

# Dreyfus Short-Intermediate Government Fund

Seeks to maximize total return, consisting of capital appreciation and current income

**PROSPECTUS** April 1, 2004



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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## Your Investment

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*See back cover.*



## GOAL/APPROACH

The fund seeks to maximize total return, consisting of capital appreciation and current income. To pursue this goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, and in repurchase agreements collateralized by such securities. The fund may invest up to 35% of its assets in mortgage-related securities issued by U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities, such as mortgage pass-through securities issued by the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs), including stripped mortgage-backed securities. These instruments include those backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and those that are neither insured nor guaranteed by the U.S. government.

Typically, in choosing securities, the portfolio manager first examines U.S. and global economic conditions and other market factors in order to estimate long- and short-term interest rates. Using a research-driven investment process, generally, the portfolio manager then seeks to identify potentially profitable issues before they are widely perceived by the market, and seeks underpriced or mispriced securities that appear likely to perform well over time.

The fund generally maintains an effective duration of approximately three years or less. Duration is an indication of how sensitive a bond or mutual fund portfolio may be to changes in interest 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 manage interest rate risk, to increase returns, 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

**Duration:** a way of measuring a bond's maturity in terms of the average time required to receive the present value of all interest and principal payments, which incorporates the bond's yield, coupon interest payments, final maturity and option features into one measure. Generally, the longer a bond's duration, the more likely it is to react to interest rate fluctuations and the greater its long-term risk/return potential.

**Mortgage pass-through securities:** pools of residential or commercial mortgages whose cash flows are "passed through" to the holders of the securities via monthly payments of interest and principal.

**CMOs:** a security that pools together mortgages and separates them into short-, medium-, and long-term positions (called tranches). Tranches pay different rates of interest depending on their maturity and cash flow predictability. CMOs may be issued by government agencies or by private issuers.

**Stripped mortgage-backed securities:** the separate income or principal components of a mortgage-backed security. CMOs may be partially stripped so that each investor receives some interest and some principal, or fully stripped into interest-only and principal-only components.

**Repurchase agreement:** a U.S. commercial bank or securities dealer sells securities, typically U.S. government securities, to the fund and agrees to repurchase them at an agreed-upon date (usually the next day) and price. These agreements offer the fund a means of investing money for a short period of time.



## 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.

- *Government securities risk.* Not all obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Some obligations, such as those issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, are backed only by the credit of the issuing agency or instrumentality, and in some cases there may be some risk of default by the issuer. Any guarantee by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities of a security held by the fund does not apply to the market value of such security or to shares of the fund itself. In addition, because many types of U.S. government securities trade actively outside the U.S., their prices may rise and fall as changes in global economic conditions affect the demand for these securities.
- *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. The longer the fund's effective maturity and 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.
- *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. The fund also is subject to the risk that a counterparty in a repurchase agreement could fail to honor the terms of its agreement.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to 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.
- *Prepayment and extension risk.* When interest rates fall, the principal on mortgage-backed and certain asset-backed securities may be prepaid. The loss of higher yielding, underlying mortgages and the reinvestment of proceeds at lower interest rates can reduce the fund's potential price gain in response to falling interest rates, reduce the fund's yield, or cause the fund's share price to fall. When interest rates rise, the effective duration of the fund's mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities may lengthen due to a drop in prepayment of the underlying mortgages or other assets. This is known as extension risk and would increase the fund's sensitivity to rising rates and its potential for price declines.
- *Derivatives risk.* In addition to mortgage-related and asset-backed securities, the fund may invest in other derivative instruments such as options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to indexes 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.
- *Inflation-indexed bond risk.* Interest payments on inflation-indexed bonds can be unpredictable and will vary as the principal and/or interest is periodically adjusted based on the rate of inflation. If the index measuring inflation falls, interest payable on these securities will be reduced. The U.S. Treasury has guaranteed that in the event of a drop in prices, it would repay the par amount of its inflation-indexed bonds. Inflation-indexed bonds issued by corporations generally do not guarantee repayment of principal. 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.

- *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.
- *Leveraging risk.* The use of leverage, such as engaging in reverse repurchase agreements, lending portfolio securities and engaging in forward commitment transactions, will magnify the fund's gains or losses.

## 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.

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.



## 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 shows the fund's average annual total returns compared to those of the Merrill Lynch Governments, U.S. Treasury, Short-Term (1-3 Years) Index, a broad measure of short-term Treasury securities 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.



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

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Fund</b> <i>returns before taxes</i>	<b>2.26%</b>	<b>4.84%</b>	<b>5.22%</b>
<b>Fund</b> <i>returns after taxes on distributions</i>	<b>.98%</b>	<b>2.98%</b>	<b>2.95%</b>
<b>Fund</b> <i>returns after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares</i>	<b>1.46%</b>	<b>2.96%</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>Merrill Lynch Governments, U.S. Treasury, Short-Term (1-3 Years) Index</b> <i>reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes</i>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>5.37%</b>	<b>5.68%</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. 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	
<b>Annual fund operating expenses</b>	
<i>% of average daily net assets</i>	
Management fees	0.50%
Shareholder services fee	0.09%
Other expenses	0.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.76%</b>

Expense example			
1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
<b>\$78</b>	<b>\$243</b>	<b>\$422</b>	<b>\$942</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 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.
- 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 transfer agency, custody, professional and registration fees.



