized securities gains to the extent that such income and gains are distributed to shareholders in accordance with applicable provisions of the Code. To qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must distribute at least 90% of its net income (consisting of net investment income and net short-term capital gain) to its shareholders and meet certain asset diversification and other requirements. If the Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, it will be treated for tax purposes as an ordinary corporation subject to Federal income tax. The term "regulated investment company" does not imply the supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency.

The Fund ordinarily declares and pays dividends from net investment income monthly, and distributes net realized securities gains, if any, once a year, but the Fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis to comply with the distribution requirements of the Code, in all events in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act. The Fund will not make distributions from net realized securities gains unless its capital loss carryovers, if any, have been utilized or have expired.

If you elect to receive dividends and distributions in cash, and your dividend or distribution check is returned to the Fund as undeliverable or remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest such dividends or distributions and all future dividends and distributions payable to you in additional Fund shares at net asset value. No interest will accrue on amounts represented by uncashed distribution or redemption checks.

Any dividend or distribution paid shortly after an investor's purchase may have the effect of reducing the aggregate net asset value of the shares below the cost of the investment. Such a dividend or distribution would be a return of investment in an economic sense, although taxable as stated above. In addition, the Code provides that if a shareholder holds shares of the Fund for six months or less and has received a capital gain distribution with respect to such shares, any loss incurred on the sale of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain distribution received.

Ordinarily, gains and losses realized from portfolio transactions will be treated as capital gains and losses. However, a portion of the gain or loss realized from the disposition of foreign currencies (including foreign currency denominated bank deposits) and non-U.S. dollar denominated securities (including debt instruments and certain forward contracts and options) may be treated as ordinary income or loss. In addition, all or a portion of any gains realized from the sale or other disposition of certain market discount bonds will be treated as ordinary income. Finally, all or a portion of the gain realized from engaging in "conversion transactions" (generally including certain transactions designed to convert ordinary income into capital gain) may be treated as ordinary income.

Gain or loss, if any, realized by the Fund from certain forward contracts and options transactions ("Section 1256 contracts") will be treated as 60% long-term capital gain or loss and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Gain or loss will arise upon exercise or lapse of Section 1256 contracts as well as from closing transactions. In addition, any Section 1256 contracts remaining unexercised at the end of the Fund's taxable year will be treated as sold for their then fair market value, resulting in additional gain or loss to the Fund characterized in the manner described above.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain financial futures or forward contracts or options transactions with respect to actively traded personal property may be considered, for tax purposes, to constitute "straddles." To the extent the straddle rules apply to positions established by the Fund, losses realized by the Fund may be deferred to the extent of unrealized gain in the offsetting position. In addition, short-term capital loss on straddle positions may be recharacterized as long-term capital loss, and long-term capital gains on straddle positions may be treated as short-term capital gains or ordinary income. Certain of the straddle positions held by the Fund may constitute "mixed straddles." The Fund may make one or more elections with respect to the treatment of "mixed straddles," resulting in different tax consequences. In certain circumstances, the provisions governing the tax treatment of straddles override or modify certain of the provisions discussed above.

If the Fund enters into certain derivatives (including forward contracts, long positions under notional principal contracts, and related puts and calls) with respect to equity interests in certain pass-through entities (including other regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships, real estate mortgage investment conduits and certain trusts and foreign corporations), long-term capital gain with respect to the derivative may be



recharacterized as ordinary income to the extent it exceeds the long-term capital gain that would have been realized had the interest in the pass-through entity been held directly by the Fund during the term of the derivative contract. Any gain recharacterized as ordinary income will be treated as accruing at a constant rate over the term of the derivative contract and may be subject to an interest charge. The Treasury has authority to issue regulations expanding the application of these rules to derivatives with respect to debt instruments and/or stock in corporations that are not pass-through entities.

If the Fund either (1) holds an appreciated financial position with respect to stock, certain debt obligations, or partnership interests ("appreciated financial position") and then enters into a short sale, futures, forward, or offsetting notional principal contract (collectively, a "Contract") with respect to the same or substantially identical property or (2) holds an appreciated financial position that is a Contract and then acquires property that is the same as, or substantially identical to, the underlying property, the Fund generally will be taxed as if the appreciated financial position were sold at its fair market value on the date the Fund enters into the financial position or acquires the property, respectively.

