

# Mutual Fund Investing at Merrill

**A Client Disclosure Pamphlet**  
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Mutual funds are not FDIC insured; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by, any financial institution; and are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.

Prospectuses for mutual funds can be obtained through the investor's sign-in area of [merrilledge.com](http://merrilledge.com). Clients of Merrill Advisory Center can also call 1.888.654.6837. If you're not currently a Merrill Edge client, please call 1.888.637.3343.

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Investment products:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value
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## Disclosure Statement (Continued)

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### Introduction

When selecting a mutual fund (also referred to herein as a “fund”) that fits your needs, there are several key factors to consider:

- The fund’s investment strategy
- The fund’s risk profile
- The fund’s investment performance
- The fund’s relationship to your overall asset allocation strategy, investment time horizon and liquidity needs
- The fund’s manager
- The fund’s fees and expenses, which will reduce investment returns

This pamphlet offers information about fees and expenses for the U.S. registered open-end mutual fund share classes available through Merrill, as well as the compensation that Merrill and its financial advisors earn with respect to mutual funds.

Merrill, a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp, offers a wide range of investment products and services, including many different open-end mutual funds. Mutual funds available through Merrill include (i) funds that are registered in the United States and typically only offered for sale to “U.S. persons” (“domestic” mutual funds) and (ii) funds that are domiciled outside of the United States and typically only available to people or entities that are not “U.S. persons” under Regulation S of the Securities Act of 1933 (“offshore” mutual funds). This pamphlet only refers to domestic mutual funds. For information about offshore mutual funds at Merrill, refer to the Offshore Mutual Fund Disclosure at [www.ml.com/funds](http://www.ml.com/funds).

Merrill offers its products, accounts and services through different service models, including:

- **Full-service-** Clients who work with a financial advisor or financial solutions advisor (collectively, “financial advisor”) in some capacity:
  - **Merrill Financial Advisor:** You work with a dedicated financial advisor (“Merrill financial advisor”) and have access to a wide range of securities and other investment products.
  - **Merrill Financial Solutions Advisor:** You decide to work with a Merrill financial solutions advisor

through our call center or at certain bank branches and the services you receive are limited by our internal policies.

- **Self-directed-** Clients who execute transactions on a self-directed basis without a relationship with a financial advisor.

### **Based on the service model, the same or similar products, accounts and services may vary in their price or fees charged to a client.**

In addition, you may be able to purchase mutual fund shares, including different share classes, directly from the mutual fund family, its distributor, or other financial intermediaries, without paying a fee or sales charge to Merrill or for lower fees and expenses. Further, some mutual funds have investment strategies that can be substantially similar to the strategies of other investment products, such as exchange traded funds and separately managed accounts. These other investment products can have lower costs and expenses but have different features, eligibility, and risks than mutual funds (e.g., exchangeability, certain discounts and waivers, or daily net asset value). You should be aware that a Merrill financial advisor’s compensation varies based on the type of investment product; therefore a Merrill financial advisor can receive more or less compensation if you invest in a mutual fund over another investment product.

You should consider and compare any eligible reasonably available alternatives to mutual funds in light of your particular investment profile. This comparison should take into account the potential costs and expenses of the product and any relevant alternatives as well as any tax considerations. For information, refer to the Guide to Pooled Investment Vehicles at Merrill at [www.ml.com/funds](http://www.ml.com/funds).

A review by, or under the supervision of personnel of, CIO, referred to as the “CIO Review Process,” is conducted on each mutual fund that Merrill makes available to its full-service clients. The CIO Review Process consists of (1) proprietary evaluation processes conducted by the CIO, and (2) processes and reviews provided by third parties that Merrill has engaged for this purpose. The third-party reviewers apply evaluation processes that are generally consistent with, but not identical to, the multi-factor processes that the

CIO applies. Merrill, through the CIO, reviews such third-party reviewers' evaluation processes on an ongoing basis and believes that such processes are reasonable and appropriate. Please note that Merrill and the third-party reviewers can differ with respect to their approach to analyzing and rating particular funds or share classes of funds. Accordingly, in certain instances, Merrill may continue to make available to clients funds or share classes that have been assigned a negative rating by such third-party reviewers; this is particularly likely to occur where a third-party reviewer's negative rating is driven solely by reference to the internal expenses associated with a particular share class, and not the total cost of ownership of such share class to the client.

*For more information on any mutual fund, please request a summary prospectus and/or a full prospectus from your financial advisor or Merrill Edge® Self-Directed investing Investment Center representative and read it carefully. Before investing, carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, sales charges and expenses of the fund. This and other information can be found in the fund's prospectus.*

### **U.S. Registered Mutual Fund Share Classes**

In order to accommodate different investing needs, many mutual funds offer more than one "class" of shares – generally front-end load (typically known as and referred to herein as "Class A shares"), level-load (typically known and referred to herein as "Class C shares"), and no-load or load-waived shares. Each share class represents an interest in the same mutual fund's investment portfolio, but with different fees and expenses. An investor who holds a more expensive share class of a mutual fund will pay higher fees over time—and earn lower investment returns—than an investor who holds a less expensive share class of the same fund. At Merrill, certain share classes offered by a mutual fund are limited to specific service models, or certain types of investors, accounts or programs. For example, certain no-load mutual fund share classes are available only through certain Merrill asset-based fee programs (e.g., institutional or "advisory" shares with no 12b-1 fees) and Merrill Edge self-directed investing accounts (e.g., load waived or no-load with 12b-1 fees), as described in their respective sections below. However, these share classes generally are not available to clients purchasing

mutual funds in a full-service brokerage account. For information about a particular mutual fund's share classes, you should review the fund's prospectus, including the fee table.

It is your responsibility to notify your financial advisor of any eligible holdings of a specific fund family held by your related accounts, whether at Merrill, with the fund family, or another intermediary, to ensure that the most advantageous share class is made available to you.

**The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") maintains a Mutual Fund Expense Analyzer tool on its website at [www.finra.org/fundanalyzer](http://www.finra.org/fundanalyzer) that may help you in making a decision about which share class is best for you.**

**Class A Shares.** Class A shares typically impose a front-end sales charge, also known as a "load", which you pay at the time of purchase. However, these funds typically have lower annual operating expenses than Class C shares, so they can be more economical for investors who have an intermediate to longer-term investment time horizon.