## MANAGEMENT

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 \$166 billion in approximately 200 mutual fund portfolios. For the past fiscal year, the fund paid Dreyfus a management fee at the annual rate of 0.50% 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 \$3.5 trillion of assets under management, administration or custody, including approximately \$657 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.

On March 30, 2004, Mellon Bank, N.A., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial and the then-current parent company of Dreyfus, transferred its entire interest in Dreyfus, including Dreyfus Service Corporation (the fund's distributor) and all of Dreyfus' other direct and indirect subsidiaries, to Mellon Financial. The reorganization does not result in a change in the control or management of Dreyfus under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act); Dreyfus merely became a direct, rather than indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Mellon Financial. The reorganization is part of a larger reorganization of Mellon Financial that is expected to increase organizational synergies and create a more efficient capital structure throughout the organization.

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.

Gerald Thunelius is the fund's primary portfolio manager, a position he has held since June 1994. Mr. Thunelius joined Dreyfus in May 1989.

The fund, Dreyfus and Dreyfus Service Corporation 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. Its primary purpose is to ensure that personal trading by Dreyfus employees does not disadvantage any Dreyfus-managed fund.

Two class actions have been filed against Mellon Financial and Mellon Bank, N.A., and Dreyfus and Founders Asset Management LLC (the Investment Advisers), and the directors of all or substantially all of the Dreyfus funds, alleging that the Investment Advisers improperly used assets of the Dreyfus funds, in the form of directed brokerage commissions and 12b-1 fees, to pay brokers to promote sales of Dreyfus funds, and that the use of fund assets to make these payments was not properly disclosed to investors. The complaints further allege that the directors breached their fiduciary duties to fund shareholders under the 1940 Act and at common law. The complaints seek unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, rescission of the funds' contracts with the Investment Advisers, an accounting of all fees paid, and an award of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. Dreyfus and the Dreyfus funds believe the allegations to be totally without merit and will defend the actions 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 affect on the Dreyfus funds or Dreyfus' ability to perform its contract with the Dreyfus funds.





## 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.

	2003	Year Ended November 30,			
		2002 <sup>1</sup>	2001	2000	1999
<b>Per-Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	10.89	10.93	10.57	10.43	10.82
Investment operations:					
Investment income – net	.21 <sup>2</sup>	.33 <sup>2</sup>	.48	.60	.63
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.16	.01	.37	.14	(.39)
Total from investment operations	.37	.34	.85	.74	.24
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income – net	(.42)	(.38)	(.49)	(.60)	(.63)
Net asset value, end of period	10.84	10.89	10.93	10.57	10.43
Total Return (%)	3.42	3.19	8.14	7.38	2.33
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of expenses to average net assets	.76	.74	.73	.71	.71
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets	1.91	3.04	4.42	5.78	6.00
Portfolio turnover rate	1,218.30	1,063.40	1,459.21	1,056.17	1,096.12
Net assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	441,835	473,925	484,070	370,165	434,782

<sup>1</sup> As required, effective December 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 fixed-income securities on a scientific basis and including paydown gains and losses in interest income. The effect of these changes for the period ended November 30, 2002 was to decrease net investment income per share by \$.06, increase net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments per share by \$.06 and decrease the ratio of net investment income to average net assets from 3.54% to 3.04%. Per-share data and ratios/supplemental data for periods prior to December 1, 2001 have not been restated to reflect these changes 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. The fund's investments are generally 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.

### Third-party investments

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, 401(k) plans, financial advisers and financial supermarkets may charge transaction fees and may set different minimum investments or limitations on buying or selling shares. In addition, such third parties may receive payments from Dreyfus in connection with their offering of fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information.

### Minimum investments

	Initial	Additional
<b>Regular accounts</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$100</b> <b>\$500</b> for Dreyfus TeleTransfer investments
<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> after the first year
<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.

## 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 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 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

### 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.

Excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance. Accordingly, the fund reserves the right to refuse any purchase or exchange request that could adversely affect the fund or its operations, including those from any individual or group who, in the fund's view, is likely to engage in excessive trading, short-term market timing or other abusive trading practices. In making this judgment, the fund may consider trading done in multiple accounts under common ownership or control. Transactions placed by suspected excessive traders may not be deemed accepted by the fund and may be cancelled or revoked by the fund on the next business day following receipt by the fund or its transfer agent. While the fund will take reasonable steps to prevent excessive 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 also reserves the right to:

- refuse any purchase or exchange request
- change or discontinue its exchange privilege, or temporarily suspend this privilege during unusual market conditions
- change its minimum investment amounts
- delay sending out redemption proceeds for up to seven days (generally applies only in cases of very large redemptions, excessive trading or during unusual market conditions)
- “redeem in kind,” or make payment in securities rather than cash, if the amount you are redeeming is large enough to affect fund operations (for example, if it represents more than 1% of the fund's assets)

## Small account policies

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the fund charges regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The fee will be imposed during the fourth quarter of each calendar year.

