# Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Thrift Savings Plan

22 October 2018

**BLACKROCK®** 



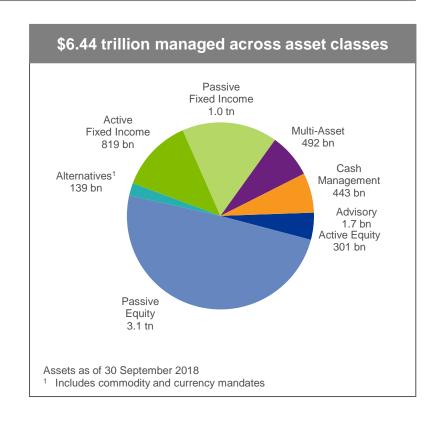
### BlackRock at a glance

### **BlackRock Mission Statement**

Create a better financial future for our clients by building the most respected investment and risk manager in the world

### BlackRock facts

- Established in 1988
- NYSE: BLK
- \$6.44 trillion assets under management
- More than 13,500 employees
- More than 2,000 investment professionals
- Offices in over 34 countries
- 25 primary investment centers globally
- Clients in over 100 countries
- Over 850 iShares® ETFs Globally
- Through BlackRock Solutions, the Firm provides risk management and enterprise investment services for over 200 clients
- Financial Markets Advisory business managed or advised on over \$8 trillion in asset and derivative portfolios
- Transition Management team partners with clients to save costs and reduce risks when changing investment exposures

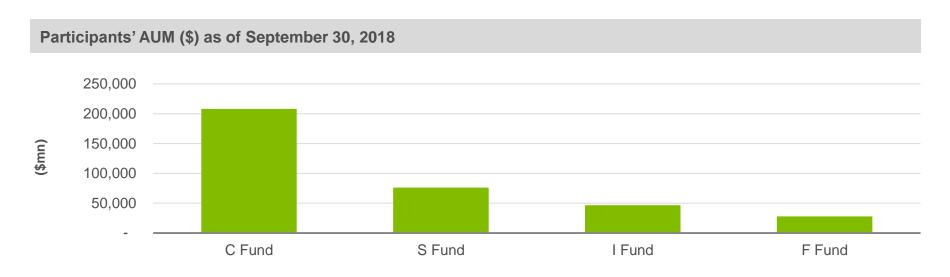


As of 30 September 2018. All figures are represented in USD.



# C, S, I, and F Funds Summary

# **Thrift Savings Plan – assets under management**



| Funds  | Benchmark  | AUM (\$) as of September 30, 2018 |  |
|--------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| C Fund | S&P 500® Index                                     | 208,123,501,806                   |  |
| S Fund | Dow Jones U.S. Completion Total Stock Market Index | 76,066,431,614                    |  |
| I Fund | MSCI EAFE Index                                    | 46,619,242,601                    |  |
| F Fund | Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index       | 27,691,936,033                    |  |
| Total  |  | 358,228,474,294                   |  |

# BlackRock equity indexing platform

# **ETF and Index Investments Business**

### **Manish Mehta**

Global Head of Investments, Products, and Markets

### Americas Portfolio Management

#### Alan Mason

Head of Americas Portfolio Management

### **Global Research**

### **Ananth Madhavan**

Global Head of ETF and Index Investment Research

### **Global Strategy**

### Jessica Irschick

Global Head of Index Product Strategy

# Head of Trading, Liquidity and Investments Platform

Richard Prager

**Risk & Quantitative Analysis (RQA) Group** 

# 47 years of experience driving index forward

### We constantly reinvest in and reinvent our business so our clients have access to high quality index solutions

- Drive the industry forward through our ability to create specialized, innovative investments afforded by our scale and depth of expertise
- Forge new ground for clients first manager to offer opportunities in equity index developed, emerging, and frontier markets
- ▶ Evolve capabilities to continuously deliver on emerging trends smart beta, global benchmarking, factor strategies
- Serve as an index advocate on behalf of clients and as a key partner to index providers seeking our practitioner knowledge

### 47 years of Index Equity — Continual evolution of products, technology and capabilities

# BlackRock Index Equity AUM

Index pioneer and innovator

Defined contribution capabilities

Emerging Market Equity Index World Equity Benchmark Shares (WEBS)