**How it works:** In general, when buying Class A shares, a front-end sales charge ranging from 0.00% to 5.75% is deducted from your initial investment at the time of purchase. When you purchase Class A shares through a Merrill financial advisor, Merrill generally only permits purchases of an amount of Class A shares where the sales charge is 3.5% or lower. The amount of the sales charge you pay varies based upon factors such as the fund's particular sales charge schedule, whether you are eligible for any discounts or waivers and/or the asset class of the fund. Based on your investment needs, if you are unable to complete the purchase of Class A shares due to the maximum 3.5% sales charge, you can choose to invest the same dollar amount in Class C shares or purchase an amount of Class A shares that would bring the sales charge to 3.5% or lower. Most of this front-end sales charge is paid to Merrill as a "dealer concession" or "dealer commission" and a portion of that amount is paid to your Merrill financial advisor (see discussion below). A fund may offer discounts on, or waivers of, a front-end sales charge depending on the terms set forth in the fund's prospectus and/or statement of additional information, such as rights

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### Disclosure Statement (Continued)

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of reinstatement, breakpoint discounts and rights of accumulation, and letters of intent, as described in more detail below.

If you purchase shares through certain Merrill platforms or accounts you may be eligible for other front-end sale charge waivers as described in the “*Merrill Sales Load Waiver and Discounts*” section below and in the Merrill-specific disclosure in the funds’ prospectuses.

**Reinstatement of Class A Shares:** Reinstatement privileges allow investors who have recently sold shares to purchase new shares of the same share class, within the same fund family, generally up to the dollar amount of the sale proceeds with no sales charge. At Merrill, shares will be reinstated provided (1) the repurchase is in a mutual fund within the same fund family; (2) the repurchase occurs within 90 calendar days from the redemption settlement date, and (3) the redemption and purchase occur in the same account. Automated transactions (i.e. systematic purchases and withdrawals) and purchases made after shares are automatically sold to pay Merrill’s account maintenance fees are not eligible for reinstatement.

Because Class A shares with no sales charge have lower annual 12b-1 and/or service fees than Class C shares, if you qualify for reinstatement privileges for Class A shares, you will not be able to purchase Class C shares of the same fund family until you use the full reinstatement privileges for Class A shares to which you are entitled.

Merrill’s reinstatement privileges apply to shares held in Merrill accounts, which can differ from the reinstatement privileges available for shares held outside of Merrill with the fund family, its distributor, or other financial intermediaries

**Breakpoints and Rights of Accumulation:** Mutual funds issuing Class A shares generally offer discounts, called “breakpoints,” on the front-end sales charge for larger investments or additional investments within the same fund family. For example, a mutual fund might impose a front-end sales charge of 3.00% for investments between \$50,000 and \$99,999 but reduce the charge to 2.50% for investments between \$100,000 and \$249,999, and further reduce or eliminate the front-end sales charge for even larger investments. Mutual fund investors are typically permitted to

aggregate holdings in related accounts (such as your own or those of certain family members) to calculate the appropriate breakpoint (called “rights of accumulation” or “ROA”). Your financial advisor can help you determine whether you are eligible for any breakpoint discounts.

Please refer to the “*Merrill Sales Load Waiver and Discounts*” section below or the Merrill-specific sales load waiver section of a fund’s prospectus to obtain fund-specific information on breakpoint discounts. It is your responsibility to notify your financial advisor of any eligible holdings of a specific fund family held by your related accounts, whether at Merrill, with the fund family or another intermediary, to ensure that the most advantageous breakpoint is made available to you.

**Letter of Intent:** A Letter of Intent (“LOI”) is a written statement that you sign to express your intent to invest a specific dollar amount of shares within a fund family within a specified time period (usually 13 months) that if bought all at once, would entitle you to an applicable breakpoint discount. Keep in mind that if you do not purchase the amount committed to within the specified time period, a sufficient amount of your fund shares can be sold to collect the difference between the full sales charge stated in the fund’s prospectus applicable to your actual purchase amount and the reduced sales charge that was originally charged to you. Merrill only offers an LOI feature with participating fund families that allow LOIs; see “*Merrill Sales Load Waiver and Discounts*” below or the Merrill-specific disclosure in the participating fund’s prospectus to obtain further information on LOIs. A list of participating fund families can be found at [www.ml.com/funds](http://www.ml.com/funds) under “Merrill SLWD Supplement”. Contact your financial advisor to obtain more information on the Merrill LOI or to request a copy of the Merrill LOI form. Purchases made outside of Merrill do not count towards LOIs established at Merrill.

Breakpoints, rights of accumulation, and LOIs can help reduce sales charges for investments within the same fund family. Investors can choose to invest across multiple fund families for many reasons, including potential diversification, as well as having the ability to invest in fund strategies that may not be available within the same fund family. It is important to consider that investing across multiple fund families reduces the opportunity to qualify for breakpoint, rights of accumulation, and LOI discounts or benefits.



*Net Asset Value ("NAV") Purchases and Contingent Deferred Sales Charge ("CDSC"):* Also keep in mind that mutual funds issuing Class A shares with a breakpoint that eliminates the front-end sales charge generally impose a CDSC, which is typically between 0.25% and 1.00% of the redemption amount, on purchases meeting that breakpoint if you redeem (sell) the shares during the first year or longer, with no CDSC thereafter. A CDSC reduces the amount of proceeds you receive when you sell all or a portion of your investment. CDSCs are typically paid to the fund's distributor or other service provider, not to Merrill or your Merrill financial advisor.

While a front-end sales charge will not be imposed when a certain breakpoint is reached, Merrill will typically receive up-front compensation of between 0.25% and 1.00% of the invested amount, paid by the fund's distributor or other service provider at the time of sale, and a portion of this amount is paid to your Merrill financial advisor (see discussion below).

Class A shares' annual operating expenses typically include an annual 12b-1 and/or service fee that ranges from between 0.00% and 0.50% of the net assets of the Class A shares. The 12b-1 and/or service fee for most funds offered at Merrill typically ranges between 0.20% and 0.30%. This annual 12b-1 and/or service fee is used to compensate the fund's distributor and/or firms like Merrill for distribution and/or ongoing personal shareholder services, maintenance of shareholder accounts, and/or related services, if applicable. A portion of this amount is paid to your Merrill financial advisor.

The dollar amount at which you should consider purchasing Class A shares of a fund can be evaluated using FINRA's Mutual Fund Expense Analyzer tool mentioned previously above. The tool will help analyze the fund's one-time front-end sales charge and annual operating expenses compared to the sales charges and the annual operating expenses of other share classes of the same fund.