The fee will be waived for: any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000; IRA accounts; Education Savings Accounts; accounts participating in automatic investment programs; and accounts opened through a financial institution.

If your account falls below \$500, the fund may ask you to increase your balance. If it is still below \$500 after 30 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 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.

**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 distributions of short-term capital gains, are taxable to you as ordinary income. Other fund distributions, including dividends from U.S. companies and certain foreign 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

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### 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

<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 one Dreyfus fund into another (not available for IRAs).

#### For exchanging shares

<b>Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege</b>	For making regular exchanges from one Dreyfus fund into another.
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#### For selling shares

<b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b>	For making regular withdrawals from most Dreyfus funds.
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### Dreyfus Financial Centers

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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 consultants 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** (no minimum for retirement accounts) from one Dreyfus fund into another. You can request your exchange in writing, by phone or online. 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, 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.

### Retirement plans

Dreyfus offers a variety of retirement plans, including traditional and Roth IRAs, and Education Savings Accounts. Here's where you call for information:

- for traditional, rollover and Roth IRAs, and Education Savings Accounts, call **1-800-645-6561**
- for SEP-IRAs, Keogh accounts, 401(k) and 403(b) accounts, call **1-800-358-0910**

## 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** 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# 8900052139
- 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# 8900052139
- 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	TO ADD TO AN ACCOUNT	TO SELL SHARES
<div data-bbox="45 195 121 273"></div> <div data-bbox="142 216 461 247">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 data-bbox="45 741 121 819"></div> <div data-bbox="142 762 315 793">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>Without any initial investment</b> Check the Dreyfus Step Program option on your application. Return your application, then complete the additional materials when they are sent to you.</p>	<p><b>All services</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Dreyfus Automatic Withdrawal Plan</b> Call us 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



#### In Writing

Complete an IRA application, making sure to specify the fund name and to indicate the year the contribution is for.

Mail your application and a check to:  
The Dreyfus Trust Company, Custodian  
P.O. Box 55552, Boston, MA 02205-8568



#### By Telephone



#### Automatically

**Without any initial investment** Call us to request a Dreyfus Step Program form. Complete and return the form along with your application.

**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 ADD TO AN ACCOUNT

Fill out an investment slip, and write your account number on your check. Indicate the year the contribution is for.

Mail in the slip and the check (see "To Open an Account" at left).

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

- ABA# 021000018
- DDA# 8900052139
- the fund name
- your account number
- name of investor
- the contribution year

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

**Telephone Contribution** Call to request us to move money from a regular Dreyfus account to an IRA (both accounts must be held in the same shareholder name).

**All services** Call us to request a form to add an 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.

### TO SELL SHARES

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

- your name and signature
- your account number and fund name
- the dollar amount you want to sell
- how and where to send the proceeds
- whether the distribution is qualified or premature
- whether the 10% TEFRA should be withheld

Obtain a signature guarantee or other documentation, if required (see "Account Policies – Selling Shares"). Mail in your request (see "To Open an Account" at left).

\* A redemption check written for a qualified distribution is not subject to TEFRA.

**Systematic Withdrawal Plan** Call us to request instructions to establish the plan.

## Concepts to understand

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 Trust Company, Custodian**

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.



# For More Information

## Dreyfus Short-Intermediate Government Fund

SEC file number: 811-4888

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).

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.

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DREYFUS SHORT-INTERMEDIATE GOVERNMENT FUND  
STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
APRIL 1, 2004

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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 Short-Intermediate Government Fund (the "Fund"), dated April 1, 2004, as it may be revised from time to time. To obtain a copy of the Fund's Prospectus, please write to the Fund at 144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard, Uniondale, New York 11556-0144, visit the Dreyfus.com website, 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 FUND

The Fund is a Massachusetts business trust that commenced operations on April 6, 1987. The Fund is an open-end management investment company, known as a mutual fund. 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 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.

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.

U.S. Government Securities. Securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities include U.S. Treasury securities, which differ in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance. 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.

Mortgage-Related Securities. The Fund may invest up to 35% of its net assets in mortgage-related securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies or instrumentalities, including those with fixed, floating or variable interest rates, those with interest rates that change 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 stripped mortgage-backed securities which do not bear interest. For purposes of calculating the Fund's 35% limitation on investing in mortgage-related securities, short positions will be netted against long positions. 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, stripped mortgage-backed securities, mortgage pass-through securities, interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs"), and adjustable rate mortgages.

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. Similar to commercial mortgage-related securities, residential mortgage-related securities have been issued using a variety of structures, including multi-class structures featuring senior and subordinated classes.