1991

Triple A: asset allocation PM tool iShares Exchange-Traded Funds Eliminated dividend flipping

enhancements

flipping
Risk model

EAFE Index Plus

Markets
Fundamentally
weighted
strategies

Frontier

Minimum Volatility ETFs Journey

Management

Project Vision

ESG fund series

1971 2018 Fund of fund structures Factor ETFs EM Directed FX Currency Aladdin **EAFE Equity** Income Hedged Investment Russell Index Migration Daily openings Index Equity and strategy **iShares EAFE** Analysis: **Funds** for all funds T-2 for **ETFs** currency **ETFs** First 401(k) index portfolio Small Securities International hedging management **Target Date** Cap Emerging Lending Fund (LifePath) tool Markets Small Cap

# **Philosophy**

# An approach that seeks to deliver efficient investment outcomes

BlackRock's disciplined, pragmatic and adaptable approach to index tracking is focused on optimally managing and balancing return, risk and cost.

# Return Risk Cost

# Risk Management

- Risk managed process that seeks to consistently deliver optimal tracking outcomes
- Market leading risk analytics and investment tools provided by our Aladdin® platform

**Total Performance Management** 

### **Consistent Return**

- Seeks to deliver consistent and reliable returns in line with the benchmark
- Deep knowledge of financial markets and indices
- Track record of enhanced returns from stock lending

### **Cost Efficiency**

- Preserve value for clients through our intelligent approach to index events
- Extensive global trading platform helps ensure cost are low and we have optimal access to liquidity

### Index investment management cycle – dedicated expertise and resources

### **Performance & Oversight**

- Review cumulative effect of investment decisions to help identify factors contributing to/subtracting from portfolio performance
- Risk & Quantitative Analysis Team (RQA) monitors dozens of risk factors globally on a continuous basis



### **Benchmark Knowledge**

- Detailed knowledge of index methodologies
- Experience with predicting and projecting index changes
- Focused on optimal treatment of corporate actions
- Continual research into index events

### **Efficient Trading**

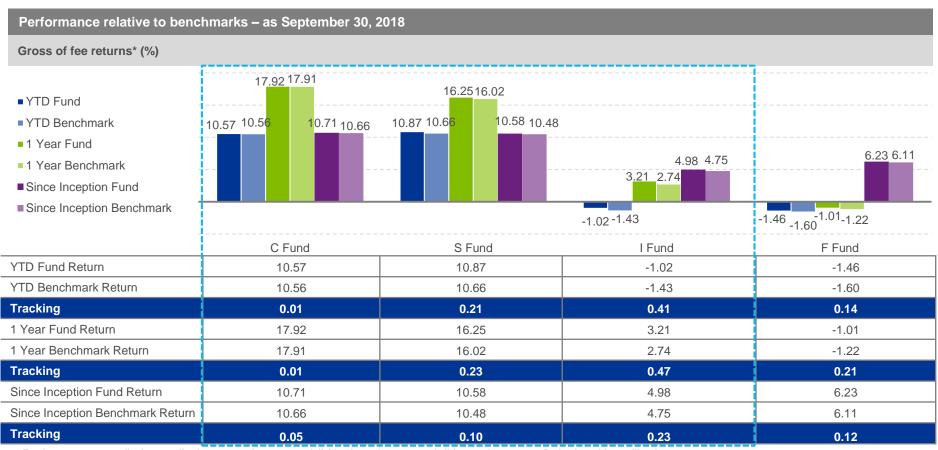
- Building smart trading strategies designed to access optimal liquidity
- Industry's largest internal market place for potential netting of client flows
- Focused trading research and systems

### **Portfolio Construction**

- Significant investment in technology
- Market leading portfolio and risk tools provided by our Aladdin® platform
- Integrated cost and liquidity analysis
- Knowledge of optimisation challenges



# **Thrift Savings Plan – performance**



Fund returns are unaudited, annualized, assume reinvestment of dividends, and are gross of all fees and expenses. Deduction of fees will reduce return.

A DC Fund's performance may differ from that of its benchmark for various reasons, including, but not limited to, investment strategy and/or, in the case of an index fund, equitization of cash (e.g., by investing in futures or other instruments that serve as a proxy for index exposure). A DC Fund's performance may differ from the performance of its benchmark more dramatically than a fund offered only to defined benefit plan investors due to several factors that are specific to funds sold to DC plan investors, including but not limited to Fair Value Pricing. In the event that current market valuations are not readily available or such valuations do not reflect current market values, the affected investments will be valued using fair values determined in good faith. The frequency with which the fund's investments are valued using fair values is primarily a function of the types of securities and other assets in which the fund invests pursuant to its investment objective, strategies and limitations. Fair values may differ from closing prices, which are the prices on which index performance is based. Consequently, valuing the fund's investments using fair values ("fair values") may result in a difference between the fund's performance (based on the value of the fund's investments) and the performance of the underlying index (based on closing prices).