Investment by the Fund in securities issued or acquired at a discount, or providing for deferred interest or for payment of interest in the form of additional obligations could under special tax rules affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders by causing the Fund to recognize income prior to the receipt of cash payments. For example, the Fund could be required to accrue a portion of the discount (or deemed discount) at which the securities were issued each year and to distribute such income in order to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company. In such case, the Fund may have to dispose of securities which it might otherwise have continued to hold in order to generate cash to satisfy these distribution requirements.

## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

General. The Manager and the Sub-Adviser assume general supervision over placing orders on behalf of the Fund for the purchase or sale of portfolio securities. Allocation of brokerage transactions, including their frequency, is made in the best judgment of the Manager and the Sub-Adviser and in a manner deemed fair and reasonable to shareholders. The primary consideration is prompt execution of orders at the most favorable net price. Subject to this consideration, the brokers selected may include those that supplement the research facilities of the Manager and Sub-Adviser with statistical data, investment information, economic facts and opinions. Information so received is in addition to and not in lieu of services required to be performed by the Manager and Sub-Adviser. Such information may be useful to the Manager and the Sub-Adviser in serving both the Fund and other funds and accounts which they advise and, conversely, supplemental information obtained by the placement of business of other clients may be useful to the Manager and the Sub-Adviser in carrying out their respective obligations to the Fund.

Brokers also may be selected because of their ability to handle special executions such as are involved in large block trades or broad distributions, provided the primary consideration is met. Large block trades may, in certain cases, result from two or more funds advised or administered by the Manager or Sub-Adviser being engaged simultaneously in the purchase or sale of the same security. Certain transactions in securities of foreign issuers may not benefit from the negotiated commission rates available to the Fund for transactions in

securities of domestic issuers. When transactions are executed in the over-the-counter market, the Fund will deal with the primary market makers unless a more favorable price or execution otherwise is obtainable. Foreign exchange transactions are made with banks or institutions in the interbank market at prices reflecting a mark-up or mark-down and/or commission.

Portfolio turnover may vary from year to year as well as within a year. In periods in which extraordinary market conditions prevail, the Manager will not be deterred from changing the Fund's investment strategy as rapidly as needed, in which case higher turnover rates can be anticipated which would result in greater brokerage expenses. The overall reasonableness of brokerage commissions paid is evaluated by the Manager based upon its knowledge of available information as to the general level of commissions paid by other institutional investors for comparable services.

From time to time, consistent with the policy of obtaining the most favorable net price, the Fund may conduct brokerage transactions through the Manager or its affiliates. The Company's Board has adopted procedures in conformity with Rule 17e-1 under the 1940 Act to ensure that all brokerage commissions paid to the Manager or its affiliates are reasonable and fair. No brokerage commissions have been paid by either Fund to date.

Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings. It is the policy of the Company to protect the confidentiality of the Fund's portfolio holdings and prevent the selective disclosure of non-public information about such holdings. The Fund will publicly disclose its holdings in accordance with regulatory requirements, such as periodic portfolio disclosure in filings with the SEC. The Fund will publicly disclose its complete schedule of portfolio holdings, as reported on a month-end basis, on its website at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com). The information will be posted with a one-month lag and will remain accessible until the Company files a report on Form N-Q or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the date as of which the information was current. In addition, fifteen days following the end of each calendar quarter, the Fund will publicly disclose on the website its complete schedule of portfolio holdings as of the end of such quarter.

If the Fund's portfolio holdings are released pursuant to an ongoing arrangement with any party, the Fund must have a legitimate business purpose for doing so, and neither the Fund, nor Dreyfus or its affiliates, may receive any compensation in connection with an arrangement to make available information about the Fund's portfolio holdings. The Fund may distribute portfolio holdings to mutual fund evaluation services such as Standard & Poor's, Morningstar or Lipper Analytical Services; due diligence departments of broker-dealers and wirehouses that regularly analyze the portfolio holdings of mutual funds before their public disclosure; and broker-dealers that may be used by the Fund, or the purpose of efficient trading and receipt of relevant research, provided that (a) the recipient does not distribute the portfolio holdings to persons who are likely to use the information for purposes of purchasing or selling Fund shares or Fund portfolio holdings before the portfolio holdings become public information; and (b) the recipient signs a written confidentially agreement.