#### Collateralized Mortgage Obligations and Multi-Class Pass-Through Securities--

Collateralized mortgage obligations or "CMOs" are multiclass bonds backed by pools of mortgage pass-through certificates or mortgage loans. CMOs in which the Fund may invest may be collateralized by (a) pass-through certificates issued or guaranteed by GNMA, FNMA or FHLMC, (b) unsecuritized mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or (c) 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 the 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 an applicable index such as LIBOR. The effect of the coupon varying inversely to a multiple of an applicable index creates a leverage factor. The markets for inverse floating rate CMOs with highly leveraged characteristics may at times 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. It should be noted that 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.

As CMOs have evolved, some classes of CMO bonds have become more prevalent. The planned amortization class ("PAC") and targeted amortization class ("TAC"), for example, were designed to reduce prepayment risk by establishing a sinking-fund structure. PAC and TAC bonds assure to varying degrees that investors will receive payments over a predetermined period under varying prepayment scenarios. Although PAC and TAC bonds are similar, PAC bonds are better able to provide stable cash flows under various prepayment scenarios than TAC bonds because of the order in which these tranches are paid.

Stripped Mortgage-Backed Securities--The Fund also 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 IO, 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 IOs 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.

Adjustable-Rate Mortgage Loans ("ARMs")--ARMs eligible for inclusion in a mortgage pool will generally 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. 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.

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. In 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. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services.

Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, the Fund buys, and the seller agrees to repurchase, a security at a mutually agreed upon time and price (usually within seven days). The repurchase agreement thereby determines the yield during the purchaser's holding period, while the seller's obligation to repurchase is secured by the value of the underlying security. The Fund's custodian or sub-custodian will have custody of, and will hold in a segregated account, securities acquired by the Fund under a repurchase agreement. Repurchase agreements are considered by the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission to be loans by the Fund. Repurchase agreements could involve risks in the event of a default or insolvency of the other party to the agreement, including possible delays or restrictions upon the Fund's ability to dispose of the underlying securities. In an attempt to reduce the risk of incurring a loss on a repurchase agreement, the Fund will enter into repurchase agreements only with domestic banks with total assets in excess of \$1 billion, or primary government securities dealers reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, with respect to securities of the type in which the Fund may invest or government securities regardless of their remaining maturities, and will require that additional securities be deposited with it if the value of the securities purchased should decrease below resale price.

Investment Companies. The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies. Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (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 fee 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 that the Fund deems representative of their value, the value of the Fund's net assets could be adversely affected.

Money Market Instruments. When the Manager 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 short-term 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.

### Investment Techniques

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

Duration and Portfolio Maturity. Under normal conditions, the Fund expects that the average effective duration of its portfolio will not exceed three years. As a measure of a fixed-income security's cash flow, duration is an alternative to the concept of "term to maturity" in assessing the price volatility associated with changes in interest rates. Generally, the longer the duration, the more volatility an investor should expect. For example, the market price of a bond with a duration of three years would be expected to decline 3% if interest rates rose 1%. Conversely, the market price of the same bond would be expected to increase 3% if interest rates fell 1%. The market price of a bond with a duration of six years would be expected to increase or decline twice as much as the market price of a bond with a three-year duration. Duration is a way of measuring a security's maturity in terms of the average time required to receive the present value of all interest and principal payments as opposed to its term to maturity. The maturity of a security measures only the time until final payment is due; it does not take account of the pattern of a security's cash flows over time, which would include how cash flow is affected by prepayments and by changes in interest rates. Incorporating a security's yield, coupon interest payments, final maturity and option features into one measure, duration is computed by determining the weighted average maturity of a bond's cash flows, where the present values of the cash flows serve as weights. In computing the duration of the Fund, the Manager will estimate the duration of obligations that are subject to features such as prepayment or redemption by the issuer, put options retained by the investor or other imbedded options, taking into account the influence of interest rates on prepayment and coupon flows.

Average weighted maturity is the length of time, in days or years, until the securities held by the Fund, on average, will mature or be redeemed by its issuer. The average maturity is weighted according to the dollar amounts invested in the various securities by the Fund. In general, the longer the Fund's average weighted maturity, the more its share price will fluctuate in response to changing interest rates. The dollar-weighted average maturity of the Fund's portfolio is expected to range between two and five years.

Derivatives. The Fund also may invest in, or enter into, 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, 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 include options contracts, futures contracts, options on future contracts, and swap agreements. 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 a 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.

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 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 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 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 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 engage in swap transactions, to mitigate risk, manage duration and reduce portfolio turnover or 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 transactions, including the interest rate swaps, interest rate locks, caps, collars and floors, may be individually negotiated and include exposure to a variety of different interest rates. 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 rate 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"; 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; and interest rate locks, in which one Party desires to lock in a particular interest rate on a given date and enters into an agreement to pay, or receive payment from, the other Party based on the yield of a reference index or security, such as a U.S. Treasury security.

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 Manager 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 Manager 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 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 Manager's ability to predict correctly movements in the prices of individual securities, the financial markets generally, 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.

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 such securities and continues to be entitled to payments in amounts equal to the interest 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.