Since Inception dates: C Fund - 4/30/1988; S Fund - 5/2/2001; I Fund - 5/2/2001; F Fund - 4/30/1988

Benchmarks: C Fund (S&P 500 Index), S Fund (Dow Jones U.S. Completion Total Stock Market Index), I Fund (MSCI EAFE Index), F Fund (Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index)

Past performance is no guarantee of future results

As of September 30, 2018; Source: BlackRock

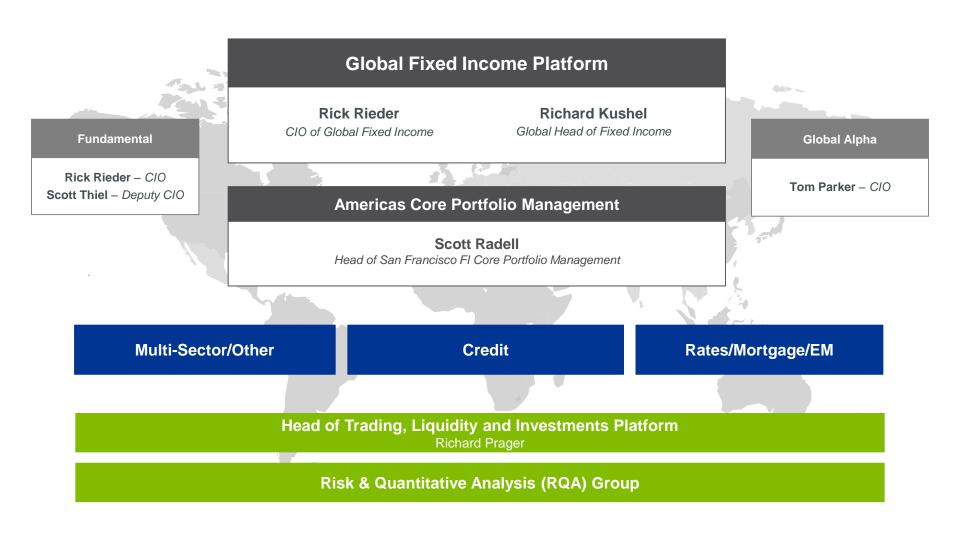


# Thrift Savings Plan – 1 Year performance attribution

|                         | C Fund             | S Fund                                  | I Fund                              | F Fund                                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Year Fund Return      | 17.92              | 16.25                                   | 3.21                                | -1.01                                   |
| 1 Year Benchmark Return | 17.91              | 16.02                                   | 2.74                                | -1.22                                   |
| Tracking                | 0.01               | 0.23                                    | 0.47                                | 0.21                                    |
| Attribution Summary     | Securities Lending | Securities Lending<br>Security Sampling | Tax Advantage<br>Securities Lending | Securities Lending<br>Security Sampling |