**Class C Shares.** Class C shares typically do not assess a front-end sales charge when you buy shares. However, they often impose a CDSC and higher annual operating expenses. Class C shares become less economical compared to Class A

shares for investors who hold their investments over a longer term. In some instances, Class C shares are more economical for investors who have a short to intermediate investment horizon and are not investing a sufficient amount to qualify for a front-end sales charge breakpoint. Class C shares also may be more appealing to you if you prefer the flexibility to change your investments among different fund families periodically, without paying front-end sales charges or potential CDSCs, or if you prefer not to pay front-end sales charges on each transaction. At Merrill, purchases of Class C shares are not permitted if your aggregate holdings of Class C shares in your related accounts exceeds the lesser of (1) the purchase limit on aggregate Class C shares set forth in the fund's prospectus or (2) the net asset value breakpoint for Class A shares (both of which are typically \$250,000, \$500,000, or \$1 million).

Class C shares generally impose the following sales charges:

- Class C shares typically impose a CDSC of 1.00% of the redemption amount if you sell during the first year, with no CDSC thereafter. CDSCs are typically paid to the fund's distributor or other service provider, not to Merrill or your Merrill financial advisor.
- Class C shares generally include an annual 12b-1 and/or service fee that equal no more than 1.00% of the net assets of the Class C shares. This is higher than comparable charges or fees for the fund's Class A shares.

Merrill typically receives up-front compensation of 1.00% of the invested amount. This compensation is paid by the fund's distributor or other service provider at the time of sale, and a portion of this amount is paid to your Merrill financial advisor (see discussion below). The initial compensation paid to Merrill in connection with your purchase of Class C shares is generally lower than that paid on Class A share transactions. However, Merrill typically receives a higher annual 12b-1 and/or service fee in connection with your investment in Class C shares, generally between 0.50% to 1.00% of the net assets of the Class C shares.

This annual 12b-1 and/or service fee is used to compensate the fund's distributor and/or firms like Merrill for distribution and/or ongoing personal shareholder services, maintenance of shareholder

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### Disclosure Statement (Continued)

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accounts, and/or related services, if applicable. A portion of this amount is paid to your Merrill financial advisor.

Mutual funds may offer CDSC waivers in certain circumstances. Not all CDSC waivers included in the fund's prospectus or statement of additional information are available through Merrill. See *"Merrill Sales Load Waiver and Discounts"* below or the Merrill-specific disclosure in the participating fund families fund's prospectus for a full list of CDSC waivers available through Merrill.

The dollar amount at which you should consider purchasing Class C shares of a fund can be evaluated using FINRA's Mutual Fund Expense Analyzer tool mentioned previously above.

For participating fund families, Merrill will automatically exchange your Class C shares for Class A shares (or another eligible share class as disclosed in the fund's prospectus) of the same fund in the month following the 5-year anniversary of the purchase date. If a fund family's prospectus allows for automatic Class C share conversions (the fund's terminology for an exchange) sooner than 5 years from the date of purchase, the earlier prospectus conversion requirements will apply. Some funds do not have any Class C conversion features. In this case, your Class C shares held at Merrill will not be exchanged for Class A shares; please see the specific fund's prospectus for more information. In addition, some fund families do not participate in certain discounts, waivers and/or share class exchange rights available at Merrill ("non-participating fund families"). If you hold shares of funds from non-participating fund families in your Merrill account, you are eligible for the Class C share conversion rights set forth in the fund's prospectus, if applicable.

**Reinstatement of Class C Shares:** When you redeem Class C shares at Merrill, you can reinvest into Class C shares of mutual funds in the same fund family up to the dollar amount of the redemption proceeds without a CDSC period if the purchase is (1) in the same account and (2) if the purchase is within 90 calendar days of the redemption settlement date. Automated transactions (i.e. systematic purchases and withdrawals) and purchases made after shares are automatically sold to pay Merrill's account maintenance fees are not eligible for reinstatement at Merrill.

**Retirement, Institutional, No-Load, Load-Waived**  
In addition to Class A and C shares, other share classes that charge different fees may be available through Merrill. In most instances, only certain types of investors, accounts or programs qualify for these other classes. For example, some fund companies offer "retirement" shares through Merrill for certain types of retirement plans. These retirement shares do not charge an up-front sales charge or CDSC but may impose a 12b-1 and/or service fee and administration fees. Some fund families offer "institutional" or no-load shares, which do not charge an up-front sales charge, CDSC, or 12b-1 and/or service fee, which typically are only available in asset based fee programs. Finally, for Merrill Edge self-directed accounts, no-load or "load-waived" Class A shares do not charge an up-front sales charge or CDSC but can impose a 12b-1 and/or service fee or are assessed a transaction fee *For additional details, see the "Asset-Based Fee Programs", Retirement & Benefit Plan Services Programs, and "Merrill Edge Self-Directed Investing" sections below.*

**Mutual Fund Family Fund to Fund Exchange Privileges:** Mutual funds may permit investors to exchange their shares in one mutual fund into the same share class of another fund within the same fund family without a sales charge. Fund exchanges are subject to the exchange conditions set forth in the fund's prospectus and fund and share class availability at Merrill. Consult the fund's prospectus and statement of additional information to obtain fund-specific information on exchange privileges.

#### **Merrill Sales Load Waivers and Discounts**

Purchases or sales of Class A or Class C mutual fund shares through a Merrill platform or account will be eligible only for the following sales load waivers (front-end, contingent deferred, or back-end sales load waivers) and discounts. Other waivers and/or discounts may be disclosed in a fund's prospectus and differ from those offered by Merrill. Purchasers will have to buy mutual fund shares directly from the fund family, its distributor, or other financial intermediaries to be eligible for any such waivers or discounts offered by the mutual funds.

It is the client's responsibility to notify Merrill at the time of purchase or sale of any relationship or other facts that qualify the transaction for a waiver or discount. A Merrill representative may ask for

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### Disclosure Statement (Continued)

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reasonable documentation of such facts and Merrill may condition the granting of a waiver or discount on the timely receipt of such documentation.

Additional information on waivers and discounts is available in the Merrill "Mutual Fund Sales Load Waivers and Discounts Supplement" (the "Merrill SLWD Supplement") at [www.ml.com/funds](http://www.ml.com/funds). Clients are encouraged to review this document and speak with their financial advisor to determine whether a transaction is eligible for a waiver or discount.

If you hold shares of funds from non-participating fund families in your Merrill account, you are eligible for the CDSC waivers and Class C share conversion rights set forth in the fund's prospectus, if applicable. Consult the fund's prospectus or statement of additional information for information.