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. In addition, the Fund may borrow for investment purposes on a secured basis through entering into reverse repurchase agreements, as described below.

Reverse Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks, brokers, 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. Reverse repurchase agreements may be preferable to a regular sale and later repurchase of the securities because it avoids certain market risks and transaction costs. Such transactions, however, may increase the risk of potential fluctuations in the market value of the Fund's assets. In addition, interest costs on the cash received may exceed the return on the securities purchased.

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. At no time will more than 15% of the value of the Fund's net assets be in deposits on short sales against the box.

Until the Fund closes its short position or replaces the borrowed security, the Fund 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.



Forward Commitments. The Fund may purchase or sell 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 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.

Forward Roll Transactions. To enhance current income, the Fund may enter into forward roll transactions with respect to mortgage-related securities. 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 repurchase a similar security from the institution at a later date at an agreed upon price. The securities that are repurchased will bear the same interest rate as those sold, but generally will be collateralized by different pools of mortgages with different prepayment histories than those sold. During the period between the sale and repurchase, the Fund will not be entitled to receive interest and principal payments on the securities sold. Proceeds of the sale 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 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).

#### Certain Investment Considerations and Risks

Mortgage-Related Securities. Mortgage-related securities are complex derivative instruments, subject to both credit and prepayment risk, and may be more volatile and less liquid than more traditional debt securities. Although certain mortgage-related securities are guaranteed by a third party (such as a U.S. Government agency or instrumentality with respect to government-related mortgage-backed securities) or otherwise similarly secured, the market value of the security, which may fluctuate, is not secured. Mortgage-related securities are subject to credit risks associated with the performance of the underlying mortgage properties. Adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances are more likely to have an adverse impact on mortgage-related securities secured by loans on certain types of commercial properties than on those secured by loans on residential properties. In addition, these securities are subject to

prepayment risk, although commercial mortgages typically have shorter maturities than residential mortgages and prepayment protection features. Some mortgage-related securities have structures that make their reactions to interest rate changes and other factors difficult to predict, making their value highly volatile.

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 collateral 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.

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

Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities, and in repurchase agreements collateralized by such securities (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 8 as fundamental policies. Investment restrictions numbered 9 through 11 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. Purchase common stocks, preferred stocks, warrants or other equity securities, or purchase corporate bonds or debentures, state bonds, municipal bonds or industrial revenue bonds.
2. 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.
3. Purchase securities on margin, but the Fund may make margin deposits in connection with transactions in options, forward contracts, futures contracts, and options on futures contracts.
4. Underwrite the securities of other issuers.
5. Purchase or sell real estate, real estate investment trust securities, commodities or commodity contracts, or oil and gas interests, except that the Fund may purchase and sell options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.
6. Make loans to others except through the purchase of debt obligations and the entry into repurchase agreements referred to in the Fund's Prospectus. 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.
7. Invest more than 25% of its total assets in the securities of issuers in any single industry; provided that there shall be no such limitation on the purchase of obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.
8. Invest in companies for the purpose of exercising control.

9. Purchase securities of other investment companies, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.
10. Pledge, mortgage, hypothecate or otherwise encumber 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 or forward commitment basis and in connection with writing covered put and call options and margin arrangements with respect to options, forward contracts, futures contracts, including those relating to indices, and options on futures contracts or indices.
11. Enter into repurchase agreements providing for settlement in more than seven days after notice or purchase securities which are illiquid, if, in the aggregate, more than 15% of the value of the Fund's net assets would be so invested.

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 that restriction. With respect to Investment Restriction No. 2, 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 Fund 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 FUND

The Fund'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
Mellon Bank, N.A. ....	Custodian

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

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

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

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Fund (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships</u> <u>and Affiliations</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino (60) Chairman of the Board (1995)	Corporate Director and Trustee	The Muscular Dystrophy Association, <i>Director</i> Levcor International, Inc. an apparel fabric process, <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>
Clifford L. Alexander, Jr. (70) Board Member (2003)	President of Alexander & Associates, Inc., a management consulting firm (January 1981 – present) Chairman of the Board of Moody's Corporation (October 2000 – October 2003) Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Dun and Bradstreet Corporation (October 1999-September 2000)	Wyeth (formerly, American Home Products Corporation), a global leader in pharmaceuticals, consumer healthcare products and animal health products, <i>Director</i> Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, <i>Director</i>
Lucy Wilson Benson (76) Board Member (1990)	President of Benson and Associates, consultants to business and government (1980 - Present)	The International Executive Services Corps., <i>Director</i> Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs, <i>Vice Chairperson</i> Council on Foreign Relations, <i>Member</i> Lafayette College Board of Trustees, <i>Vice Chairperson</i> Atlantic Council of the U.S., <i>Director</i>
David W. Burke (67) Board Member (1994)	Corporate Director and Trustee	John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, <i>Director</i> U.S.S. Constitution Museum,