The Fund may also disclose any and all portfolio information to its service providers and others who generally need access to such information in the performance of their contractual duties and responsibilities and are subject to duties of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on non-public information, imposed by law and/or contract. These service providers include the Fund's custodians, auditors, investment adviser, administrator, and each of their respective affiliates and advisers.

Discloser of the Fund's portfolio holdings may be authorized only by the Company's Chief Compliance Officer, and any exceptions to this to this policy are reported quarterly to the Company's Board.

## SUMMARY OF THE PROXY VOTING POLICY, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE DREYFUS FAMILY OF FUNDS

The Board of each fund in the Dreyfus Family of Funds has delegated to the Manager the authority to vote proxies of companies held in the fund's portfolio. The Manager, through its participation on the Mellon Proxy Policy Committee (the "MPPC"), applies Mellon's Proxy Voting Policy, related procedures, and voting guidelines when voting proxies on behalf of the funds.

The Manager recognizes that an investment adviser is a fiduciary that owes its clients, including funds it manages, a duty of utmost good faith and full and fair disclosure of all material facts. An investment adviser's duty of loyalty requires an adviser to vote proxies in a manner consistent with the best interest of its clients and precludes the adviser from subrogating the clients' interests to its own. In addition, an investment adviser voting proxies on behalf of a fund must do so in a manner consistent with the best interests of the fund and its shareholders.

The Manager seeks to avoid material conflicts of interest by participating in the MPPC, which applies detailed, pre-determined written proxy voting guidelines (the "Voting Guidelines") in an objective and consistent manner across client accounts, based on internal and external research and recommendations provided by a third party vendor, and without consideration of any client relationship factors. Further, the MPPC engages a third party as an independent fiduciary to vote all proxies of funds managed by Mellon or its affiliates (including the Dreyfus Family of Funds), and may engage an independent fiduciary to vote proxies of other issuers at its discretion.

All proxies received by the funds are reviewed, categorized, analyzed and voted in accordance with the Voting Guidelines. The guidelines are reviewed periodically and updated as necessary to reflect new issues and any changes in Mellon's or the Manager's policies on specific issues. Items that can be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are voted in accordance with any applicable guidelines or referred to the MPPC, if the applicable guidelines so require. Proposals that cannot be categorized under the Voting Guidelines are referred to the MPPC for discussion and vote. Additionally, the MPPC reviews proposals where it has identified a particular company, industry or issue for special scrutiny. With regard to voting proxies of foreign companies, the MPPC weighs the cost of voting and potential inability to sell the securities (which may occur during the voting process) against the benefit of voting the proxies to determine whether or not to vote. With respect to securities lending transactions, the MPPC seeks to balance the economic benefits of continuing to participate in an open securities lending transaction against the inability to vote proxies.

When evaluating proposals, the MPPC recognizes that the management of a publicly-held company may need protection from the market's frequent focus on short-term considerations, so as to be able to concentrate on such long-term goals as productivity and development of competitive products and services. In addition, the MPPC generally supports proposals designed to provide management with short-term insulation from outside influences so as to enable them to bargain effectively with potential suitors to the extent such proposals are discrete and not

bundled with other proposals. The MPPC believes that a shareholder's role in the governance of a publicly-held company is generally limited to monitoring the performance of the company and its management and voting on matters which properly come to a shareholder vote. However, the MPPC generally opposes proposals designed to insulate an issuer's management unnecessarily from the wishes of a majority of shareholders. Accordingly, the MPPC generally votes in accordance with management on issues that the MPPC believes neither unduly limit the rights and privileges of shareholders nor adversely affect the value of the investment.

On questions of social responsibility where economic performance does not appear to be an issue, the MPPC attempts to ensure that management reasonably responds to the social issues. Responsiveness will be measured by management's efforts to address the particular social issue including, where appropriate, assessment of the implications of the proposal to the ongoing operations of the company. The MPPC will pay particular attention to repeat issues where management has failed in its commitment in the intervening period to take actions on issues.