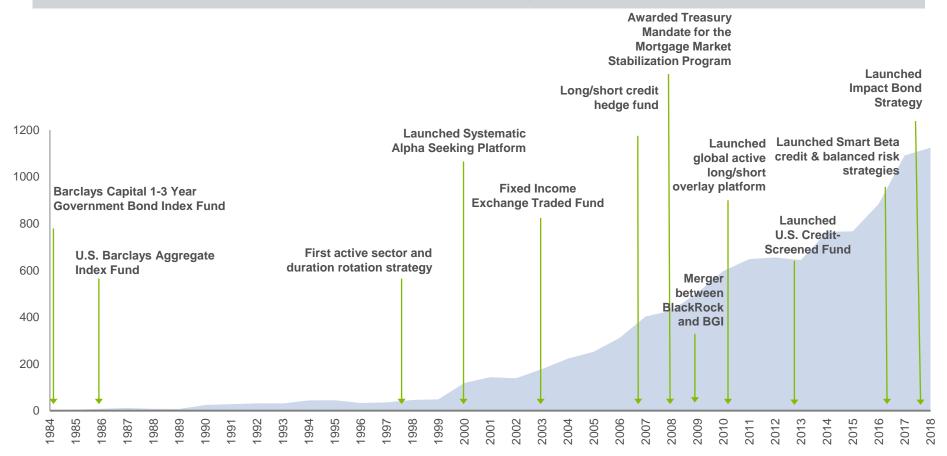
As of September 30, 2018

# BlackRock fixed income platform



# BlackRock is the global leader in fixed income indexing — Largest fixed income index and ETF manager globally.

### 30 years of index and model-based fixed income management



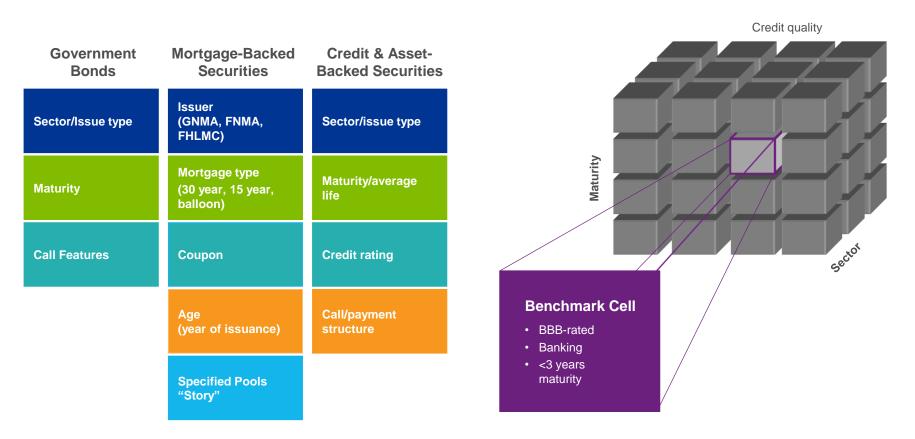
Source: BlackRock, as of June 2018

<sup>\*\*</sup> Source: Pension & Investments as of 30 June 2017



### Portfolio construction

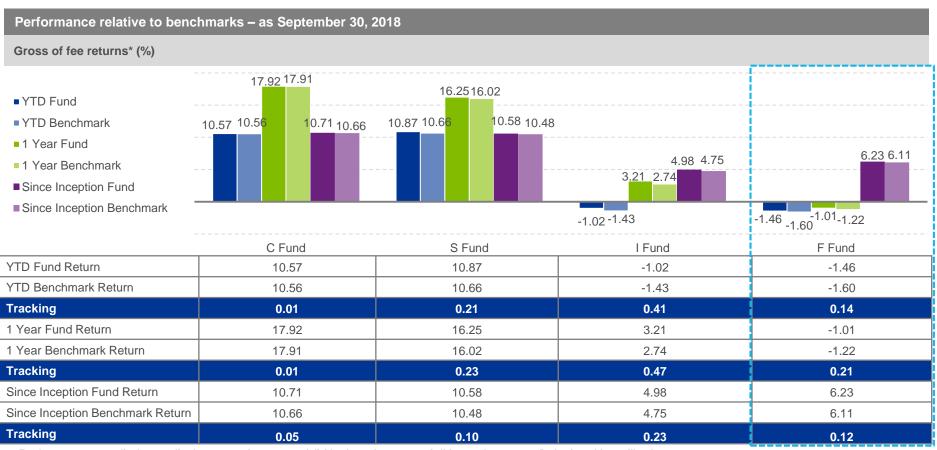
Stratified sampling: Dividing the various indexes into subsets (cells) based upon relative parameters



Portfolios are constructed by sampling bonds from each index cell

For illustrative purpose only

# Thrift Savings Plan – performance



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Benchmarks: C Fund (S&P 500 Index), S Fund (Dow Jones U.S. Completion Total Stock Market Index), I Fund (MSCI EAFE Index), F Fund (Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index) Past performance is no guarantee of future results