<u>Name (Age)</u> <u>Position with Fund (Since)</u>	<u>Principal Occupation</u> <u>During Past 5 Years</u>	<u>Other Board Memberships</u> <u>and Affiliations</u>
		<i>Director</i>
Whitney I. Gerard (69) Board Member (1989)	Partner of Chadbourne & Parke LLP	None
Arthur A. Hartman (77) Board Member (1990)	Chairman of First NIS Regional Fund (ING/Barings Management) and New Russia Fund Advisory Council member to Barings Vostok	APCO Associates Inc., <i>Senior Consultant</i>
George L. Perry (70) Board Member (1990)	Economist and Senior Fellow at Brookings Institution	State Farm Mutual Automobile Association, <i>Director</i> State Farm Life Insurance Company, <i>Director</i>

Board members are elected to serve for an indefinite term. The Fund has standing audit, nominating and compensation committees, each comprised of its Board members who are not "interested persons" of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act. The function of the audit committee is to oversee the Fund's financial and reporting policies and certain internal control matters; the function of the nominating committee is to select and nominate all candidates who are not "interested persons" of the Fund for election to the Fund's Board; and the function of the compensation committee is to establish the appropriate compensation for serving on the Board. The nominating committee does not normally consider nominees recommended by shareholders. The Fund 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 audit committee met four times and the compensation committee met once during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2003. The nominating and pricing 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.

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which responsible as a Board Member</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	None	Over \$100,000
Clifford L. Alexander	None	Over \$100,000
Lucy Wilson Benson	None	Over \$100,000
David W. Burke	None	Over \$100,000
Whitney I. Gerard	None	Over \$100,000
Arthur A. Hartman	None	None
George L. Perry	None	None

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 Fund typically pays its Board members its allocated portion of an annual retainer of \$60,000 and a per meeting fee of \$7,500 (with a minimum of \$500 per meeting and per telephone meeting) attended for the Fund and seventeen other funds (comprised of 37 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 Fund for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2003, 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) during the year ended December 31, 2003, were as follows:

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which responsible as a Board Member (**)</u>
Joseph S. DiMartino	\$2,235	\$800,306 (191)
Clifford L. Alexander	\$1,785	\$198,500 (65)
Lucy Wilson Benson	\$1,785	\$116,000 (39)
David W. Burke	\$1,785	\$283,744 (83)
Whitney I. Gerard	\$1,785	\$98,000 (83)
Arthur A. Hartman	\$1,653	\$90,500 (37)

<u>Name of Board Member</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Holding of Funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds for which responsible as a Board Member (**)</u>
George L. Perry	\$1,785	\$98,000 (37)

\* Amount does not include reimbursed expenses for attending Board meetings, which amounted to \$5,661 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 Fund

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 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 portfolios) managed by the Manager. Mr. Canter also is a Board member and, where applicable, an Executive Committee Member of the other investment management subsidiaries of Mellon Financial Corporation, each of which is an affiliate of the Manager. He is 58 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1995.

STEPHEN R. BYERS, Executive Vice President since November 2002. Chief Investment Officer, Vice Chairman and a director of the Manager, and an officer of 96 investment companies (comprised of 186 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 50 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 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 57 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1977.

MICHAEL A. ROSENBERG, Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 94 investment companies (comprised of 195 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 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 54 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since July 1980.

ROBERT R. MULLERY, Assistant Secretary since March 2000. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 26 investment companies (comprising 58 portfolios)



managed by the Manager. He is 52 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since May 1986.

JEFF PRUSNOFSKY, Assistant Secretary since January 2004. Associate General Counsel of the Manager, and an officer of 25 investment companies (comprised of 82 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 38 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since October 1990.

JAMES WINDELS, Treasurer since November 2001. Director-Mutual Fund Accounting of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 45 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since April 1985.

KENNETH J. SANDGREN, Assistant Treasurer since November 2001. Mutual Funds Tax Director of the Manager, and an officer of 97 investment companies (comprised of 202 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 49 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since June 1993.

ERIK D. NAVILOFF, Assistant Treasurer since December 2002. Senior Accounting Manager – Taxable Fixed Income Funds of the Manager, and an officer of 19 investment companies (comprised of 74 portfolios) managed by the Manager. He is 35 years old and has been an employee of the Manager since November 1992.

WILLIAM GERMENIS, Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer since October 2002. Vice President and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of the Distributor, and the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer of 92 investment companies (comprised of 197 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 Fund is 200 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10166.

Board members and officers, as a group, owned less than 1% of the Fund's shares outstanding on March 8, 2004.

The following persons are known by the Fund to own of record more than 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund as of March 8, 2004:

Charles Schwab & Co. Inc., reinvest account  
101 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, California 94104-4122

National Financial Services  
82 Devonshire Street G10G  
Boston, MA 02109-3605

## 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 Fund and the Manager. The Agreement is subject to annual approval by (i) the Fund'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 Fund 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 Fund's 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; Mary Beth Leibig, Vice President-Human Resources; Theodore A. Schachar, Vice President-Tax; Angela E. Price, Vice President; Wendy H. Strutt, Vice President; Ray Van Cott, Vice President-Information Systems; William H. Maresca, Controller; 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'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 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.