For participating fund families, the following sales load waivers and discounts will apply to transactions in your Merrill brokerage account:

#### *Front-end Load Discounts*

- Breakpoint discounts, as described in the Merrill SLWD Supplement, where the sales load is at or below the maximum sales load that Merrill permits to be assessed to a front-end load purchase
- Rights of Accumulation (ROA), as described in the Merrill SLWD Supplement, which entitle clients to breakpoint discounts based on the aggregated holdings of mutual fund family assets held in accounts in their Merrill Household (as defined in the Merrill SLWD Supplement)
- LOIs, which allow for breakpoint discounts on eligible new purchases based on anticipated future eligible purchases within a fund family at Merrill, in accounts within your Merrill Household (as defined in the Merrill SLWD Supplement)

#### *Front-end Sales Load Waivers*

- Shares of mutual funds available for purchase by employer-sponsored retirement, deferred compensation, and employee benefit plans (including health savings accounts) and trusts used to fund

those plans provided the shares are not held in a commission-based brokerage account and shares are held for the benefit of the plan. For purposes of this provision, employer-sponsored retirement plans do not include SEP IRAs, Simple IRAs, SAR-SEPs or Keogh plans

- Shares purchased through the Merrill Edge Self-Directed platform
- Shares purchased through the systematic reinvestment of capital gains distributions and dividend reinvestment when purchasing shares of the same mutual fund in the same account
- Shares exchanged from level-load shares to front-end load shares of the same mutual fund in accordance with the description in the Merrill SLWD Supplement<sup>1</sup>
- Shares purchased by eligible employees of Merrill or its affiliates and their family members who purchase shares in accounts within the employee's Merrill Household (as defined in the Merrill SLWD Supplement)
- Shares purchased by eligible persons associated with the fund as defined in the fund's prospectus (e.g. the fund's officers or trustees)
- Shares purchased from the proceeds of a mutual fund redemption in front-end load shares provided (1) the repurchase is in a mutual fund within the same fund family; (2) the repurchase occurs within 90 calendar days from the redemption trade date, and (3) the redemption and purchase occur in the same account (known as rights of reinstatement or reinstatement privileges). Automated transactions (i.e. systematic purchases and withdrawals) and purchases made after shares are automatically sold to pay Merrill's account maintenance fees are not eligible for rights of reinstatement

#### *CDSC Waivers on Front-end, Back-end, and Level Load Shares*

- Shares sold due to the client's death or disability (as defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 22E(3))

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<sup>1</sup> Level-load shares held in employer-sponsored retirement, deferred compensation, and employee benefit plan (including health savings

accounts) accounts will not be exchanged for front-end load shares. Contact your financial advisor to confirm your account's eligibility.



- Shares sold pursuant to a systematic withdrawal program subject to Merrill's maximum systematic withdrawal limits as described in the Merrill SLWD Supplement
- Shares sold due to return of excess contributions from an IRA account
- Shares sold as part of a required minimum distribution for IRA and retirement accounts due to the investor reaching the qualified age based on applicable IRS regulation
- Shares exchanged from back-end load (i.e. Class B) shares to front-end load shares of the same mutual fund
- Front-end or level-load shares held in commission-based, non-taxable retirement brokerage accounts (e.g. traditional, Roth, rollover, SEP IRAs, Simple IRAs, SAR-SEPs or Keogh plans) that are transferred to fee-based accounts or platforms and exchanged for a lower cost share class of the same mutual fund

#### **Asset-Based Fee Programs**

You can purchase mutual funds through various asset-based fee programs available at Merrill, including discretionary and non-discretionary programs. In these programs, you pay Merrill an annual fee based on a percentage of the value of the assets held in your Merrill account associated with these programs.

These asset-based fee programs allow you to purchase institutional shares, "no-load" shares, or another share class without a front-end sales charge or CDSC ("Advisory Share Classes") that are not available for purchase in a Merrill brokerage account that offers mutual funds that have sales charges or transaction fees. The total cost of purchasing and holding mutual fund shares through an asset-based fee program may be more or less than investing in mutual fund shares in a Merrill brokerage account that is serviced by your financial advisor, or through a Merrill Edge self-directed investing account, depending on various factors including but not limited to, the amount of the asset-based fee, the amount and frequency of mutual fund purchases, the amounts of assets within the same fund family, the anticipated holding period, and the specific mutual fund shares in which you invest. For example, purchasing and holding Class A shares of a mutual fund in a Merrill brokerage account, with a front-end sales charge eliminated due to breakpoints and rights of accumulation, will

have a lower total cost than purchasing and holding an Advisory Share Class in an asset-based fee program. Conversely, purchasing and redeeming Class A shares, within a short timeframe, in a Merrill brokerage account with a smaller investment amount and a maximum front-end sales charge will likely have a higher total cost than purchasing and redeeming an Advisory Share Class, within the same timeframe, in an asset-based fee program.

Advisory Share Classes are not available for purchase in a Merrill brokerage account. Fund share classes available for brokerage accounts generally have higher operating expenses than Advisory Share Classes and will charge sales loads and 12b-1 and/or service fees, which are used to compensate Merrill and your Merrill financial advisor. This creates a conflict of interest because it provides an incentive for your Merrill financial advisor to advise or recommend that you terminate your asset-based fee program account and open a brokerage account or move individual positions to a brokerage account if the sales loads and 12b-1 and/or service fees are higher than the program fee. Conversely, Merrill financial advisors could have an incentive to recommend purchasing mutual funds in an asset-based fee program account because they earn ongoing compensation based on the program fee, which is used to compensate Merrill and your Merrill financial advisor and can be higher than the sales load and 12b-1 and/or service fees that they are compensated on in a brokerage account.

In addition, certain model portfolios, only available in Merrill's asset-based fee program, invest your assets in funds. Clients enrolled in these models indirectly incur the funds' expenses. If the model portfolio is managed by a third-party investment manager that invests in funds that are proprietary to that manager, the manager receives a portion of the proprietary funds' expenses directly from the funds as compensation. This provides an incentive for the third-party manager to select proprietary funds for the model portfolio with higher expenses over funds, including proprietary funds, with lower expenses and creates a conflict of interest relating to the third-party manager's selection of funds. You should ask your Merrill financial advisor for more information about these cost differences and whether an asset-based fee program might be right for you.