In evaluating proposals regarding incentive plans and restricted stock plans, the MPPC typically employs a shareholder value transfer model. This model seeks to assess the amount of shareholder equity flowing out of the company to executives as options are exercised. After determining the cost of the plan, the MPPC evaluates whether the cost is reasonable based on a number of factors, including industry classification and historical performance information. The MPPC generally votes against proposals that permit or are silent on the repricing or replacement of stock options without shareholder approval.

Information regarding how the Manager voted proxies for the Fund is available on the Dreyfus Family of Funds' website at <http://www.dreyfus.com> and on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> on the Fund's Form N-PX filed with the SEC.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY AND FUND

The Fund share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of the offering, is fully paid and non-assessable. Shares have no preemptive or subscription rights and are freely transferable.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act, ordinarily it will not be necessary for the Fund to hold annual meetings of shareholders. As a result, Fund shareholders may not consider each year the election of Board members or the appointment of auditors. However, the holders of at least 10% of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote may require the Fund to hold a special meeting of shareholders for purposes of removing a Board member from office. Fund shareholders may remove a Board member by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting shares. In addition, the Board will call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Board members if, at any time, less than a majority of the Board members then holding office have been elected by shareholders.

Effective January 31, 2003, the Company changed its name from "Dreyfus Municipal Bond Fund, Inc." to its current name.

The Company is a "series fund," which is a mutual fund divided into separate portfolios, each of which is treated as a separate entity for certain matters under the 1940 Act and for other purposes. A shareholder of one portfolio is not deemed to be a shareholder of any other

portfolio. For certain matters shareholders vote together as a group; as to others they vote separately by portfolio.

To date, the Board has authorized the creation of two series of shares. All consideration received by the Company for shares of one Fund and all assets in which such consideration is invested will belong to that Fund (subject only to the rights of creditors of the Company) and will be subject to the liabilities related thereto. The income attributable to, and the expenses of, one Fund are treated separately from those of the other Funds. The Company has the ability to create, from time to time, new series without shareholder approval.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted under the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law or otherwise to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company, such as the Company, will not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a series shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless it is clear that the interests of each series in the matter are identical or that the matter does not affect any interest of such series. However, the Rule exempts the selection of independent accountants and the election of Board members from the separate voting requirements of the Rule.

The Fund is intended to be a long-term investment vehicle and is not designed to provide investors with a means of speculating on short-term market movements. A pattern of frequent purchases and exchanges can be disruptive to efficient portfolio management and, consequently, can be detrimental to the Fund's performance and its shareholders. If Fund management determines that an investor is following an abusive investment strategy, it may reject any purchase request or terminate the investor's exchange privilege, with or without prior notice. Such investors also may be barred from purchasing other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Accounts under common ownership or control may be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive or abusive trading. In addition, the Fund may refuse or restrict purchase or exchange requests for Fund shares by any person or group if, in the judgment of the Fund's management, the Fund would be unable to invest the money effectively in accordance with its investment objective and policies or could otherwise be adversely affected or if the Fund receives or anticipates receiving simultaneous orders that may significantly affect the Fund. If an exchange request is refused, the Fund will take no other action with respect to the Fund shares until it receives further instructions from the investor. While the Fund will take reasonable steps to prevent excess short term trading deemed to be harmful to the Fund, it may not be able to identify excessive trading conducted through certain financial intermediaries or omnibus accounts.

Each Fund will send annual and semi-annual financial statements to all its shareholders.

#### COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 180 Maiden Lane, New York, New York 10038-4982, as counsel for the Company, has rendered its opinion as to certain legal matters regarding the due authorization and valid issuance of the shares being sold pursuant to the Fund's Prospectus.

Ernst & Young LLP, 5 Times Square, New York, New York 10036, an independent registered public accounting firm, serves as independent auditors of the Company.

## APPENDIX

### Rating Categories

Description of certain ratings assigned by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's"), and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"):

#### **S&P**

##### Long-term

#### **AAA**

An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

#### **AA**

An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment 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 lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment 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 exposures 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 which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment 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 commitment on the obligation.