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 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 Fund's portfolio managers are Gerald E. Thunelius, Michael Hoeh, William Howarth and Ronald Deonarain.

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.

Expenses. All expenses incurred in the operation of the Fund are borne by the Fund, except to the extent specifically assumed by the Manager. The expenses borne by the Fund include: 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 any of its affiliates, 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 independent pricing services, costs of maintaining the Fund's existence, 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.

As compensation for the Manager's services, the Fund has agreed to pay the Manager a monthly management fee at the annual rate of 0.50% of the value of the Fund's average daily net assets. All fees and expenses are accrued daily and deducted before payment of dividends to investors. The management fees paid for the fiscal years ended November 30, 2001, 2002 and 2003 amounted to \$2,252,606, \$2,371,824 and \$2,355,778, respectively.

The Manager has agreed that if in any fiscal year the aggregate expenses of the Fund, exclusive of taxes, brokerage, interest on borrowings and (with the prior written consent of the

necessary state securities commissions) extraordinary expenses, but including the management fee, exceed 1-1/2% of the average value of the Fund's 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 daily, and 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 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.

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.

Mellon Bank, N.A. (the "Custodian"), an affiliate of the Manager, One Mellon Bank Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15258, is the Fund's custodian. 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 are sold without a sales charge. You may be charged a fee if you effect transactions in Fund shares through a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution. Third parties may receive payments from the Manager in connection with their offering of Fund shares to their customers, or for marketing, distribution or other services. The receipt of such payments could create an incentive for the third party to offer the Fund instead of other mutual funds where such payments are not received. Please consult a representative of your plan or financial institution for further information.

Stock 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.

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. 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. 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 Fund'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 invested in the Fund. The Fund reserves the right to offer Fund shares without regard to minimum purchase requirements 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 Fund. The Fund reserves the right to vary further 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 you 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 days

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 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 Fund shares outstanding. For information regarding the methods employed in valuing Fund 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, which will subject the purchase order to a processing delay. 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 the Transfer Agent or the New York Stock Exchange are open for regular business, Fund shares will be purchased at the share price determined on the next bank business day following such purchase order. 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 second bank business day following such purchase order. To qualify to use the Dreyfus TeleTransfer Privilege, the initial payment for purchase of Fund 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."

Procedures for Multiple Accounts. Special procedures have been designed for banks and other institutions that wish to open multiple accounts. The institutions may open a single master account by filing one application with the Transfer Agent, and may reopen individual sub-accounts at the same time or at some later date. The Transfer Agent will provide each institution with a written confirmation for each transaction in a sub-account. Duplicate confirmations may be transmitted to the beneficial owner of the sub-account at no additional charge. Upon receipt of funds for investment by interbank wire, the Transfer Agent will promptly confirm the receipt of the investment by telephone or return wire to the transmitting bank, if the investor so requests.

The Transfer Agent also will provide each institution with a monthly statement setting forth, for each sub-account, the share balance, income earned for the month, income earned for the year to date and the total current value of the account.

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 Fund has adopted a Shareholder Services 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 related 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 Shareholder Services Plan, and the purposes for which such expenditures were incurred, must be made to the Fund's Board for its review. In addition, the Shareholder Services Plan provides that material amendments of the Shareholder Services Plan must be approved by the Fund'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 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. 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.

For the fiscal year ended November 30, 2003, the Fund paid \$425,366 pursuant to the Shareholder Services 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 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 redemption 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. Shares may not be redeemed until the Transfer Agent has received your Account Application.

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 full and fractional 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 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 value of the shares in an investor's 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. If you hold shares in a Dreyfus-sponsored IRA account, you may be permitted to make withdrawals from your IRA account using checks furnished to you by The Dreyfus Trust Company.

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 if the Transfer Agent receives the 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 "Share 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. Investors should be aware that if they 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. 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."

Share 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 owner 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 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 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 Redemption. 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. 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 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.

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 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 and believed reasonably by the Transfer Agent to be genuine. 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 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.

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.

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.

Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege. Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege permits you to purchase (on a monthly, semi-monthly, quarterly or annual basis), in exchange for shares of the Fund, shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or shares of certain funds 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 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. You may deposit as much of such payments as you elect.

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. If you wish to purchase fund shares through the Dreyfus Step Program in conjunction with a Dreyfus sponsored retirement plan, you may do so only for IRAs, SEP-IRAs and rollover IRAs.

Dreyfus Dividend Options. Dreyfus Dividend Sweep allows you to invest automatically on the payment date your dividends or dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, from the Fund in shares of certain other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds or shares of certain funds 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 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 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.

Monthly or Quarterly Distribution Plans. The Monthly or Quarterly Distribution Plans permit you to receive monthly or quarterly payments from the Fund consisting of proceeds from the redemption of shares purchased for your account through the automatic reinvestment of dividends declared on your account during the preceding month or calendar quarter.

You may open a Monthly or Quarterly Distribution Plan by submitting a request to the Transfer Agent. A Monthly or Quarterly Distribution Plan may be ended at any time by you, the Fund or the Transfer Agent. Shares for which certificates have been issued must be presented before redemption under the Monthly or Quarterly Distribution Plans.