As of September 30, 2018; Source: BlackRock



# **Thrift Savings Plan – 1 Year performance attribution**

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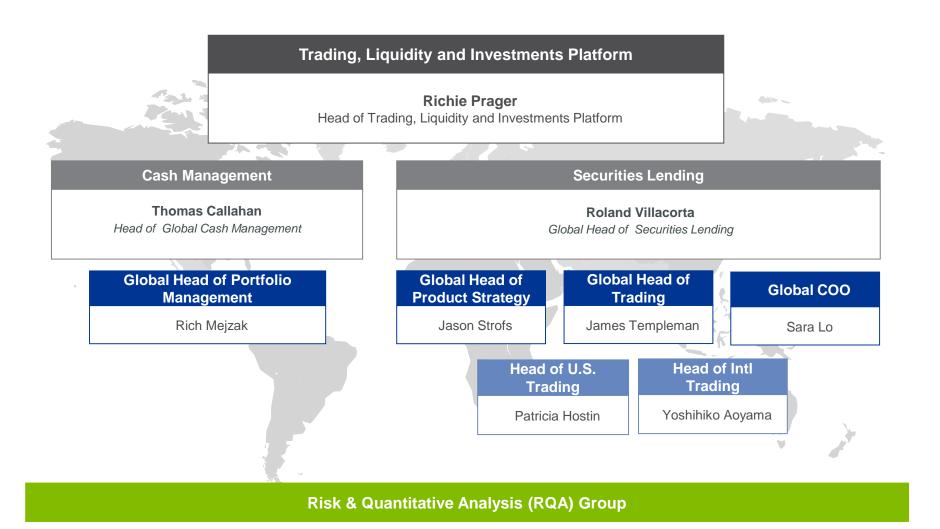
As of September 30, 2018

# Securities Lending Review

# **Benefits of securities lending**

- Securities lending is a well-established practice whereby an asset owner makes short-term loans of stocks or bonds to banks or broker dealers who often on-lend those securities to other end users
- Loans are over-collateralized with cash or other securities; collateralization levels are mark-to-market daily
- Investors, particularly long-term (e.g. pension and retirement plan) investors, can benefit from the securities lending income in the form of better fund performance
- Securities lending benefits the markets by providing increased price transparency, enhanced market liquidity and efficiency

# BlackRock securities lending & cash collateral management platform



As of September 30th, 2018

# A Focus on Technology and Analytics

### Technology is core to who BlackRock is as a firm:

- For over 30 years, BlackRock has been at the forefront of technological innovation, using technology to provide efficiencies and insights that provide better outcomes for clients.
- The firm continues to drive innovation, recently accelerating investment in the data science and artificial intelligence space.
- Securities lending is a data rich, OTC market where significant opportunity to enhance efficiency in the trading process exists.
- A focus on innovative technology, trading tools and data allow traders to focus solely on activities where human touch adds unique value.

| Standard<br>Low-Fee Loans  | Mid-Range<br>Medium-Fee Loans   | High-Demand<br>High-Fee Loans  |
|--|---|--|
| Low-touch trading  | Pricing Signals   | High-touch trading   |
| Automated trading of standard-fee loans liberates traders to focus on bespoke loans and perfecting trading models. | BlackRock's proprietary pricing signals and technological capabilities facilitate trading non-standard loans with little, if any, manual touch. | Our high-touch traders leverage proprietary technology, analytics and coordination with other investment teams with the aim to outperform the market in high-value trades. |
|  | o o   |  |

### Seeking to provide superior client outcomes:

• For clients, this may result in better performance outcomes, including more optimal trading of individual securities and the opportunity to generate higher risk-adjusted securities lending returns.

**RISK:** With securities lending there is a risk of loss should the borrower default before the securities are returned, and due to market movements the value of collateral held has fallen and/or the value of the securities on loan has risen.



## Market Update: Trends in equity and fixed income

### **Fixed Income trends:**

- As part of ongoing policy normalization, the Federal Reserve increased the target range of the federal funds rate three times in 2018. In combination with higher short-end interest rates, a significantly flatter Treasury yield curve has led investors to favor shorter duration fixed income instruments.
- While there have been few U.S. Treasury specials, borrowing demand has remained robust in 2018. The need for high quality liquid asset collateral has been the primary source of demand.
- Demand to borrow High grade U.S. dollar-denominated credit securities has remained steady in 2018, largely related to market making activities. Supranational issuers, Financials, Information Technology and Communications have been the sectors highest in demand.

### **Equity trends:**

- Equity returns in the U.S. have remained solid in 2018, lead by a combination of earnings expansion, robust economic activity, and continued momentum effects.
- Borrowing demand for US equities has remained steady in 2018, with increased shorting activities in certain sectors, particularly in Consumer Discretionary, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Communication sectors.
- The annual Russell Reconstitution at the end of June proved to be particularly profitable. Heavy borrower demand richened spreads on a number of illiquid securities
- Corporate action activity in various equity markets around the globe has been a significant source of borrower demand in 2018, most notably in France and the United States

This material represents an assessment of the market environment at a specific time and is subject to change. This is not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. This information should not be relied upon by the reader as research or investment advice regarding the funds, strategy or any security in particular.