In the event your advisory agreement governing your asset-based fee program account is

terminated and you transition your holdings to a Merrill brokerage account, or you transfer Advisory Share Class holdings from an asset-based fee program account to a Merrill brokerage account, Merrill will exchange the positions from Advisory Share Classes to brokerage share classes after you transition to a brokerage account, if available. Brokerage share classes have different expenses than Advisory Share Classes (including 12b-1 and/or service fees). While the exchange transaction will not be a taxable event and will not be subject to sales loads, all future purchase transactions in the fund will be subject to sales loads and fees as detailed in the fund's prospectus. Not all exchanged funds will be available for subsequent purchases in a brokerage account. Please note that this exchange provision will not apply to Advisory Share Classes that are purchased in asset-based fee program retirement plan accounts or trust managed accounts that are transitioned to a Merrill brokerage account even if the asset-based fee program account is terminated.

#### **Retirement & Benefit Plan Services Program**

You can purchase mutual funds through various retirement or benefit plans and custodial accounts for certain individually held retirement plans or arrangements available at Merrill. For these programs, the share class availability may be determined by the plan sponsor, the size or nature of the plan, or other factors. Terms and pricing (including discounts, waivers, exchanges and conversions) for mutual funds offered through retirement plans can differ from other programs. In addition, the compensation paid to Merrill or to the Merrill financial advisor differs from what is described in the sections below. For more information, including information on fees and compensation, please contact your Merrill financial advisor or the retirement or benefit plan's sponsor or refer to the fund's prospectus and statement of additional information. For purposes of this section plans do not include SEP IRAs, Simple IRAs, SAR-SEPs or Keogh plans.

#### **Merrill Edge® Self-Directed Investing**

Mutual funds are available through a Merrill Edge self-directed investing account and are subject to service, transaction, short-term redemption, and other fees, which are described on the Merrill Edge website at [www.merrilledge.com/pricing](http://www.merrilledge.com/pricing). Merrill Edge self-directed investing is designed for U.S. - based investors who wish to make their own investment

choices in a Merrill Edge self-directed investing account. In addition to access to certain no-load or load-waived Class A shares, you may be able to purchase a less expensive share class of a fund through a Merrill Edge self-directed investing account than through your financial advisor. These share classes are not available to clients purchasing shares in a full-service brokerage account.

The funds and share classes available through a Merrill Edge self-directed investing account, and the related fees, may vary and may change from time to time. You should consult the Merrill Edge website to determine which specific funds and share classes are available at any given time. You may be able to purchase these funds or share classes directly from the fund family, its distributor, or other financial intermediaries without paying a fee to Merrill, or for lower fees or expenses than if you purchase through a Merrill Edge self-directed investing account. If you have any questions, please contact an Investment Center representative.

Generally, fund sponsors that make share classes of their funds available through Merrill Edge self-directed investing accounts on a no-load or load-waived basis pay a fee to Merrill of between 0.10% and 0.40% annually of the value of shares held through Merrill Edge (some mutual funds pay Merrill both a "per account" fee and a percentage fee of less than 0.40%. The aggregate of these fees may exceed 0.40% in certain cases). This fee compensates Merrill for development, operation and maintenance of the Merrill Edge service, the servicing of Merrill Edge self-directed investing accounts that purchase shares of these mutual funds, and the sub-accounting and related services described below. Investment Center representatives do not make recommendations or receive compensation on the sale of mutual funds.

#### **Compensation of Merrill, Merrill Financial Advisors and Their Managers**

Merrill and Merrill financial advisors' compensation varies depending on the fund sponsor, fund product or share class, and the availability of discounts such as breakpoints. It also depends on whether mutual fund shares are purchased through a Merrill brokerage account, an account enrolled in an asset-

## Mutual Fund Investing at Merrill

### Disclosure Statement *(Continued)*

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based fee program, or a self-directed investing account. The fund share-class specific compensation and asset-based fee program compensation (described above) are the basis upon which Merrill financial advisors are paid. For brokerage accounts, the portion of Merrill's compensation that is paid to its Merrill financial advisors is calculated by the same formula regardless of which funds are purchased. However, some share classes of a fund carry higher front-end sales charges, 12b-1 and/or service fees than others (e.g., Class A shares may have higher front-end sales charges and therefore pay higher up-front compensation than Class C shares). In addition, some funds may set higher front-end sales charges and/or 12b-1 and/or service fees than other funds. As a result of these differences, Merrill and/or a Merrill financial advisor may receive more or less compensation depending on the share class or fund you purchase. This creates a conflict of interest because the different compensation provides Merrill and/or Merrill financial advisors with an incentive to recommend share classes or funds that pay more compensation over those that pay less. In addition, the compensation Merrill and/or Merrill financial advisors receive when a client is eligible for a breakpoint discount is typically lower than the compensation received for a purchase that is not eligible for a breakpoint discount. Further, breakpoint schedules vary from fund to fund. As a result, Merrill and/or Merrill financial advisors have an incentive to recommend the purchase of an amount of a mutual fund that will not provide the client with the benefit of a breakpoint.

To address the conflict of interest related to the variable nature of how Merrill financial advisors are compensated for the sale of Class A shares, Merrill has a policy that pays Merrill financial advisors a standardized, level commission for the sale of Class A shares depending on the fund's asset class (e.g., equity, fixed income or other asset class, such as an asset allocation fund) and the amount of the Class A shares purchased. This eliminates the conflict of interest for Merrill financial advisors to choose a Class A share of a fund in a particular asset class that pays a higher commission than a Class A share of another fund in that asset class. Under the policy, Merrill receives the sales charges disclosed in the fund's prospectus. Therefore, to the extent the sales charges collected from the sales of mutual fund Class A shares exceeds the

commissions paid to Merrill financial advisors, Merrill will retain the difference.

Merrill also sets a limit as to the maximum portion of front-end sales charge and 12b-1 and/or service fee included in the Merrill financial advisors' compensation formula based on the share class and size of investment. All mutual funds available at Merrill are subject to this policy. When a fund has a front-end sales charge and 12b-1 and/or service fee that exceeds the policy limit, Merrill retains the difference, and it is not paid as compensation to the Merrill financial advisor. For brokerage accounts, Merrill only offers and recommends mutual funds that pay 12b-1 fees. As a result, Merrill has a conflict of interest in selecting certain funds and share classes for inclusion as part of its product offering available to you over others. Therefore, you should not assume that you will be invested in the share class with the lowest possible fees and expenses that the fund sponsor makes available to the investing public.