## **CC**

An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

## **C**

A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The 'C' rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A 'C' also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying.

## **D**

An obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

## **r**

The symbol 'r' is attached to the ratings of instruments with significant noncredit risks. It highlights risks to principal or volatility of expected returns which are not addressed in the credit rating. Examples include: obligations linked or indexed to equities, currencies, or commodities; obligations exposed to severe prepayment risk—such as interest-only or principal-only mortgage securities; and obligations with unusually risky interest terms, such as inverse floaters.

## **N.R.**

The designation 'N.R.' indicates that no rating has been requested, that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

Note: The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

## **Short-term**

### **A-1**

A short-term obligation rated 'A-1' is rated in the highest category by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are given a plus sign (+) designation. This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment 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 commitment 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 lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

### **B**

A short-term obligation rated 'B' is regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

### **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 commitment on the obligation.

### **D**

A short-term obligation rated 'D' is in payment default. The 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless S&P believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized.

## **Moody's**

### Long-term

#### **Aaa**

Bonds rated 'Aaa' are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

#### **Aa**

Bonds rated 'Aa' are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the 'Aaa' group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in 'Aaa' securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than the 'Aaa' securities.

#### **A**

Bonds rated 'A' possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future.

#### **Baa**

Bonds rated 'Baa' are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the



present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

### **Ba**

Bonds rated 'Ba' are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

### **B**

Bonds rated 'B' generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

### **Caa**

Bonds rated 'Caa' are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

### **Ca**

Bonds rated 'Ca' represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

### **C**

Bonds rated 'C' are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

Note: Moody's applies numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 in 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.

### Prime rating system (short-term)

Issuers rated **Prime-1** (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics:

Leading market positions in well-established industries.

High rates of return on funds employed.

Conservative capitalization structure with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection.

Broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation.

Well-established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity.

Issuers rated **Prime-2** (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated **Prime-3** (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short-term obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

## **Fitch**

### Long-term investment grade

#### **AAA**

**Highest credit quality.** 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

#### **AA**

**Very high credit quality.** 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

#### **A**

**High credit quality.** 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

#### **BBB**

**Good credit quality.** 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category.

### Long-term speculative grade

#### **BB**

**Speculative.** 'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

## **B**

**Highly speculative.** 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

## **CCC, CC, C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. 'CC' ratings indicate that default of some kind appears probable. 'C' ratings signal imminent default.

## **DDD, DD, D**

**Default.** The ratings of obligations in this category are based on their prospects for achieving partial or full recovery in a reorganization or liquidation of the obligor. While expected recovery values are highly speculative and cannot be estimated with any precision, the following serve as general guidelines. 'DDD' obligations have the highest potential for recovery, around 90% - 100% of outstanding amounts and accrued interest. 'DD' ratings indicate potential recoveries in the range of 50% - 90% and 'D' the lowest recovery potential, i.e., below 50%.

Entities rated in this category have defaulted on some or all of their obligations. Entities rated 'DDD' have the highest prospect for resumption of performance or continued operation with or without a formal reorganization process. Entities rated 'DD' and 'D' are generally undergoing a formal reorganization or liquidation process; those rated 'DD' are likely to satisfy a higher portion of their outstanding obligations, while entities rated 'D' have a poor prospect of repaying all obligations.

## Short-term

A short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 12 months for most obligations, or up to three years for U.S. public finance securities, and thus places greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

## **F1**

**Highest credit quality.** Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

## **F2**

**Good credit quality.** A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.

## **F3**

**Fair credit quality.** The capacity for timely payment of financial commitment is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction non-investment grade.

## **B**

**Speculative.** Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments plus vulnerability to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

## **C**

**High default risk.** Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

## **D**

**Default.** Denotes actual or imminent payment default.

'**NR**' indicates that Fitch does not rate the issuer or issue in question.

Notes to long-term and short-term ratings: A plus (+) or minus (-) sign designation may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' long-term rating category, to categories below 'CCC', or to short-term ratings other than 'F1.'