### **Fund performance update**

### C Fund

- Utilization of large cap equities increased marginally in 2018, but overall continues to be low due to ample supply of securities in the lending market, increased interest from borrowers to post non-cash collateral, and strong outright equity market performance.
- Over the period (January 1, 2018 September 30, 2018), Fortive Corporation, Microchip Technology Inc, Omnicom Group Inc, and Visa Inc were the largest income earners, combining to generate \$3.6mm in lending income.

### S Fund

- Relative to large cap equities, small and mid-cap U.S. equity securities have been in greater demand from borrowers. Overall utilization remained steady compared with 2017, although spreads have increased.
- The Consumer Discretionary, Heath Care, and Information Technology sectors have been the most in demand, accounting for approximately 55% of the S Fund income in the period.
- Over the period (January 1, 2018 September 30, 2018), Tesla Inc, Sirius XM Holdings Inc, Ubiquiti Networks Inc, Energous Corp and Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Inc earned \$17.9mm in lending income.

### I Fund

- Corporate action focused loans are typically the primary source of income. The largest corporate action contributors to lending income were Total S.A., Kering S.A, and Danone S.A., combining for \$3.8mm over the period.
- Specials activity was most noticeable in the Asia, with Sharp Corporation, Kingston Financial Group LTD, and Cyberdyne Inc generating \$1.9mm in lending income over the period
- France is the largest income generating market earning accounting for approximately 53% of 1 Fund income.

### F Fund

- While U.S. Treasury securities account for approximately 85% of the lending income, demand to borrow credit securities continues to grow driven by market making and shorting activities.
- The primary source of lending return for fixed income securities continues to be attributed to cash collateral reinvestment.

The above commentary is representative of individual securities and markets of which demand exists to borrow securities from FRTIB's portfolios. There are no detractors to securities lending revenue, instead just securities with little to no demand to borrow from market participants.

References to any security and/or particular issuer shall not constitute a recommendation to buy or sell.



# **Appendix**

### Important notes

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### **Securities Lending Returns**

BlackRock retains a portion of securities lending returns in exchange for managing the program. This fee reflects risk management, as well as the technology and personnel costs of maintaining the lending platform. In addition, BlackRock receives a fee for the management of cash collateral. Actual lending yields and fees for strategies represented may vary. Please note, other administrative costs, including but not limited to, accounting, custody and audit fees, may vary. Investors may receive 50% of securities lending returns and BlackRock retains 50%, except in cases where a client may negotiate a different compensation arrangement. BlackRock may negotiate different securities lending compensation arrangements with our clients depending on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, the nature and size of the investment and the overall relationship with, and services delivered to, a particular client. Asset spread income is defined as the interest income earned in cash reinvestment funds on collateral balances less the Federal Funds Open Rate. Liability spread income is defined as the difference between the Federal Funds Open Rate and the rebate rate negotiated with the borrower.

### **Forward Looking Information**

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### **Money Market Fund**

Although a money market fund seeks to preserve the value of one's investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in a money market fund. Investment in a money market fund is not similar to making a bank deposit. This investment is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any bank or governmental agency.



### **Important notes**

#### Risk

Securities lending involves exposure to certain risks, including cash collateral investment risk (i.e., risk that cash collateral investments, whether in Cash Collateral Funds or otherwise, may not achieve their investment objective, including suffering realized or unrealized loss due to investment performance), "gap" risk (i.e., risk that the return on cash collateral investments is insufficient to pay the rebate fees the Lending Fund or Lending Account has committed to pay to borrowers), liquidity risk (i.e., risk that the cash collateral is invested, directly or through the Cash Collateral Funds, in securities and other instruments that are less liquid than the Lending Fund or Lending Account, which could limit the liquidity available to the Lending Fund or Lending Account for ordinary course transactions), operational risk (i.e., risk of losses resulting from problems in the settlement and accounting process), foreign exchange risk (i.e., risk of a shortfall at default when a cash collateral investment is denominated in a currency of the assets being loaned due to movements in foreign exchange rates), and credit, legal, counterparty and market risks. At any particular point in time, investments in the Cash Collateral Funds could comprise a material portion of a Lending Fund's assets.

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. Asset allocation and diversification strategies do not assure a profit and may not protect against loss or effects of market or other economic conditions on asset classes. Diversification among investment options and asset classes may help to reduce overall volatility.

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