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. Automatic Withdrawal may be terminated at any time by you, the Fund 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.

Corporate Pension/Profit-Sharing and Personal Retirement Plans. The Fund makes available to corporations a variety of prototype pension and profit sharing plans including a 401(k) Salary Reduction Plan. In addition, the Fund makes available Keogh Plans, IRAs (including regular IRAs, spousal IRAs for a non-working spouse, SEP-IRAs, Roth IRAs, and rollover IRAs), Education Savings Accounts and 403(b)(7) Plans. Plan support services are also 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 as to eligibility, service fees and tax implications, and you should consult a tax adviser.

## DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

Valuation of Portfolio Securities. The Fund's investments are valued each business day using available market quotations or at fair value as determined by one or more independent pricing services (collectively, the "Service") approved by the Board. The Service may use available market quotations, or employ electronic data processing techniques and/or a matrix system to determine valuations. The Service's procedures are reviewed by the Fund's officers under the general supervision of the Board. 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 qualified as a "regulated investment company" under the Code for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003. 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 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 pay out at least 90% of its net income (consisting of net investment income and net short-term capital gain), 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. Dividends usually are paid on the last calendar

day of each month and are automatically reinvested in additional Fund shares at net asset value or, at your option, paid in cash. The Fund's earnings for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are declared as dividends on the next business day. Fund shares begin earning income dividends on the day following the date of purchase. 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, after deduction of any fees. 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, after the deduction of any fees. Distributions from net realized securities, 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 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, as described herein. In addition, if a shareholder has not held the shares of the Fund 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 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. 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.

Offsetting positions held by the Fund involving certain financial futures or forward contracts or options transactions may 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 or 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-thru entities (including other regulated investment companies, real estate investment 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-thru 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-thru 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.

Federal regulations require that you provide a certified taxpayer identification number (“TIN”) upon opening or reopening an account. See the Account Application for further information concerning this requirement. Failure to furnish a certified TIN to the Fund could subject you to a \$50 penalty imposed by the Internal Revenue Service.



## PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

Portfolio securities ordinarily are purchased from and sold to parties acting as either principal or agent. 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 is 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 acting as agent. 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.

## 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's 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 and 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 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 a 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 issues, 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 voted against proposals that permit or are silent on the repricing or replacement of stock options without shareholder approval.

## INFORMATION ABOUT 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.

The Fund is organized as an unincorporated business trust under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Under Massachusetts law, shareholders could, under certain circumstances, be held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. However, the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust ("Trust Agreement") disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Fund and requires that notice of such disclaimer be given in the agreement, obligation or instrument entered into or executed by the Fund or a Board member. The Trust Agreement provides for indemnification from the Fund's property for all losses and expenses of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations, a possibility which management believes is remote. Upon payment of any liability incurred by the Fund, the shareholder paying such liability will be entitled to reimbursement from the general assets of the Fund. The Fund intends to conduct its operations in a way so as to avoid, as far as possible, ultimate liability of the shareholders for liabilities of the Fund.

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 two-thirds 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.

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. Accordingly, if the Fund's management determines that an investor is following a market-timing strategy or is otherwise engaging in excessive trading, the Fund, with or without prior notice, may temporarily or permanently terminate the availability of Fund Exchanges, or reject in whole or part of any purchase or exchange request, with respect to such investor's account. Such investors also may be barred from purchasing other funds in the Dreyfus Family of Funds. Generally, an investor who makes more than four exchanges out of the Fund during any calendar year or who makes exchanges that appear to coincide with a market-timing strategy may be deemed to be engaged in excessive trading. Accounts under common ownership or control will be considered as one account for purposes of determining a pattern of excessive trading. In addition, the Fund may

refuse or restrict purchase or exchange requests 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 (e.g., amounts equal to 1% or more of the Fund's total assets). If an exchange request is refused, the Fund will take no other action with respect to the shares until it receives further instructions from the investor. The Fund may delay forwarding redemption proceeds for up to seven days if the investor redeeming shares is engaged in excessive trading or if the amount of the redemption request otherwise would be disruptive to efficient portfolio management or would adversely affect the Fund. The Fund's policy on excessive trading applies to investors who invest in the Fund directly or through financial intermediaries, but does not apply to the Dreyfus Auto-Exchange Privilege, to any automatic investment or withdrawal privilege described herein, or to participants in employer-sponsored retirement plans.

To offset the relatively higher costs of servicing smaller accounts, the Fund will charge regular accounts with balances below \$2,000 an annual fee of \$12. The valuation of accounts and the deductions are expected to take place during the last four months of each year. The fee will be waived for any investor whose aggregate Dreyfus mutual fund investments total at least \$25,000, and will not apply to IRA accounts or to accounts participating in automatic investment programs or opened through a securities dealer, bank or other financial institution, or to other fiduciary accounts.

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

#### COUNSEL AND INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

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, independent auditors, have been selected as independent auditors of the Fund.