From time to time, Merrill may recognize certain Merrill financial advisors through promotional programs that factor in, among other criteria, overall sales of mutual funds. These programs may reward Merrill financial advisors with compensation, including attendance at off-site locations and/or various employee training sessions that may be sponsored or co-sponsored by fund companies whose funds Merrill makes available.

Merrill financial advisors' managers are compensated differently than the Merrill financial advisors, reflecting their different responsibilities and accountabilities. However, the portion of total compensation earned by Merrill with respect to mutual fund sales that is paid to managers is calculated pursuant to the same formula for all funds.

Merrill addresses conflicts related to how Merrill financial advisors and managers are compensated in a variety of ways, including the disclosure of the conflicts in this pamphlet. Moreover, Merrill financial advisors are required to recommend or select mutual funds in accordance with the applicable standard of care.

In addition, Merrill has established a variety of policies, procedures, restrictions and disclosures

## Mutual Fund Investing at Merrill

### Disclosure Statement (Continued)

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designed to address and to monitor for these potential conflicts of interest, both those arising between and among accounts as well as between accounts and Merrill's business. Further, Merrill selects mutual funds that are covered by the CIO Review Process.

Additional information on compensation and conflicts of interest is available in the [Regulation Best Interest Disclosure Statement](#).

#### **Compensation of Merrill Financial Solutions Advisors**

Merrill compensates Merrill financial solutions advisors differently than Merrill financial advisors. Merrill Financial solutions advisors are not compensated based on mutual fund purchases. Instead, Merrill financial solutions advisors receive a salary and incentive compensation based on the assets included in an account and on assets that are enrolled in accounts that are opened and funded as a result of these advisors' efforts. Additional information on compensations and conflicts of interest is available in the [Regulation Best Interest Disclosure Statement](#).

#### **Fund Families' Cost Sharing for Training Events and Other Meetings & Gifts, Meals and Entertainment**

Fund family representatives periodically participate in Merrill-hosted internal training and education conferences for invited Merrill financial advisors and Merrill-hosted client and prospect events, like seminars, trade shows and booth events and share in the costs of such events.

In addition, fund families periodically host educational meetings for Merrill financial advisors ("Manager Meetings") where Merrill financial advisors are provided with information on products, services and related practice management educational topics as well as the opportunity to interact with investment and sales personnel. Fund families are permitted to pay for eligible costs associated with such meetings, including the Merrill financial advisors cost of travel and accommodation and continuing education fees.

Furthermore, fund family representatives are permitted to provide gifts, meals and entertainment subject to the limits established under Merrill's internal policies and also can provide monetary support directly to charities for charitable events that Merrill employees attend or

can contribute, from time to time, to charitable events and causes that Merrill supports.

The participation of, and payment of costs by, a fund family for conferences, client events, and Manager Meetings, and the provision of gifts, entertainment and charitable sponsorships or donations present conflicts of interest. They create incentives for Merrill financial advisors to recommend products of participating third-party firms. Additional information on these conflicts of interest is available in the [Regulation Best Interest Disclosure Statement](#).

#### **Additional Merrill Services and Compensation**

In addition to receiving dealer concessions and 12b-1 and/or service fees in connection with clients' purchasing and holding mutual fund shares, Merrill provides other services for which it may receive additional compensation from funds or their affiliates. This compensation is often but not always disclosed in detail in a fund's prospectus, summary prospectus, statement of additional information or website.

Merrill only makes available to its clients shares of those mutual funds whose affiliates have entered into contractual arrangements with Merrill that generally include the payment of one or more of the fees described below. The following fees do not purchase placement on any preferred lists or any special positioning or coverage of certain funds by Merrill. These fees are used to cover the types of services outlined below and are not passed on to Merrill financial advisors or their managers as compensation.

*Sub-Accounting Related Services.* Merrill provides various sub-accounting services (as defined below) and other related administrative services with respect to each mutual fund position held in an account at Merrill. These services include, for example, aggregating and processing purchases, redemptions, exchanges, dividend distribution and reinvestment, consolidated account statements, tax reporting, and other recordkeeping and reporting services ("sub-accounting services"). For these services, Merrill receives sub-accounting fees paid by the mutual fund or by its adviser, principal underwriter or another agent on its behalf. Merrill does not retain compensation for annual 12b-1 and/or service fee or for sub-accounting services for mutual funds held in retirement accounts in asset-based fee programs.



Depending on the specific arrangements, as compensation for these sub-accounting services, Merrill receives from all the fund families with share classes that charge sales loads either typically between \$16 annually for each position or 0.10% annually of the value of fund shares held in a client's account at Merrill, depending on the fund company's election. In the case of the no-load fund shares, the sub-accounting, administrative services, distribution and marketing services and support fees payable by no-load fund companies are typically bundled into one asset-based fee typically between 0.10% to 0.35% (which may include up to a 0.25% 12b-1 and/or service fee) annually of the value of shares held in a client's account at Merrill.

Sub-accounting service arrangements and the amount of the compensation paid to Merrill varies by fund and by share class. Merrill receives the agreed-upon sub-accounting fee for providing these sub-accounting services and this cost is either borne by the mutual fund (like other mutual fund expenses) as part of its operating costs or by its adviser, principal underwriter or other agent.

Merrill only offers funds and fund share classes that pay Merrill for sub-accounting related services. A fund may offer a share class that does not include a fee for these services. Accordingly, you should not assume that you will be invested in the share class with the lowest possible fees and expenses that the fund sponsor makes available to the investing public. It is generally in your best interest to purchase lower fee share classes because your returns are not reduced in whole or part by additional fees and expenses. In addition, funds that would otherwise meet Merrill's criteria for inclusion on its product platform but whose principal underwriters, agents or sponsors do not agree to pay such fees will not be available for purchase in your account at Merrill, thereby limiting the available universe of mutual funds and share classes available to you.

You should be aware that the amount of sub-accounting fees paid by the different funds varies among funds and, in certain instances, between share classes of individual funds. Therefore, Merrill receives more sub-accounting fees from some funds than it receives from others. This results in a conflict of interest because it creates an incentive for Merrill to recommend that you invest in mutual funds and/or share classes that

pay higher fees.

Merrill addresses conflicts related to sub-accounting fees for the services described in this section in a variety of ways, including the disclosure of the conflicts in this pamphlet. In addition, Merrill selects mutual funds that are available on its platforms based on qualitative and quantitative evaluation of such factors as performance, risk management policies and procedures and on the consistency of the execution of their strategy. Merrill also has adopted various policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent the receipt of sub-accounting fees from affecting the nature of the advice or recommendations provided to clients by Merrill financial advisors, although such policies and procedures do not eliminate such conflicts of interest. Merrill financial advisors do not have an incentive to recommend or select certain funds or share classes that pay sub-accounting fees because Merrill financial advisors do not receive additional compensation as a result of these types of payments.

*Marketing Services and Support.* For certain brokerage accounts, Merrill provides a variety of distribution, marketing services and support to sponsors of mutual funds that are available through Merrill. These services include, but are not limited to the provision of: a mutual fund specialist support desk for financial advisors or Investment Center representatives to answer questions regarding their funds; work stations that include information, announcements, data, and tools relating to their funds; ongoing review and implementation of features and restrictions imposed by their funds; strategic planning support that is intended to assist fund sponsors with strategies that are aligned with Merrill's investment themes and goals; making Merrill financial advisors or other employees available for education regarding their funds; sales related reports and other information; and branch office support, including phones, computers, conference rooms, as well as facilities and personnel support for prospectuses, summary prospectuses, and promotional and other materials relating to their funds.

In addition to the front-end and 12b-1 and/or service fees discussed in the "U.S. Registered Mutual Fund Share Classes" section, Merrill receives compensation for purchases made through brokerage accounts from fund sponsors for its distribution, marketing services and support



generally ranging from 0.035% to 0.25% on a portion of mutual fund purchases and from 0.035% to 0.10% annually on a portion of mutual fund assets. Merrill typically receives 0.25% on a portion of mutual fund purchases and 0.10% annually on a portion of mutual fund assets from most fund sponsors. Unlike 12b-1 and/or service fees, marketing services and support fees are not generally paid from the fund's assets and are typically paid from the profits of the fund's investment advisor, distributor or other fund affiliate. The amount of compensation Merrill receives from funds for marketing services and support can exceed the cost of the services provided in any given year. Merrill does not receive or retain these marketing service and support fees with respect to the underlying investment options that serve as funding vehicles for variable insurance and variable annuity products and for Merrill retirement or benefit plan clients or for asset-based fee programs but does receive fees from sub-accounting services (except as described below).

In brokerage accounts, Merrill only offers funds from fund families that pay Merrill marketing services and support fees. Further, mutual funds that would otherwise meet Merrill's criteria for inclusion on its product platform but whose principal underwriters, agents or sponsors do not agree to pay such marketing services and support fees will not be available for purchase in your brokerage account at Merrill, thereby limiting the available universe of mutual funds available to you. You should be aware that the amount of marketing services and support fees paid by the different mutual fund families varies, therefore Merrill receives more fees from some fund families than it receives from others. This results in a conflict of interest because it creates an incentive for Merrill to recommend that you invest in mutual funds from fund families that pay higher marketing services and support fees.

Merrill addresses conflicts related to marketing services and support fees for the services described in this section in a variety of ways, including the disclosure of the conflicts in this pamphlet. In addition, Merrill selects mutual funds that are available on its brokerage platforms based on qualitative and quantitative evaluation of such factors as performance, risk management policies and procedures and on the consistency of the execution of their strategy. Merrill has also adopted various policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent the receipt of marketing services and support fees from

affecting the nature of the advice or recommendations provided to clients by Merrill financial advisors, although such policies and procedures do not eliminate such conflicts of interest. Merrill financial advisors do not have an incentive to recommend certain funds or share classes that pay marketing services and support fees because Merrill financial advisors do not receive additional compensation as a result of these types of payments.

A list of mutual fund families that paid Merrill \$100,000 or more in marketing support payments and the range of marketing services and support payments received as of the prior calendar year is available at [www.ml.com/funds](http://www.ml.com/funds) under "Marketing Support Disclosure".

*Certain Retirement/Benefit Program Administration Fees.* Merrill receives fees from fund sponsors whose funds are made available to Merrill retirement or benefit plan clients. These fees compensate Merrill for providing sub-accounting services and/or administrative services to the retirement or benefit plan's sponsor, in connection with these funds. For more information, including information on fees and compensation, please contact the retirement or benefit plan's sponsor or refer to the fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, which you may request from the fund.

### **Money Market Mutual Funds**

Merrill makes certain money market mutual funds available for purchase in a Merrill account ("Money Funds"). The Money Funds typically require a client to place a purchase or redemption order in order to transact in a Money Fund. A limited number of Money Funds are made available to certain accounts as an automatic cash sweep option as described within the specific account agreement.

Merrill also makes available a limited number of money market mutual funds to give clients the ability to exchange assets from mutual funds within the same fund family ("Exchange-Only Money Funds," and together with Money Funds, "Money Market Funds"). If you would like the ability to exchange into a different fund family's Exchange-Only Money Fund, you will need to open an account, outside of your relationship with Merrill, directly with that fund family's transfer agent or other service provider. For purposes of this pamphlet, Exchange-Only Money Funds are

## Mutual Fund Investing at Merrill

### Disclosure Statement (Continued)

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made available on the same terms as mutual funds described in the preceding sections in respect to available share classes, fees and expenses, and compensation to Merrill.

Similar to the information provided in the “U.S. Registered Mutual Fund Share Classes” section above, the Money Funds available at Merrill may offer more than one “class” of shares. Each share class represents an interest in the same investment portfolio but may have or be subject to different fees and expenses. The availability and eligibility requirements of share classes offered by a Money Fund are typically outlined in the prospectus and statement of additional information of the fund and may vary from class to class.

For brokerage accounts, the Money Funds available at Merrill are not subject to front-end sales charges, but they can include an annual 12b-1 and/or service fee or administrative service fee ranging from 0.00% to 0.50%. However, the Money Funds available for purchase in your Merrill brokerage account typically do not include these fees. Money Funds available to certain brokerage and asset-based fee accounts as an automatic cash sweep option typically include a 0.40% administrative service fee. Fund families may offer a share class of the Money Fund that does not include these annual 12b-1 and/or service fee or administrative service fees. In addition, you may be able to purchase other share classes that have lower fees and expenses directly from the fund company or its distributor, or through other financial intermediaries. It is generally in your best interest to purchase lower fee share classes because your returns are not reduced in whole or part by additional fees and expenses.

Assets held in the Money Funds are also financially beneficial to Merrill. Merrill provides distribution and marketing services and support (see *Marketing Services and Support* section above) with respect to the Money Funds. In consideration of the provision of marketing services and support, Merrill receives compensation between 0.045% and 0.10% annually of the value of Money Fund shares held in Merrill accounts, but typically receives between 0.09% and 0.10% from fund sponsors. Merrill does not receive these marketing services and support fees in asset-based fee programs.

In addition, Merrill provides various sub-accounting and other related administrative services with respect to each Money Fund position held in an account at Merrill (see *Sub-Accounting Related Services* section above). As compensation for these services, Merrill receives up to 0.005% annually of the value of Money Fund shares held in a client's account at Merrill. Merrill does not retain compensation for annual 12b-1 and/or service fee or administrative service fees or for sub-accounting services for Money Funds held in retirement accounts in asset-based fee programs.

In brokerage accounts, Merrill only offers Money Funds from fund families that pay marketing services and support fees and, for all accounts, sub-accounting fees. Therefore, Money Funds that would otherwise meet Merrill's criteria for inclusion on its product platform but whose principal underwriters, agents or sponsors do not agree to pay such fees will not be available for purchase in your brokerage and/or asset-based account at Merrill, thereby limiting the available universe of funds available to you. You should be aware that the amount of marketing services and support fees and sub-accounting fees paid by the different fund families varies, therefore Merrill receives more fees from some fund families than it receives from others. This results in a conflict of interest because it creates an incentive for Merrill to recommend or select Money Funds from fund families that pay higher fees.

Merrill addresses conflicts related to marketing services and support and sub-accounting fees in a variety of ways, including the disclosure of the conflicts in this pamphlet. In addition, Merrill selects Money Funds that are available on its platforms based on qualitative and quantitative evaluation of such factors as performance, risk management policies and procedures and on the consistency of the execution of their strategy. Merrill has also adopted various policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent the receipt of marketing services and support and sub-accounting fees from affecting the nature of the advice or recommendations provided to clients by Merrill financial advisors, although such policies and procedures do not eliminate such conflicts of interest. Merrill financial advisors do not have an incentive to recommend or select certain Money Funds or share classes that pay these fees because Merrill financial advisors do not receive additional compensation as a result of these types of payments.

*Certain Retirement/Benefit Program Administration Fees.* Merrill receives fees from Money Fund sponsors whose Money Funds are made available to Merrill retirement or benefit plan clients. These fees compensate Merrill for providing sub-accounting services and/or administrative services to the retirement or benefit plan's sponsor, in connection with these Money Funds. For more information, including information on fees and compensation, please contact the retirement or benefit plan's sponsor, or refer to the Money Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, which you may request from the Money Fund directly.

For brokerage accounts, Merrill financial advisors are compensated at a rate based on their clients' total assets invested in the Money Funds held in Merrill accounts. For asset-based fee accounts, Merrill financial advisors receive an annual fee based on a percentage of the value of the total assets held in your account associated with these programs.

*You could lose money by investing in a Money Market Fund. There are different types of Money Market Funds. For certain Money Market Funds, the share price of the fund will fluctuate and, therefore, when you sell your shares of such a fund, they may be worth more or less than what you originally paid for them (fluctuating Money Market Funds). While other Money Market Funds seek to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share (stable value Money Market Funds), they cannot guarantee that they will do so. Money Market Funds generally may impose a discretionary liquidity fee of up to 2% of the value of the shares redeemed if the Money Market Fund board determines that such fee is in the best interests of the fund. In addition, certain Money Market Funds are required to impose a mandatory liquidity fee on redeeming shareholders when daily net redemptions exceed 5% of net assets, unless liquidity costs are de minimis. A liquidity fee imposed by the Money Market Fund will reduce the amount you will receive upon the redemption of your shares and will decrease the amount of any capital gain or increase the amount of any capital loss you will recognize from such redemption. For more information about discretionary liquidity fees and mandatory liquidity fees that may be applicable, refer to each Money Market Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, which you may request from the Money Market*

*Fund, An investment in any Money Market Fund is not insured or guaranteed by Bank of America, N.A., Merrill or any bank affiliate of Merrill, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. A Money Market Funds' sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the Money Market Funds, and you should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the Money Market Fund at any time, including during periods of market stress.*

### **Purchases, Sales and Transfers**

Merrill maintains policies prohibiting late trading in, and the excessive trading of, mutual fund shares. Merrill's excessive trading policies may not be consistent with fund companies' excessive trading policies and are in addition to any monitoring for excessive trading conducted by the fund companies. Merrill personnel may not open accounts or enter client transactions for the purpose of late trading, excessive trading or market timing, nor may they facilitate late trading, excessive trading or market timing in accounts at the funds' transfer agents or assist clients in making other arrangements to late trade, excessively trade or market time mutual funds. The Merrill Edge self-directed investing account also may not be used for any of the above-described purposes. There is no guarantee that all instances of excessive trading will be prevented.

In certain cases, the funds you hold through Merrill may not be transferable to another financial intermediary. This may occur for a number of reasons, including situations where the other financial intermediary does not have appropriate agreements with those funds. The same may be true if you hold your mutual fund shares at another financial intermediary and attempt to transfer those shares to your Merrill account. In these instances you will need to determine what you would like to do with the fund shares: (i) liquidate them (which may result in redemption or other fees, sales charges or a taxable event), (ii) transfer them from the financial intermediary to the fund (or its transfer agent), (iii) request share certificates to be issued to you (typically not available for mutual fund shares), or (iv) retain them at the financial intermediary through which you currently hold them. Some funds may offer waivers of redemption or other fees in certain circumstances. Please refer to the applicable fund prospectus or contact your financial advisor or an Investment Center representative for further information. It is your

responsibility to notify your financial advisor or an Investment Center representative if any redemption or other fee waivers are available to you.

**Provision of Diversified Financial Services by Merrill and its Affiliates**

BofA Corp. is a diversified financial services company that generally provides, through Merrill and its affiliates, a wide range of services to retail and institutional clients for which it receives compensation. As a result, Merrill, BofA Corp. and its affiliates can be expected to pursue additional business opportunities with the entities whose

investments Merrill and its financial advisors recommend to you. More detailed information on these services is available in the [Regulation Best Interest Disclosure Statement](#).

Information about a particular mutual fund's policies regarding selection of brokers may be found in the fund's statement of additional information, which you may request from the fund. For additional information on mutual funds in general, you can visit educational websites of the Securities and Exchange Commission ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)), FINRA ([www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org)), the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ([www.sifma.org](http://www.sifma.org)), and the Investment Company Institute ([www.ici.org](http://www.ici.org)).

